

Capricorn Citizen Advocacy

DECISION MAKING AND CHOICES POLICY

Policy number:	4.4.0	Approved by Management Committee:	28 th February 2017
Version:	2.0	Signed off by Executive:	28 th February 2017
Responsible person:	Coordinator	Scheduled Review Date:	28 th February 2020

Purpose

The lives of many people with disability have been ordered by others. They have been given no choice and no opportunity to make their own decisions. Citizen Advocacy aims to open the lives of people with disability to choices and to encourage and help them to make decisions with the help of their citizen advocates.

Policy

- 1 Capricorn Citizen Advocacy welcomes protégés and advocates having a say in its management, and endeavours to include protégés and advocates on its Management Committee and on its committees. This participation can enable protégés to be actively involved with planning, management and evaluation of the program. When a protégé's disability restricts this participation, members of the Management Committee or sub-committees will help. Should it be necessary, the help of an interpreter may be sought.

Capricorn Citizen Advocacy recognises that the protégé/advocacy relationship is paramount. Neither protégés nor advocates need to feel an obligation to take part in the management.

- 2 The Annual General Meeting of Capricorn Citizen Advocacy shall give all members the opportunity to elect the Management Committee which shall be representative of people with disability, advocates and members of the community.
- 3 Recruiting of protégés and advocates, their orientation, their matching and the support given by Capricorn Citizen Advocacy will give advocates - and through them their protégés; resources and opportunities and so will empower the protégés to make decisions.

Advocate orientation will give a prospective advocate the means whereby the advocate can help the protégé to become informed of different choices and to make decisions.

- 4 In the development of a match, the prospective protégé will be consulted - by whatever means of communication are necessary - to determine the protégé's needs and roles which he or she wishes the advocate to fulfil. The protégé must be given the opportunity to accept or to reject a particular advocate, and the decision shall be respected.

- 5 Capricorn Citizen Advocacy staff will regularly contact advocates and protégés. All protégés have the opportunity to participate in any discussion around future advocacy strategies on their behalf. Advocates are encouraged to always discuss their strategy with their protégés.
- 6 Regular evaluation of the activities of Capricorn Citizen Advocacy will be made by an external evaluation team against the standard written in *Standards for Citizen Advocacy Program Evaluation (CAPE) – O'Brien and Wolfensberger*.

The standards written in CAPE allow an evaluation of the extent to which people with disability are represented on the Management Committee of Capricorn Citizen Advocacy and are a measure of the opportunities given to protégés to select choices and to make decisions.

Protégés and advocates will have the opportunity to meet the evaluation team and to give their opinion, and to make suggestions to improve the service that Capricorn Citizen Advocacy can provide.

- 7 Advocates and protégés will be notified of any proposals for changes in the principles or policies of Capricorn Citizen Advocacy. They will be asked for their comments, and these will be taken into account by the Management Committee.

Related Documents

Policy 1.0.0 Vision, Mission and Principles


References

Citizen Advocacy Program Evaluation (CAPE) Reviews

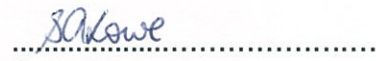
Ratification

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

SIGNED:


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President
28 / 02 / 17
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(Date)

SIGNED:


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Secretary
28 / 02 / 17
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(Date)