

CORPORATE POLICIES
CP17 STANDARD 6(NSW/Cwlth): VALUED STATUS

1.0 POLICY STATEMENT

Disability Services Australia (DSA) is committed to promoting the valued status owed to all people in particular those with a disability. As such DSA provides or facilitates opportunities that contribute to the acknowledgement of the valued status of each person with a disability.

DSA is committed to promoting through its service provision and business activities a positive image of people with a disability and taking a pro-active role to advance their right to dignity and respect; recognising this can positively influence the self esteem, citizenship and valued community status of people with a disability.

2.0 PURPOSE

To provide an overarching framework for DSA services and business activities that:

- Ensures design, content and activities reflect a positive image of people with a disability including printed and electronic media and all other interactions.
- Enhances the valued status of people with a disability by recognising and promoting their right to:
 - An identity as an adult and citizen
 - Self determination
 - Information about any matters that impact on their life
 - Ownership and responsibility for their lifestyle choices
 - Respect and value for individual differences and choices
 - Not be referred to in written or verbal communication in such a way that detracts from their valued status.
- Improves quality of life for every person supported as a direct consequence of their opportunity to fulfil valued roles in the community; through
 - Promoting and encouraging the personal belief of every person DSA supports to fulfil a valued role in the community.
 - Promoting opportunities for those who use the service to fulfil valued roles in the community.
 - Providing support in line with the stated or funded purpose of the service to develop and maintain the skills that will assist each person to fulfil valued roles and contribute to their valued status in the community.
 - To meet 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 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 for family/significant others/advocates/ guardians, as determined by their legal status in relation to the person receiving support;
- The expressed wishes of the person with a disability receiving support; and
- The assessed need for such advocacy.

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4.0 POLICY DETAILS

DSA is committed to providing quality services that promote opportunities for every person with a disability to fulfill valued roles in the community and support the development and maintenance of skills relevant to those valued roles, to the extent of each person's ability and appropriate to the funded or stated purpose of the service they receive.

Facilitation of this commitment to the 'Valued Status' of each person is achieved by:

- Ensuring all levels of management and staff understand, comply with and apply the intent of this policy.
- Ensuring all DSA written policies and procedures reflect the valued status of people with a disability, and making these available in appropriate formats to those who use the service.
- Providing services, in line with the stated or funded purpose of the service, in a way that promotes and supports people with a disability to live in and actively participate in the life of the community.
- Pro-actively promoting a positive image of people with a disability (i.e. recognition of their abilities, contributions and competence) and fostering the rights of dignity, respect and valued status for people with a disability.
- Using our skills, knowledge and available resources to highlight and work to reduce or remove barriers people with a disability encounter when endeavouring to achieve a valued role in their community.
- Fostering a belief in their ability to fulfil valued roles in the community (i.e. their abilities, contributions and competence) for every person supported.
- Ensuring all DSA services (in line with the stated or funded purpose of the service):
 - Reflect the goals and aspirations of every person supported.
 - Provide progressive opportunities for every person receiving support to develop and maintain the skills relevant to their active participation and involvement in activities that will support them to achieve and maintain valued roles.
 - Contribute to their citizenship in the community, in a manner that is least restrictive of their rights.
- Promoting, encouraging and facilitating access to and understanding of information (as needed and appropriate to their ability and cultural background) to support each person make informed decisions about the extent of and level of their participation in activities that enable them to achieve valued roles.
- 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 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
[Quality Policy Manual](#)

6.0 REFERENCES

Legislative context

Disability Discrimination Act (Cwlth) 1992
Disability Services Act (Cwlth) 1986 and Commonwealth Disability Services Standards
Disability Services Act (NSW) 1993 and NSW Disability Services Standards

Policy Context

[Quality Policy Manual](#)

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