

## **POSITION STATEMENT**

### **Minimum standard for nurses caring for children and young people**

#### **STATEMENT**

The goal for nurses working with children and young people and their families is to achieve their optimal health and well-being. This will be achieved by engaging all relevant stakeholders in the planning and delivery of care.

The following statements are related to minimum practice standards. The role descriptors are the same for all nurses working with children and young people; however the emphasis of the role will be influenced by the context in which the nurse practises.

Within their scope of nursing practice the nurse:

- assesses children and young people's health, development and well-being, recognising deviations from the norm and acts appropriately on the findings;
- describes common health issues affecting children and young people, discusses the management and bases practice on the best available evidence;
- provides family centred care which recognises the impact of hospitalisation, home environment and community on children, young people and families;
- communicates effectively and works in partnership with children and young people and their families;
- utilises contact with families to promote the health of children and young people using relevant health guidelines;
- describes pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics; calculates and safely administers medications and other preparations to children and young people;
- is competent in basic paediatric life support;
- acts within relevant Federal and State Legislation, and policies;
- critically examines and utilises relevant evidence to inform and guide practice relating to the care and protection of children and young people;
- practices in a culturally safe manner;
- advocates for the health and safety of children and young people;
- encourages developmentally appropriate self care/independence for children and young people within their family context;
- liaises with others in the community in meeting children and young people's health needs;
- works collaboratively with other agencies and disciplines to improve health outcomes for children, young people and their families.

#### **ACCYPN ACCEPTS AND ENDORSES:**

1. ACPCHN Competencies for Specialist Paediatric and Child Health Nurses (2<sup>nd</sup> ed) (2006)
2. ACHS Guidelines for Maternal and Infant Care (1999)
3. AWCH & ACHS Guidelines for Hospital-based Child and Adolescent Health Care (July, 1998)
4. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)
5. AWCH Health Care Policy Relating to Children and Families (revised) (1999)
6. Paediatric and Child Health Division, RACP Standards for the care of children and adolescents in health services (2008)
7. NSW Health Guidelines for the Hospitalisation of Children(1998)
8. Scope of Practice for Child and Family Health Nurses. (2001). CAFNA (NSW) Inc.