

# Capricorn Citizen Advocacy

## VISION, MISSION AND PRINCIPLES

<b>Policy number:</b>	<b>1.0.0</b>	<b>Approved by Management Committee:</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
<b>Version:</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>Signed off by Executive:</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
<b>Responsible person:</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Scheduled Review Date:</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> February 2020

### Statement of Vision

*"A community where all people are equally valued."*

### Statement of Mission

The mission of Capricorn Citizen Advocacy is to promote, protect and defend the personal well being and interests of vulnerable people with disabilities who have unmet needs and limited means to have those needs addressed. This is in order to enhance and maintain their identity and role as human beings, growing and developing persons, and citizens.

We will do this by establishing and supporting a range of individualised, unpaid personal relationships between such persons (Protégés) and valued, competent citizens (Citizen Advocates) who are prepared to facilitate appropriate support for, and to undertake committed and sustained relationships with, the person based upon the representation of their best interests.

### Statement of Principles

The operation of a Citizen Advocacy program is based on the following principles:

#### **1. Advocate Independence**

Advocates must be free to develop a primary loyalty to the person with whom they are matched and be able to act as independently as possible.

A Citizen Advocacy office should support Citizen Advocates in their unpaid, independent advocacy relationship with an individual person.

#### **2. Program Independence**

A Citizen Advocacy office must itself be independent and free from conflict in how it is administered and funded. This means that the office must be administratively and physically separated from agencies which operate direct service programs involving (potential) Protégés.

**3. Clarity of Staff Functions**

In order to develop the full range of its potential, a Citizen Advocacy office needs staff who understand the nature and possibilities of Citizen Advocacy and who communicate this understanding by:

1. Supporting, not supplanting Protégé/Advocate relationships
2. Directing their energies towards building and maintaining the office as a whole

**3. Balanced Orientation to Needs of People Requiring Advocates**

People with disabilities have a wide variety of needs for representation and relationships which can be met by Citizen Advocates.

A Citizen Advocacy office must develop a plan for recruiting and supporting a wide range of relationships.

**4. Positive Interpretations of People With Disabilities**

A Citizen Advocacy office should be a model in the interpretation of people with disabilities.

The office should seek the most highly positive, valued conferring and yet valid possible associations which support developmental growth potential, citizenship role and individual human personhood of people at risk of social devaluation.

**5. Non-discriminatory Advocacy**

Capricorn Citizen Advocacy will promote to Citizen Advocates, a sensitivity towards the Protégé's social and cultural values, beliefs and practices.

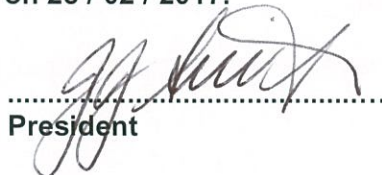
**6. Shared Vision and Principles**

Capricorn Citizen Advocacy shares the vision and principles upheld by the Combined Advocacy Groups of Queensland (CAGQ) in its position paper: 'Advocacy in Queensland'.

**Ratification**

This policy was adopted by Capricorn Citizen Advocacy's Management Committee at its meeting held on 28 / 02 / 2017.

SIGNED:

  
.....  
President

SIGNED:

  
.....  
Secretary

28 / 02 / 17  
.....  
(Date)

28 / 02 / 17  
.....  
(Date)