# WORKING WITH CHILDREN STATEMENT

The counselling team at Amber Community can offer sessions to children 12 years and older with prior parental/guardian consent. Up to three counselling sessions can be provided to the child to assess the needs of the child and to determine if they fall within the scope of our services. If the child meets these criteria, they will be offered further counselling sessions if further sessions would be beneficial. If the child is assessed as not being within Amber Community’s scope of service, the counsellor will work with the child’s parent/guardian for referral to more appropriate services. All counsellors at Amber Community have a working with children’s check and have training and experience providing support to people impacted by road trauma. For minors under the age of 12 years or any child under 18 years old referred to Amber Community Counselling and Support Services, the counselling team can also offer support directly to the child’s parent/guardian to assist them in their child’s recovery.

The counselling team at Amber Community are not child psychologists or specialists. However, regarding the counselling team’s experience and training to support and counsel adolescents, all recruited counselling staff must have formal tertiary training and qualifications in counselling, psychology, social work or related disciplines and/or postgraduate qualifications in counselling. Counselling staff are to be eligible for membership to a governing professional body and have experience providing trauma, grief and loss counselling across a full range of clients. Our counsellors have varied experience and training directly related to children and adolescents. In addition to this, professional development opportunities are provided regularly at Amber Community, including working with children and young people who experience trauma. Counsellors also engage in external professional development based on their interests, which may include cohorts under the age of 18 years. When it comes to Amber Community clients under the age of 18 years, we seek to triage to the most appropriate counsellor.