

PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION POLICY



Purpose

Aurora Support Services is committed to empowering and supporting participants to fully participate in the community and in the organisation.

Scope

This policy applies to all employees, students, volunteers, contractors and members of the Committee of Management of Aurora Support Services.

This policy is relevant to all participants who attend Aurora Support Services as well as to their family members and any other supports who may interact with Aurora Support Services on their behalf.

Policy

Aurora Support Services will:

- Support participants to participate in the community and activities of choice.
- Enable participants to be involved in decisions that affect them and the services they receive.
- Encourage and support participants to be involved in service evaluation and planning.
- Develop links with Sporting Clubs, Tafes, Community Centres, Schools, Radio etc to promote greater opportunities for connections and meaningful participation in the community.
- Make every effort, within available resources to accommodate the participant's skill development preferences as stated in their Person Centred Plan and / or NDIS goals.
- Structure its programs and services to be provided in a way that facilitates the inclusion and participation of participants with other members of the community.
- Develop program strategies to make the greatest possible use of community facilities and services.
- Use community facilities and services in a manner and at times that coincide with those of the wider community.
- Assess the risks involved to address our duty of care when accessing community venues.
- Select volunteers on the basis of their own involvement and connection with the wider community, amongst other attributes.
- Involve other members of the community in the inclusion of the Aurora Support Services participants in participative community activities.
- Collaborate with other community groups and their members, to facilitate the inclusion of Aurora Support Services participants in their activities.
- Avoid large group activities for participants which are likely to have the unwanted effect of stigmatising or excluding them from community contact, acceptance or involvement.
- All participants and their families or advocates are to be provided with a Participant Information Pack on commencement of services and then annually highlighting the organisation's commitment to Participation and Inclusion.
- All employees are to be provided with an overview of the organisation's policy on Participation and Social Inclusion during their induction and a staff copy of the policy is to be kept in each service outlet.
- Encourage and support participants to complete the Quality Surveys.



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Policy Review

Document Approver	Assistant Executive Director
Date Reviewed	13 September 2024
Timeframe For Next Review	This policy is reviewed on a two-yearly basis. The policy will, however, be reviewed before this time if it is identified that changes in the legislative, policy and/or funding environment have rendered the policy no longer appropriate in its current form.
Next Review Due	13 September 2026

Policy Context

NDIS Rules and Standards	NDIS (Code of Conduct) Rules 2018 NDIS (Provider Registration and Practice Standards) Rules 2018 NDIS Practice Standards Core Module 1, Rights and Responsibilities – Person Centred Supports
Relevant Legislation	Disability Act 2006 NDIS Act 2013 Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986 Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 Disability Discrimination Act 1992 Equal Opportunity Act 2010
Contractual Obligations	NDIS Conditions of Registration Individual Service Agreements for NDIS Participants Individual Brokerage Agreements for DSOA Participants
Related Policies and Procedures	Code of Conduct Agreement Compliments and Complaints Management Policy Diversity and Cultural Inclusion Policy Drug, Alcohol, Gambling and Restricted Activities Policy Individual Needs Policy Intake and Referral Policy Participant Rights Policy Participant Service Charter Privacy, Dignity and Confidentiality Policy Supported Decision Making and Dignity of Risk Policy
Related Forms and Documents	Participant Profile Risk Assessment – Participant Risk Assessment – Activity / General