

Counselling Service

Code of Ethical Practice

Introduction

The following is the Code of Ethical Practice for counsellors employed by the UWS Counselling Service. Although it can be seen that this code reflects the values and is consistent with that of the main professional groups' codes (APS and AASW), it neither overrides nor diminishes their relevance to practice.

The purpose of this code is to establish minimum standards of ethical practice for counsellors for the information and protection of those using their service.

Code of Ethical Practice

1. Counsellors respect the essential humanity, worth and dignity of all people and promote this value in their work
2. Counsellors recognise and respect diversity among people and oppose discrimination and all forms of harassment
3. Counsellors respect the privacy of their clients and preserve the confidentiality of information acquired in the course of their work. Any limits to confidentiality will be explained to each client prior to service delivery
4. Counsellors respect the rights of their clients including the right to informed consent
5. Counsellors respect the dignity and worth of each person, their culture and context and their right to determine a course of action in life in accordance with a plan developed and chosen by the client
6. Counsellors take steps to maintain and develop their knowledge, skills and competence through continuing professional development
7. Counsellors act on the premise that their primary obligation is to the welfare of their clients and this responsibility takes precedence over personal interests or profit
8. Counsellors faced with situations extending beyond their competence seek supervision and/or refer to other appropriate professionals
9. Counsellors abide by the Code of Ethics of the professional body under which they practice

Counsellors operate within the UWS Policy framework and UWS Code of Conduct and abide by the laws of society in which they practice.