



Table of Principles linked to Course Content and Subject Areas

Principle	Descriptor	Content Areas either Competency based or Curriculum
Understanding the role of Youth Worker and the understanding young people in the context of their community	What is a Youth Worker, what is the role within a community. What is the lived experience of young people in relation to community, education, community governance, ability to participate.	
Include an understanding of the systemic and structural influences that impact on young people in a context that builds a global understanding of their role as a Youth Worker.	Young people are marginalized because of the ways in which society is structured. There are systemic structures and influences that are beyond their control. The subject area needs to include content on the theory of these structural influences, the impact on young people and Youth Work practice.	
A focus on Empowerment as a	The practice ethos of the course will reflect an empowerment focus whereby youth work is seen as a way of empowering young people to take greater control of their lives both	

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practice ethos.	individually and collectively and facilitate their participation in community and wider decision making.	
Ethics	Distinct course content on ethics including evidence of training in the Youth Work Code of Ethical Practice.	
Youth Development	Course content on youth development and the principles of youth development that focus on a strength based approach. Youth Workers see the participation of young people in their community, school and wider society as a focus of their work. The content will reflect a broader understanding of the link between youth development, social inclusion and social capital. As well as an understanding of risk and protective factors that impact on young people's participation in their communities.	
Cross-Cultural communications and practice	Youth Work practitioners need to have an understanding of cross-cultural practice that is respectful of diversity and equips the youth worker to work in a multi-cultural community.	
Group Work/Programs	Youth Workers work with groups of young people in all sorts of settings. A youth work course should include a group work/programs subject that equips the Youth Workers with an understanding of the different stages of group forming, how to work collectively and collaboratively with groups of young people in building youth programs.	
Supervised Practice	Supervised field practice for pre-service youth workers is seen as an essential part of an undergraduate course. A minimum of 600 hours in two settings will form the benchmark. Placement is also seen as a way of encouraging students to reflect on practice; an essential Youth Work practice principle.	
Adolescent health and well-being	Youth workers understand that adolescence is a distinct period of the lifespan and is influenced by a range of physiological, psychological and social influences that impact on a young person's health and well-being. Within the context of understanding the social and structural influences that impact on young people subject content must reflect a clear understanding of the range of influences that frame the health of an adolescent. This subject area would also equip the youth worker with an understanding of the critical health issues that face young people currently, such as mental health and well-being, youth suicide, drug and alcohol use, identity and	

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	sexuality.	
Youth Policy	Youth workers are advocates for young people and are often acting as agents of change agents. Therefore, they must understand how their practice is influenced by the social policy of the Government of the time, as well as understanding how to influence that policy. Youth policy will include an understanding of how policy is developed, the range of mechanisms utilised and how to engage in those mechanisms. The content will also include the range of policy frameworks currently utilised by Government and their relationship to good youth work practice. In particular, a focus on Local Government as a distinct area of Youth Service delivery	
Respecting indigenous community	Many course work programs neglect to include an indigenous subject or content that provides students with an insight into the indigenous cultures of Australia, the structural challenges faced by indigenous communities and how they can work collaboratively with those communities.	
Collaborative Practice	Working collaboratively with other youth workers and other professionals is essential in good youth work practice. Course content must reflect and equipping students with an understanding of how to work in different service provision settings and how to work collaboratively.	
Collaborative Action Research	Action research is a methodological approach that works with young people to co-design programs and evaluate outcomes. This area of content builds reflective practitioners	
Trauma Informed Practice	What has emerged from recent research is the impact of trauma on a young persons ability to participate. This is particularly the case for young asylum seekers and unaccompanied minors.	

You can see our expected content in the form of building blocks in the Good Practice Youth Work Education document