

Policy on Participation and Integration

Date adopted.....04/06/2018.....

Latest date for review.....04/06/2019.....

1. BACKGROUND

OptimumChoice will conduct its business honestly and ethically. We will constantly improve the quality of our services and create a reputation for honesty, fairness, respect, responsibility, integrity, trust, and sound business judgment.

2. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of OptimumChoice is to provide quality services to improve the lives of people with disabilities where their individuality is recognised and their safety is paramount.

OptimumChoice is a Disability and Communities Service Organisation governed by the Corporations Act 2001 and the Organisation's Policies. This policy ensures services are designed and delivered in ways that offer opportunities for physical and social integration in the community as framed by:

Standard 5 of the Disability Services Standards (1993).

National Disability Insurance Scheme (2013)

3. POLICY STATEMENT

OptimumChoice is committed to ensuring wherever practicable that individuals:

- 3.1 Have a right to access the same services as their wider community
- 3.2 Enjoy community settings and participate alongside other members of the community.
- 3.3 Have opportunities to socialise and build relationships with members of the community as a whole.

This policy applies to all OptimumChoice programs and activities.

4. PROCEDURES

OptimumChoice Organisation will:

- 4.1 Structure programs and services in ways which facilitate participation and integration of individuals together with other members of their community.
- 4.2 Build program strategies to make the greatest possible use of community facilities and services.
- 4.3 Use community facilities and services in a manner and at times that coincide with use by the wider community.
- 4.4 Select volunteers based on their own involvement and connection with their wider community, amongst other attributes.
- 4.5 Involve members of the community in the integration of individuals to participate in community activities.
- 4.6 Collaborate with other community groups, and their members, to facilitate inclusion of individuals in their activities.
- 4.7 Avoid activities that could have the effect of condemning or excluding individuals from community contact, acceptance, or involvement.

5. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The following performance standards must be met to ensure the procedures specified in Section 4 are implemented effectively.

- 5.1 All individuals, their families, carers or advocates will be provided with a copy of the Policy on Participation and Integration.
- 5.2 All employees will be provided with a copy of the Policy on Participation and Integration and a copy is kept at each service outlet
- 5.3 Programs and services will be structured in ways which facilitates integration and participation of individuals together with other members of their community.
- 5.4 The Organisation's volunteers will themselves be well connected and involved with their local community.
- 5.5 The Organisation will collaborate closely with community groups and clubs in the wider community which offer recreational, sporting, or other activities of interest to individuals.
- 5.6 The Organisation will arrange its community activities in a manner which promotes individual participation and inclusion.

6. REVIEW OF THE POLICY

This policy will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis. However, if at any time the legislative, policy or funding environment is so altered that the policy is no longer appropriate in its current form, the policy shall be reviewed immediately and amended accordingly.