

# Murrindindi Children's Network Charter

## Purpose of the Charter

This charter has been prepared to define and communicate to services and community members what the Murrindindi Children's Network is and to raise awareness as to their role in the community.

This charter promotes a united Murrindindi Children's Network with a shared vision and shared values. This will enhance the MCN's capacity to have a strong collective voice, and in doing so increase our influence in regards to creating a safe, united and seamless experience for the children and families who use our services. We will be guided by the strategies and actions presented in the current Municipal Early Years plan.

## A Shared Vision for the Murrindindi Children's Network

"To work together to support children and families in the most inclusive way possible. Our commitment is to being safe, welcoming, easily accessible and family centred."

## Shared Values for the Murrindindi Children's Network

We value:

1. The safety and wellbeing of children, families and the community as a whole.
2. Inclusion
3. Diversity
4. Participation and cooperation
5. A sustainable environment
6. Best practice

***We promote the safety and wellbeing of children, families and community as a whole.***

- All children have the right to feel safe within their families and within their community. We believe in a zero tolerance for child abuse
- All individuals and families have the right to access services in a timely manner and which are appropriate for their needs.

***We work towards creating an environment where children and families are valued and respected.***

- We value the voices of the people we work with and the people who use our services.
- We seek participation from children and families in identifying needs and developing solutions.
- We identify and work to remove barriers which prevent people from accessing ours and other services.

***We embrace all forms of diversity.***

- We strive to understand - and respond appropriately to the needs of the children and families with whom we work.
- We welcome informed debate and differences of opinion and approach in regards to people who access our services as well as with-in the MCN.

- We believe that by considering different perspectives and experiences we are better placed to make good decisions about what we need to do.
- We are committed to promoting cultural safety for Aboriginal children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability.

***We believe in cooperation and participation.***

- We work together with other organisations across our shire and beyond to develop and deliver the best outcomes for the children and families we work with.
- Working together means that we can share resources and utilise specialist and complementary skills to resolve issues and address needs.
- As a group, we participate in meetings and actions coming from these meetings as appropriate.

***We believe that the wellbeing of children and families is enhanced and supported by promoting a sustainable environment.***

- We work to ensure that our activities and behaviour support the sustainability of our environment for current and future generations.

***We value best practice.***

- We expect that members of Murrindindi Children's Network have appropriate Child Safe policy and procedures in place to protect children from abuse.
- We strive for excellence in what we do and advocate for the delivery of high quality services.
- We are committed to supporting and developing children's services within the Murrindindi Shire.
- We support our organisations, volunteers and paid workers so that they can meet the changing needs of the children and families who access our services.