



HEALTH PROFESSIONS LICENSING AUTHORITY	
TITLE: ABORIGINAL HEALTH WORKER CODE OF ETHICS	
EFFECTIVE DATE: 2 May 2004	REVIEWED: 26 February 2008
BOARD: THE ABORIGINAL HEALTH WORKER BOARD OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY	

BACKGROUND

The Aboriginal Health Worker Code of Ethics was developed at the AHW Conference – August 1981. Since that time the previous and current Aboriginal Health Worker Boards have endorsed the Code of Ethics to guide the practise, attitudes and behaviours of Aboriginal Health Workers.

CODE OF ETHICS FOR HEALTH WORKERS

1. The AHW is a healer
2. The AHW has a special place in the community because of this, like a traditional healer.
3. The AHW has a duty of care for all who are sick, no matter their race, or family group, or language group, or skin group.
4. The AHW can use their special status to care for people even in an avoidance relationship, if needed, if nobody in a right relationship to the patient is present.
5. The AHW must always keep secret anything they learn about a patient while they are caring for him or her.
6. The AHW must not use his special status for personal gain, or to disadvantage another person.
7. The AHW must never be intoxicated when caring for patients.
8. The AHW is a promoter of health, as well as a curer of sickness. This means they should set an example in their life.
9. The AHW will never knowingly harm any person, born or unborn.
10. The AHW will refer any patients whose condition he has not been training to recognise and treat, or who is not responding to standard treatment.
11. The AHW will always regard persons who have taught them their craft with respect, like their parents. (This is an idea from Hippocrates).