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3.2 Child Care Services Taree & Districts Inc.

Participation and Inclusion Policy

Child Care Services Taree & Districts Inc. (CCSTD) recognises that all people with a disability have the right to feel valued and have the opportunity to participate fully in life in society as they choose. CCSTD is committed to promoting a positive image of people with a disability, recognising that this can positively influence self-esteem and provide opportunities for enhanced belonging through their inclusion in the community. CCSTD will ensure that the concept of inclusion is culturally appropriate. CCSTD is committed to work in collaboration and partnership with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (ATSI) and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, agencies and services.

The Purpose of the Policy

It is the intention of Child Care Services Taree & Districts Inc. to provide inclusive practice for people with disabilities and to ensure they have the same opportunities, rights and responsibilities enjoyed by other people in the community. This includes the right to access community services, resources and facilities.

Participation and Inclusion Expectations

CCSTD recognises the role that services play in enabling the contribution and inclusion of people with disability and their valued participation in the community including work and learning. In meeting this standard, we will actively support and encourage individuals to connect with family and friends and to feel included in their chosen communities. This should be based on an individual's interests, identity, heritage and aspirations. Importantly, the focus on 'valued role' needs to be one of the individual's choosing. CCSTD will also work with the wider community to promote participation and inclusion.

CCSTD recognises the importance of;

- Promoting a valued role for people with disability in public and private life
- Connection to family, friends and chosen communities
- Economic and community participation and associated benefits to the individual and the broader community
- Participation based on an individual's interests, identity, heritage, preferences, goals and aspirations (which may change over time) and
- The role of family, friends, carers, advocates and other organisations in promoting participation and inclusion.

Rights for Participants

Participants have the right to participate in their chosen community. They have the right to decide how they have contact with family, friends and community.

Outcomes for Participants

I follow my interests, with the support of my services, family, friends, carers or advocates to an active member of my family and the local community. To feel included in all activities and life skills.

Standards for Service

The service works with individuals and families, friends and carers to promote opportunities for meaningful participation and active inclusion in society.

CCSTD Practice Standards

- The service actively promotes a valued role for people with disability, of their own choosing.
- The service works together with individuals to connect to family, friends and their chosen communities.
- Support workers understand, respect and facilitate individual interests and preferences, in relation to work, learning, social activities and community connection over time.
- Where appropriate, the service works with an individual's family, friends, carer or advocate to promote community connection, inclusion and participation.
- The service works in partnership with other organisations and community members to support individuals to actively participate in their community.
- The service uses strategies that promote community and cultural connection for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Child Care Services Taree & Districts Inc. will support participants to take an active role in the community by;

- Getting to know participants and the things you like to do
- Working with participants and their family and friends if requested
- Working with other organisations in the community to support participants needs
- Respecting cultural backgrounds
- Promoting the valued role people living with disability have in the workplace and in their community

Relevant Legislation and Standards

- NDIS Practice Standards
- NDIS Code of Conduct
- NSW Disability Service Standards (NSW DSS)
- NDIS Terms of Business
- Freedom of Information Act 1982
- Privacy and Personal Information Act 1988 (NSW)
- The Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW) and Disability Inclusion Regulation 2014 (NSW)
- Mental Health Act 2007 (NSW)
- Ombudsman Act 1974 (NSW)
- NDIA National Quality and Safeguards Policy 2018