PARTICIPATION AND INTEGRATION

INTRODUCTION

Philosophy

The Crows Nest Centre believes that each client has a right to an active life within the community, and should be supported and encouraged to participate and be involved.

All clients live in communities. The Crows Nest Centre recognizes the importance of supporting the integration of clients into the wider community. The community offers a wide range of services that clients can access and the Crows Nest Centre has a commitment to encourage clients to make use of existing mainstream services and facilities, and to provide support to access them where applicable.

This policy describes how the Crows Nest Centre will provide services that promote participation and integration in the community of all clients that access this service.

Definitions

Participation: means having a role and sharing in an activity or an event.

Integration: means that a person is part of the community and is involved with other community members. It refers to the social process that offers a person with a disability the same choices and chances as other people to participate in activities and become a member of communities. Community integration happens when people are seen in ordinary places, join everyday activities share experiences, interact and become interdependent (Here There and Everywhere: Integration in our Community, D.Fullwood1993)

Legislation and Standards

Employees are advised to be familiar with the legislation under which they are employed as this may specify requirements with which they need to comply. These include:

* Disability Services Act 1993 (NSW) -see Appendix 1 & 2
* Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Commonwealth)
* NSW Disability Services Standards – Children’s Standards in Action.
Aims and Objectives

The Crows Nest Centre is committed to the highest standard of conduct in its service delivery. To meet this commitment, the Crows Nest Centre has developed this Policy with the aim of outlining procedures for the participation and integration of its clients into the general community.

The specific objectives of this policy are to:

1. Provide services and activities to clients that promote the meaningful participation and integration in the community
2. Ensure that participation and integration occur in ways that meet clients individual needs
3. Provide support to clients to access the community
4. Encourage constructive employee and client relationships to enhance program participation and lead to a better quality of service provision
5. Provide choice and flexibility.
6. Provide information to families and clients concerning general community events, facilities and activities
7. Provide clients the opportunity to form and maintain a variety of ties, connections and involvements in the community
8. Monitor and evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of this policy.

Policy Statement

All people, including those with disabilities and special needs, require care which meets their educational, emotional, social and behavioral needs in order to develop their capacity to lead happy, fulfilled and independent lives.

Participation is an important way of building a sense of connection between people and the communities in which they live

The Crows Nest Centre will actively encourage and support the participation and integration of all clients in their community in a way similar to other members of that community. The Service will encourage and support clients to develop and maintain involvement in their local community including the development of social networks. The Crows Nest Centre will also focus on producing good service outcomes such as increased independence of clients and integration into the community.
PROCEDURES

The Crows Nest Centre will support the participation and integration of all clients in the community by:

1. encouraging activities with peers who do not have a disability
2. supporting clients to undertake activities of their individual choice as individuals, as part of a community and/or social group, or as part of the family
3. supporting opportunities or activities that allow clients to develop long-term friendship
4. supporting opportunities for the client to participate in cultural activities
5. supporting activities that allow families to develop relationships with other families in a positive environment
6. supporting community education strategies which raise awareness about disability issues and promote inclusive practices in the broader community
7. employing Aboriginal staff and staff from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
8. supporting families to understand the importance and value clients using mainstream services that are appropriate for their age and development, where practicable
9. playing a role in helping to educate and support the wider community in promoting activities that are inclusive of people with a disability
10. developing strategies that actively link families together in mutual support activities and foster networks that can meet their need for emotional support, information and practical assistance i.e. support groups
11. providing information to clients about available mainstream services and facilities, and providing support to access them through newsletters, phone calls and its web site
12. making the best use of community facilities and services when planning activities, and encouraging the participation of clients in community events and to meet their daily and life-style requirements
13. providing services in a way that facilitates the integration and participation of each client in the community at times and in ways which are similar to other members of the community
14. encouraging and supporting clients to experience different settings
15. providing strategies to identify and monitor the participation and integration of clients in the community such as surveys, questionnaires and data collected

16. supporting them to develop social networks and to participate in decision-making in the community

17. promoting the abilities and valued status of clients when supporting their participation in and integration into the community

18. encouraging client participation in service planning, development and review e.g. annual review, feedback.

19. being sensitive to any potential barriers to participation

20. recognizing that when referring clients to other services, permission is required from the client or his/her parent or guardian, before referring

21. supporting clients’ right to use an advocate and/or family when making decisions about referrals to other services.

Adopted

Reviewed

To Be Reviewed
APPENDIX 1

DISABILITY SERVICES ACT 1993 - SECT 3

Objects

3 Objects

The objects of this Act are:

(a) to ensure the provision of services necessary to enable persons with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential as members of the community, and

(b) to ensure the provision of services that:

   (i) further the integration of persons with disabilities in the community and complement services available generally to such persons in the community, and

   (ii) enable persons with disabilities to achieve positive outcomes, such as increased independence, employment opportunities and integration in the community, and

   (iii) are provided in ways that promote in the community a positive image of persons with disabilities and enhance their self-esteem.
APPENDIX 2

DISABILITY SERVICES ACT 1993 - SCHEDULE 1

SCHEDULE Schedule 1 - Principles and applications of principles

(Sections 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13)

1 Principles

Persons with disabilities have the same basic human rights as other members of Australian society. They also have the rights needed to ensure that their specific needs are met. Their rights, which apply irrespective of the nature, origin, type or degree of disability, include the following:

(a) persons with disabilities are individuals who have the inherent right to respect for their human worth and dignity,

(b) persons with disabilities have the right to live in and be part of the community,

2 Applications of principles

Services and programs of services must apply the principles set out in clause 1. In particular, they must be designed and administered so as to achieve the following:

(a) to have as their focus the achievement of positive outcomes for persons with disabilities, such as increased independence, employment opportunities and integration into the community,

(b) to contribute to ensuring that the conditions of the everyday life of persons with disabilities are the same as, or as close as possible to, norms and patterns which are valued in the general community,

(c) to form part of local co-ordinated service systems and other services generally available to members of the community, wherever possible,

(g) to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in the life of the local community through maximum physical and social integration in that community,

(j) to provide opportunities for persons with disabilities to reach goals and enjoy lifestyles which are valued by the community generally and are appropriate to their chronological age.