

## PEKE Culture - Clients

At National PEKE Centre all who are employed operate from and within our culture.

We at National PEKE Centre:

- Operate from the social model of disability
- Operate from the Neurodiversity Model, recognising that neuro-differences such as Autism, ADHD etc. are a natural variation within our species
- Operate from non-medical model language
  - While we will always respect the language a family requests us to use, we model non-deficit based language and identity first language as our default
- Operate from a strengths based approach
  - We utilise a client's strengths to support their challenges
- We support clients with relationship based practices
  - We do not support clients with behaviourist based practices
- The client/practitioner relationship underpins all interactions with clients
  - We focus on establishing a safe and trusting relationship with the client first, before instigating therapeutic interventions
- Look at each client as a whole and take their support system (family, friends, partners, pets etc) into consideration when supporting the individual
- Respect and value lived experience over all else
- Respect and value science and relevant practices that respect the client's needs, autonomy and individuality without imposing societal normative standards
- Choose to implement strategies, programs and relevant scientific research that has been developed by those with the lived experience or in collaboration with those with lived experience over other options.
- Are an anti-ABA organisation (including new ABA & other practices grounded in ABA practices/beliefs)
- Do not support or implement any practices that seek to change the individual, make the individual appear or perform in a normative manner as the objective
- Respect the need for clients to have down time and to not have their week filled with therapies
- Respect and value the client's style of play without imposing societal normative standards to it
- In all we do, we strive to support the client to develop skills, strategies and implement supports to facilitate an increase in the quality of their life which is led by the client's goals and desires