

Charter of Engagement for Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care

Purpose

The Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care is an independent body supporting ITC Agencies to provide evidence informed high quality therapeutic forms of care to young people with experiences of complex trauma. Its training, research, publications and products are developed and disseminated with the specific purpose to translate the evolving knowledge base about the neuroscience of development, trauma, attachment and therapeutic care to build the capability of ITC Agency personnel to fulfil the vision of an evidence informed therapeutic system of care.

The Charter of Engagement provides a set of guiding principles for all of its activities.

Guiding Principles

1. The well being and development of young people in Intensive Therapeutic Care is at the heart of the work of the Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care.
2. The Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care works with all of the ITC Agencies to optimise the outcomes they achieve for young people in their care without promoting one model of Therapeutic Care over another.
3. Evidence used by the Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care will draw from a range of empirical and qualitative sources of data, including knowledge sourced from indigenous cultures. The evidence that the Centre uses in its activities is moderated and assured through an interdisciplinary Evidence Review Panel process.
4. The Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care is bound ethically and legally to report any information about children and young people at risk of harm and/or experiencing harm to relevant authorities as specified by legislation, operational standards and/or Government policy.
5. The Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care will ensure that its activities, advice and products promote, support and to the extent required, comply with the Charter of the Rights of Children and Young People in Care, the UN Convention on Children's Rights, Aboriginal Child Placement Principles, Child Safe Standards, Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and other relevant legal and/or policy frameworks.

6. The Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care acknowledges the impact of colonisation and racism on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and will work in partnership with their communities to ensure that respect for their culture is integrated into the Centre's activities.
7. The Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care acknowledges that practice with young people is effective when it is inclusive of the needs of young people:
 - who are from all culturally and linguistically diverse communities;
 - with all levels of ability; and
 - who identify themselves as LGBTQI+.
8. If the Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care identifies any practice within an ITC Agency which does not meet the required standard(s), the Centre will act transparently and ensure that this information is provided to the ITC Agency in a positive and confidential manner. This requirement to communicate with the ITC Agency does not preclude the Centre from taking action to report information as required under legislation or other government policy frameworks to a relevant authority.
9. The Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care will secure Ethics Approval from Southern Cross University Ethics Committee, and/or any other Ethics Committee as required, prior to undertaking any research and/or evaluation that involves children, young people, parents, carers and/or employees of organisations involved in the protection, care and education of children/young people. Informed consent will be sought from all participants in research and evaluation processes as set out in NHMRC guidelines.
10. Except as provided in the Agreement for Funding of Services – Intermediary Organisation for Intensive Therapeutic Care with the Department of Family & Community Services, the Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care will not undertake any activity which affects its independence from Family and Community Services NSW.
11. The Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic care values professionalism, respect, transparency and collaboration in its work with ITC Agencies and other relevant stakeholders.