# Active and Valued Citizenship

## Policy

At *futures in sight* we assist people with disability to achieve a good life for themselves as active and valued citizens in their communities*.*

Webelieve that just because a person has disability this does not mean they can only do things with other people with disability or only go to services for people with disability.

People with disability have the right to choose and take part in the many varied activities and services available in the community.

We work with people with disability to assist them to use available community resources and services, not just disability specific services.

We work in ways that encourages people we support to live in and be part of the communities they choose. We support and respect each person’s autonomy and right to make their decisions about all areas of their life as fully as they can.

We work according to the ideas set out in:

* *Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)*;
* the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977* (NSW)
* the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Commonwealth);
* *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 (Commonwealth);* and
* the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)*.

## **Scope**

## All Partners, Contractors, Employees and Volunteers

## **Principles**

All Partners, Contractors, Employees and Volunteers of *futures in sight*:

* Hold that human rights are fundamental to overcoming disabling barriers and promoting inclusion;
* Work to ensure positive processes and outcomes for people with disability;
* Actively work towards inclusion by facilitating people with disability to exercise control of their own support, decision-making, participation and presence in their communities; and
* Use a person-centred community-driven approach which focuses on community connection, building social capital and enriching people’s lives.

## **Definitions**

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| **Inclusion** | The concept that people with disability should be freely and openly accommodated without restrictions or limitations of any kind.  Miller and Katz (2002) defined inclusion as: “a sense of belonging: feeling respected, valued for who you are; feeling a level of supportive energy and commitment from others so that you can do your best”.  It is about valuing all individuals, giving equal access and opportunity to all and removing discrimination and other barriers to involvement. |
| **Citizenship** | When we talk about citizenship we mean that each person has:   * Purpose – their own unique sense of who they are and how they should live * Freedom – the ability to shape and direct their own life * Money – enough money so they can act freely and be independent * Home – a place of their own, where they belong * Help – getting help and support from other people * Giving – making a contribution to the community * Love – being connected, valued and enjoying the many sides of love |

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## **Related Documents**

* Rights and Responsibilities
* Individual Outcomes
* How to Access *futures in sight*

Legislation

* Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)
* United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
* Disability Services (Complaints, Reviews and Monitoring) Act 1993 (NSW)
* Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Commonwealth)
* Anti-Discrimination Act 2004 (NSW)
* Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010 (Commonwealth)
* Disability Inclusion Regulation 2014 (NSW)
* Carers (Recognition) Act 2010 (NSW)

Procedure

How *futures in sight* works with people we support:

* We work with you to put your NDIS Plan into practice using our Individual Action Plan (IAP) process: we identify things you want to do and together with you we try to find services and activities that you choose that will help you realise your goals.
* Once you ask *futures in sight* to work with you, we make a time to meet with you to talk about what we will do together. This meeting will be made at a time and a place that works best for both of us.
* You may ask other people to come to the meeting, such as a friend, your family, an advocate or other person who is important to you.
* We will ask you about your goals and about the things you need to help you achieve them.
* We provide you with information, options and, if you so request, advice, in a manner that works for you and we give you time to think about it all. We can also assist you to think it all through.
* We will talk about the people and supports you have in your life and how they help you now.
* We can help to refer you to other services or give you information about other services, for example, services for people without disability or for people from your culture, maybe a service speaking your language.
* We will consult with experts and refer to specialist services when we don’t have all the experience or knowledge to support you, for example working with people in the criminal justice system.
* We show other people (with and without disability) that people with disability live and work in the community, for example, we contract people with disability and family members to do work with *futures in sight* and hold our meetings in accessible buildings.
* We consult people with disability and family members of people with disability to help us with our policies and work practices.
* We take part in local service networks to make sure we keep our knowledge of other services up to date, to improve our own service and to contribute to local responses about particular issues.
* We listen to your individual needs and goals and we work within and outside the disability service system, mainstream services and the community at large to assist you achieve your goals and meet your needs.

**Review**

This policy will be reviewed on a two-yearly basis.

However, if at any time the legislative, policy or funding environment is so altered that the policy is no longer appropriate in its current form, the policy shall be reviewed immediately and amended accordingly.

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| Signed by all Partners | Original signed by all Partners | | |
| Date effective | 1 October 2023 | Version | V-4 |
| Review date | 1 October 2025 | No of pages | 4 |