# Active and Valued Citizenship

## Policy

*futures in sight* exists to assist people with disability to achieve a good life for themselves where they are included in the community as an active and valued citizen*.*

*futures in sight* believes that people with disability have the right to choose and take part in all the different activities and services available to everybody else in the community.

We work with customers to support them to use different community resources and services, not just disability services. Just because a person has a disability does not mean they can only do things with people with disability or only go to services for people with disability.

The way we work encourages people we support to live in and be part of the communities they choose. We support and respect each individual’s autonomy and your right to make decisions about your own behalf in all areas of your life.

We work according to the ideas set out in

* the *Disability Services Act 1986* (Commonwealth);
* the *Disability Services Act 1993* (NSW);
* *Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW),* the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Commonwealth) and
* the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006).

## **Scope**

## All Partners, Advisory Panel members, Contractors and Volunteers

## **Principles**

All Partners, Advisory Panel members, Contractors 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 disabilities;
* Actively work towards inclusion by giving people with disability control over their own support and decision-making, participation and presence in their own communities
* Uses 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* work with people we support:

* We work with you to put your NDIS Plan into practice: we identify things you want to do and together with you we try to find different services and activities.
* Once you ask futures in sight to work with you we make a time to meet with you about what we will do together. This meeting will be made for a time and a place the 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, advise, 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 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 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 disabilities and family memebers and hold our meetings in accessible buildings.
* We have an advisory panel made up of people with disabilities and their families who 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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