

A brief history of The Code of Ethical Practice

For the Victorian Youth Sector

Timeline

2000s

Early 2000s

Growing discussion in the Victorian youth sector about ethical practice and professionalisation.

2006: Call to action

Youth workers Tim Corney and Lauren Hoiles publish a YIKES article calling for a code of ethics based on human rights. Bernie Geary OAM, Victoria's first Child Safety Commissioner, cites the article at YACVic's AGM and urges the sector to develop a code of practice.

2010s

2007: First edition

Code working group formed, Dr Tim Corney appointed Chair and lead author. Sector wide consultations held with support from Office for the Youth (OfY). First edition launched in November by Bernie Geary and James Merlino, the Victorian Government Minister for Youth Affairs.

2013-2014: Research and support

OfY funds YACVic to assess impact of the Code. Found; widely used across the sector, resources needed to apply it. YACVic creates a guidebook, poster and information sheets.

2020s

2021: Ethical youth work panel

YACVic hosts online event, "Ethical Youth Work Towards Social Justice", discussion sparks sector wide interest in updating the Code.

2022: Funding update

As part of Victoria's Youth Strategy 2022-27, Office for Youth funds an update of:

- The Code of Ethical Practice
- YERP (Youth Engagement Resource Platform)

2023-24: Consultation and co-design

YACVic consults 104 young people and workers, a Code steering committee meets regularly. 10 young co-designers employed.

2025: Second edition launched

Consultation findings are the focus of revision to the Code and YERP based. YERP is updated to complement and bring to life the Code's guidance.

2025: Now

The 2025 Code of Ethical Practice reflects a more inclusive, accessible and relevant approach to youth work ethics in Victoria.

