



**Association of  
Child Life Therapists  
Australia (ACLTA)  
Code of Ethics  
Passed January 2014**

## ACLTA Code of Ethics 2014

### Child Life Therapists shall:

#### *Demonstrate respect for Children and Families*

1. Have an obligation to ensure that the interests and dignity of the children, young people and families in their care are maintained, regardless of gender, religion, sexual orientation, economic status, values, lifestyle, language, age, ethnicity or disability. Furthermore, CLT shall work in ways that respects this **diversity**.
2. Recognise and respect the role of children, young people and their families as **partners and contributors to their care**. This involves identifying their preferences regarding care, and respecting these within the limits of professional practice, existing legislation, resources and the goals of the therapeutic relationship.
3. Respect the **privacy** of children, young people and their families and confidential information obtained in the course of professional practice, refraining from disclosure of such information outside the reporting requirements of the law.
4. Maintain appropriate professional **boundaries** in the relationships with children, young people and their family at all times, ensuring that all aspects of the relationship focus exclusively upon their healthcare needs and wellbeing. Individuals will use integrity to assess and amend any personal relationships or situations that may interfere with their professional effectiveness and objectivity.
5. Ensure that no act or omission is detrimental to the condition or the **safety of children and young people** in their care.

#### *Demonstrate respect for Colleagues and Facilities*

6. Individuals shall recognise that **financial gain should never take precedence** over the delivery of services. This extends to refusing to accept any offers of gifts, favours or hospitality, which might be interpreted as seeking to exert undue influence or preferential consideration.
7. **Collaborate and cooperate** with colleagues and other professional personnel, acting with respect for their person and scope of practice.

8. Individuals supervising and training others (i.e., staff, students, volunteers) shall assume responsibility for teaching ethical professional values in order to provide **optimal learning experiences**.

*Demonstrate respect for the Child Life Therapy Profession*

9. Be personally **accountable** for their own scope of practice. This means being answerable for any actions and omissions, regardless of advice or directions from another professional.
10. **Refrain from illegal conduct** or any acts of impropriety that may compromise or impede the fulfilment of their professional responsibilities or bring the profession into disrepute.
11. Engage only in those areas in which they are qualified (i.e. within their **scope of practice**), and to make referrals to other professionals as appropriate. They are to make known to the appropriate person at any given time any conscientious objection that is relevant to the scope of professional practice.
12. Take every reasonable opportunity to maintain and **improve professional knowledge and competence**, particularly that which will enhance their scope of practice. This includes maintaining Child Life Therapist Accreditation (as of 2014).
13. Individuals shall uphold public trust and **confidence in the profession** by striving to consistently maintain objectivity, integrity and confidence.
14. **Speak out** if the behaviour of a colleague is in breach of this Code of Ethics.

## *Breaches of the Code*

Conduct or behaviour not in accordance with the ACLTA Code of Ethics constitutes a breach of the Code.

Where a complaint that alleges a breach of the ACLTA Code of Ethics falls within the jurisdiction of a statutory authority (such as a hospital/healthcare facility, Health Complaints Commissioner or the Courts), ACLTA expects the complaint to be investigated independently by that authority. ACLTA does not investigate any complaints that are deemed to fall within the jurisdiction of a statutory authority.

The Association considers rulings made by statutory authorities to assess an individual's ongoing eligibility for ACLTA membership. This means ACLTA reserves the right to revoke membership and Accreditation based on a statutory authority's findings.

In certain circumstances, the Association considers alleged breaches of the ACLTA Code of Ethics that are deemed to fall outside the jurisdiction of a statutory authority (e.g. in private practice). In these circumstances, the ACLTA Chairperson and relevant state representative will investigate the complaint with necessary confidentiality and in liaison with the CLT. ACLTA reserves the right to revoke membership and Accreditation if necessary, if the evidence presented leads to an ACLTA executive consensus of breach of the Code. Information from such investigations and findings will be limited to the ACLTA executive and minuted accordingly.