



Statement of Philosophy

Policy #: 2

Category: Governance

Previous Review Date: 20/05/2011

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Next Review: 2021

The purpose of contact between staff and young people is to empower young people to develop and enhance their skills knowledge, understandings and attitude which are beneficial to themselves, as both individuals and as members of the community.

In order for these young people to realise their potential, they need a clear understanding of their own principles of independence and autonomy in order to be in a position to set goals, make decisions and solve problems.

Swan City Youth Service Inc. acknowledges that inequality exists, and as a result some young people are at multiple disadvantages within, their upbringing, education, lack of opportunities within their lives and the community. In order to overcome such adversities, appropriate intervention focusing on Harm Reduction involving individualised advocacy, liaison, confidence and self-esteem building, education and personal development are focuses of a Holistic work practice.

Swan City Youth Service Inc. recognises the impact of environmental and structural forces on young people. Their work is not limited to facilitating change within the individual young person, but also extends to the social context in which the young person lives.

Swan City Youth Service Inc. works to ensure that young people are made more aware of those situations and ideologies that exist in society which can affect their choices.

Via consciousness raising and confidence building, and through education and activism, young people are more able to work for change, identify and redress these power imbalances and develop their sense of humour and control. Such practices aim to enable young people to better help themselves and exercise self-determination.

Staff aim to encompass these values and beliefs within their own work practices and programs in ways which are relevant and meaningful to the individual young people's needs.