

Capricorn Citizen Advocacy

VALUED STATUS POLICY

Policy number:	3.0.2	Approved by Management Committee:	27 th March 2024
Version:	4.0	Signed off by Executive:	27 th March 2024
Responsible person:	Coordinator	Scheduled Review Date:	27 th March 2027

Purpose

Capricorn Citizen Advocacy (CCA) will aim to be a model agency in seeking the most positive interpretation of people with disability and the most value conferring and positive associations, which will support and enhance the potential of people with disability to maintain and develop their competencies, abilities and contributions, and to enable others to recognize their attributes and proficiencies.

Policy

Principles of Citizen Advocacy

1. In their own behaviour, and in speaking about with people with disability, and in speaking about them, the Management Committee and staff will model respect and dignity towards people with disabilities.
2. CCA will consciously avoid associating people with disability with images, places or actions which confer or have the potential to confer negative and devaluing images and interpretations of people with disability.
3. CCA believes that people with disability have the right to hold valued roles in society and fulfil the responsibilities associated with these roles.
4. CCA believes that people with disability have the right to participate as active and valued members in the community, to have lifestyles which are valued by the community, and to be offered the most conducive opportunities to do so.
5. Capricorn Citizen Advocacy believes that actively facilitating a one to one relationship between a valued unpaid citizen, who makes a voluntary commitment to stand by and represent the interests of a person with disability is, through positive association, a valid way of promoting the valued status of people with disability.

Training Opportunities

1. CCA will actively encourage new staff and Management Committee members to complete the full Social Role Valorisation and PASSING workshops.
2. CCA will be a model in the positive interpretation of Protégés to family, service providers and others involved in the life of the Protégé.

Recruitment of Advocates

1. CCA will recruit competent, valued citizens, who voluntarily make an unpaid commitment to represent a person with disability, as citizen advocates.
2. When recruiting potential Advocates, CCA will seek to find a competent person who has the skills and personal interests and qualities which are most suited to the fundamental advocacy needs and personal qualities of the Protégé, and who has valued roles and responsibilities which would be of benefit to the Protégé.
3. CCA will take care to emphasise to potential Advocates the competencies, skills and attributes of the Protégé in the most positive manner possible.
4. CCA will also encourage Advocates to identify and present potential opportunities to the Protégé to develop their skills and competencies, so the Protégé has greater opportunity to develop valued social roles and build meaningful relationships.

Orientation of Advocates

1. As part of the orientation process all Advocates will be informed of the Citizen Advocacy principles, and the importance of enhancing the image and competencies of people with disability towards obtaining valued roles.
2. CCA will promote to potential Advocates the powerful influence of Citizen Advocates in creating valued opportunities and experiences by virtue of their presence in the life of a Protégé and the positive impact of Citizen Advocates on others involved in the lives of Protégés.

Support of Advocates

Through follow along and support procedures, CCA will suggest and support the Citizen Advocate to challenge and assist others such as family, service providers, associates etc. involved in the life of the Protégé, to question their negative perceptions and attitudes towards the Protégé.

Role Recognition

As part of its ongoing efforts to recognise and promote the valued status of key roles in Citizen Advocacy, CCA will consistently use capital letters in all its written materials where the

words Protégé, Citizen Advocate, Crisis Advocate and Advocate Associate are used. In recognition of the unique nature of Citizen Advocacy, and distinct differences between paid and unpaid advocacy, CCA will ensure that the term Citizen Advocate is used, rather than using the more generic term of “advocate”.

Related Documents

[3.0.1 Advocate Independence Policy](#)

References

Not applicable.


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)