

# Practice Checklist

| 7 Tests of Advantaged Thinking  | How to do it in practice  |
|---|---|
| <b>1</b> I will <b>talk about</b> young people without stereotyping them                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Highlight the strengths and talents you observe in young people</li><li>● Use affirmative language when describing young people to others</li><li>● Disrupt negative or deficit labels you commonly hear about young people</li><li>● Ensure marketing and communication materials uphold dignity and rights-based language</li></ul>   |
| <b>2</b> I will <b>understand</b> young people by what they can do and aspire to be       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Ask about and identify skills and talents when first getting to know young people</li><li>● Harness storytelling so that young people have the chance to tell you who they are, in their own words</li><li>● Ensure application or referral processes balance perceived 'need' with motivation</li><li>● Track the growth of young people and their achievements throughout the programs or services you operate</li></ul>                                  |
| <b>3</b> I will <b>work with</b> young people by coaching growth and positive risks       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Build on the strengths and goals of young people through a coaching approach</li><li>● Asset-proof processes so that Advantaged Thinking is enabled by the program or organisation</li><li>● Collaborate with a wider network or partners that will add value to your program or organisational effort</li><li>● Embrace positive risk-taking as an opportunity for growth and learning</li></ul>   |
| <b>4</b> I will <b>invest in</b> young people and promote their potential to thrive       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Validate the strengths and achievements of young people in ways they understand and value</li><li>● Promote personalised opportunities and experiences that are shaped by each unique young person</li><li>● Focus toward thriving beyond programs, services or systems, not just helping young people to 'cope' with their perceived 'challenges'</li><li>● Steward program and organisational resources (brokerage, time, effort) appropriately</li></ul> |
| <b>5</b> I will <b>believe</b> in young people and what they can achieve                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Promote the aspirations of young people, ensuring unconditional positive regard</li><li>● Ensure high standards of program delivery at all times</li><li>● Nurture trust by offering ongoing opportunities for growth</li><li>● Maintain consistency of practice and high belief in the face of challenges that may emerge</li></ul>  |
| <b>6</b> I will <b>involve</b> young people so that their experiences can shape solutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Do 'with' young people, not 'to' young people</li><li>● Encourage engagement by including young people in co-design and service delivery</li><li>● Develop representation by creating diverse opportunities for young people to remain involved in the program and organisation</li><li>● Actively listen to young people's insights and act on them</li></ul>  |
| <b>7</b> I will <b>challenge</b> myself and others to promote Advantaged Thinking         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Celebrate success and showcase achievements of young people</li><li>● Mobilise networks that can build on your Advantaged Thinking efforts</li><li>● Build capacity of staff to continually reflect on and embed Advantaged Thinking</li><li>● Influence change at 'higher' levels of the organisation, community, government</li></ul>   |

# 7 TESTS OF *Advantaged Thinking*

1  
WE WILL **TALK**  
**ABOUT PEOPLE**

*without stereotyping them*

2

WE WILL

**UNDERSTAND  
PEOPLE**

by what they can do and aspire to be

3

WE WILL

*work with people*

by coaching growth and  
positive risks

4

WE WILL

*Invest in people*  
*to promote their potential*  
*to thrive*

5

WE WILL **BELIEVE**  
**IN PEOPLE**

6

WE WILL

**INVOLVE PEOPLE**

so experiences can shape solutions

7

WE WILL

**CHALLENGE**  
*myself & others*

to promote

**ADVANTAGED THINKING**