

CORPORATE POLICIES

CP16 STANDARD 5(NSW/Cwlth): PARTICIPATION AND INTEGRATION

1.0 POLICY STATEMENT

Disability Services Australia (DSA) is committed to upholding the right of all people with a disability to take part in and be involved in the life of the community as equal and valued community members. DSA also respects the right of each person it supports to choose not to be actively involved in the community, when the decision to do so is the result of informed decision making processes.

All DSA services:

- Have a responsibility to provide information about community based services and activities relevant to individual goals, interests and support needs in line with the stated/funded purpose of the service received.
- Seek to progressively build opportunities for every person supported to participate and be involved in the life of their community (to the extent of their ability) and in the least restrictive way of their rights.
- Value and respect cultural diversity and seek to incorporate individual cultural and lifestyle choices in participation and involvement in the community.
- Promote a positive image of people with a disability, recognising this can positively influence self esteem and citizenship.

2.0 PURPOSE

To provide a framework for services that facilitate in a planned and purposeful way opportunities for those who use the service to participate in the life and social fabric of their community.

At a minimum such participation will be in a way that:

- Is least restrictive of their rights.
- Aims at improving the quality of their life.
- Facilitates and/or creates progressive opportunities to participate in activities and services of interest in their community, alongside other community members.
- Meets the Disability Services Standards and comply with all relevant legislation.

3.0 SCOPE

This policy relates to all levels of management and staff of Disability Services Australia. Each relevant area of DSA is required to consider and address compliance with these Standards within divisional procedures, work instructions and forms.

The Commonwealth and State Disability Services Acts and Standards relate to the provision of disability services for people with a disability.

For children, young people and adults with a disability supported by DSA, the participation/involvement of family/significant others/advocates/guardians in decision making on key service delivery processes (e.g. individual goal planning) is dependent on:

- The relevant decision making rights of family/significant others/advocates/guardians, as determined by their legal status in relation to the person receiving support;
- The expressed wishes of the person receiving support;
- The capacity to understand and decision making skills of the person receiving support; and
- The assessed need for such advocacy.

4.0 POLICY DETAILS

DSA is committed to providing quality services that respect the right to actively participate and be a part of the community for every person with a disability.

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Facilitation of this commitment in relation to Participation and Integration is supported by:

- Ensuring all levels of management and staff understand, comply with, and apply the intent of this policy.
- Having written policies and procedures framed in a way to provide progressive opportunities for those supported to actively participate and be involved in the community and develop and maintain a variety of ties/connections and making these available in appropriate formats to those who use the service.
- Providing services that support every person in receipt of a service to reach personal goals and aspirations (in line with the stated/ funded purpose of the service received) and enjoy lifestyles that support the attainment of a reasonable quality of life in the least restrictive way of their rights.
- Ensuring that individual plans developed are working towards active participation as equal and valued community members in line with the stated/funded purpose of the service received and the informed choice of each person.
- Encouraging and facilitating access to and understanding of information (as needed and appropriate to their ability and cultural background) to support the right of each person to make informed decisions about the manner and extent of their participation in the community.
- Promoting, encouraging and facilitating information about how to use and access general community facilities/services and working to reduce limitations and barriers where they exist.
- Taking a pro-active role in the broader community to foster the rights of dignity and respect for all people with a disability.
- Taking proactive steps to ensure the concept of participation is culturally appropriate by seeking input from and/or consultation with the people supported and guidance from relevant specialist services (where appropriate), including but not limited to:
 - Working in partnership with local Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities/ agencies/ services to benefit the application of this policy.
 - Seeking assistance from interpreters (linguistic and/or sign), communication specialists (to facilitate the use of augmentative communication aids) and relevant advocacy agencies/services as required.
- The review of processes and systems as part of scheduled and as needed policy and procedure reviews, including where possible input from those who use the service.
- Ensuring adherence to policies and procedures in place through the quality assurance audit process to maximise the design, delivery and implementation of a quality service.

5.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

Refer to the [Quality Policy Manual](#) Section 5.0 Management Responsibility

6.0 REFERENCES

Legislative context

Disability Services Act (Cwlth) 1986 and Commonwealth Disability Services Standards
Disability Services Act (NSW) 1993 and NSW Disability Services Standards
Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998, and Regulations 2000

Policy Context

[Quality Policy Manual](#)

DADHC - [Disability Standards In Action](#)

DADHC - [Children's Standards In Action](#)

Relevant State (NSW), Commonwealth and DSA policies are listed in [The DSA Document Matrix](#).