

## About AWCH

The Australian Association for the Welfare of Child Health (AWCH) is a national, non-profit organisation of parents, professionals and community members who work together to ensure that the emotional and social needs of children, adolescents and their families are recognised and met within hospitals and the health care system in Australia.

### Mission

The mission of AWCH is to support and advocate for the improved health and well-being of infants, children, young people and their families.

### Values

We believe in:

- Access to quality health care for all children and young people
- Valuing the opinions of children, young people and their families in the delivery of health care
- Families playing a vital role supporting children and young people receiving health care
- Fostering partnerships between parents/carers and health care providers
- The provision of culturally sensitive health care services
- Appropriate information and resources being readily accessible
- Challenging the status quo to advance our mission.

### AWCH Achievements

Since its formation in 1973, AWCH has been the advocacy voice for children and their families in the health care system in Australia. As an independent, non-profit organisation, AWCH is able to bring consumer pressure to elicit changes. AWCH has been instrumental in the introduction of:

- Parents staying with their child during hospitalisation, with appropriate facilities
- Increased parental involvement in all aspects of a child's hospital care
- Child-friendly environments in health care settings
- Recognition of the importance of appropriately trained staff
- Recognition of the importance of supporting the family
- Recognition of the importance of play and education in a child's recovery
- Increased and flexible visiting hours for parents/carers and siblings of hospitalised children and adolescents

