

# Capricorn Citizen Advocacy

## PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSION POLICY

<b>Policy number:</b>	<b>2.3.0</b>	<b>Approved by Management Committee:</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Version:</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>Signed off by Executive:</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Responsible person:</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>Scheduled Review Date:</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> March 2027

### **Purpose**

This policy sets out the position taken by Capricorn Citizen Advocacy (CCA) on the rights of people with disabilities to fully participate and be fully included in community life.

### **Policy**

#### **1. What does an Inclusive and Participative Community look like?**

- a) Capricorn Citizen Advocacy believes that a desirable community is one where the needs of the people with disability are competently met in natural settings, where community members welcome people with disability and support their interests and where people with disability are full participants in community life.
- b) Capricorn Citizen Advocacy believes that people with disability have the right to be given valued opportunities to experience everyday life experiences and community living.
- c) Capricorn Citizen Advocacy believes that the active participation and inclusion of people with disability in the life of the community contributes to the valued status and competencies of people with disability.
- d) The participation, inclusion, acceptance and welcome of people with disability in ordinary valued community life is highly beneficial to the local community.
- e) Capricorn Citizen Advocacy believes that the creation of a freely given, one to one relationship between a competent unpaid person, who makes a voluntary commitment to represent and defend the interests of a person with disability, can and does contribute to the inclusion and participation of people with disability in valued community life.

- f) Inclusion and participation occurs through association with the advocate’s friends, family and other personal networks, as well as through the efforts made by the advocate to involve the Protégé in experiences and opportunities they may never have had before.

**2. The Role of Citizen Advocacy in Achieving Participation and Inclusion**

- a) Capricorn Citizen Advocacy will promote the valued inclusion of people with disability in the community through the promotion of Citizen Advocacy.
- b) The *Protégé Recruitment Plan* will include Protégés whose primary need is to have their segregation and isolation from their local community redressed.
- c) Advocate recruitment will include the identification of potential advocates with strong community links and networks, who can assist a Protégé to establish him/herself in the community and become a valued participant in their community.
- d) Orientation, follow along and support procedures will encourage and support Advocates to create opportunities for their Protégé to participate in a valued way in local community life.
- e) Orientation process will include a discussion on the effects of segregation and congregation of people with disability and the needs and rights of people with disability to be accepted and included in community life.

**Related Documents**

Not Applicable

**References**

*United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2006*

**Ratification**

This policy was adopted by Capricorn Citizen Advocacy’s Management Committee at its meeting held on 27 / 03 / 2024.



**SIGNED:** .....  
**President**

**27 / 03 / 2024**  
**(Date)**



**SIGNED:** .....  
**Secretary**

**27 / 03 / 2024**  
**(Date)**