

STANDARD SIX: VALUED STATUS

Each person with a disability has the opportunity to develop and maintain skills to enable him or her to participate in activities to achieve valued roles in the community.

Standard 6.1

VALUED STATUS

6.1.1 Purpose and Scope

This policy guides staff in supporting people using the service to develop and enhance their status within the community.

6.1.2 Definitions

Valued Status: is gained by each person with a disability when they have a community presence and have had opportunities to develop roles, competencies, skills and lifestyles, which are valued by the community.

6.1.3 Principles

Samaritans promotes a positive image of people with disabilities within its services and the community. This positive image promotes people's opportunities and abilities to achieve valued roles within the service and community.

6.1.4 Policy

Samaritans supports each person to have every opportunity to develop and maintain skills, competencies and lifestyles that are valued by the community. Samaritans actively supports people to fully participate and become integrated into the range of community lifestyles. Samaritans ensures that all aspects of the service recognise and promote the person's individual potentials, abilities, competencies and contributions.

6.1.5 Procedures

- Samaritans promote independence and self-advocacy for all people receiving support.
- All contributions made by people are considered and respected when considering service development.
- The rights, individual attitudes and choices of people are appreciated and respected.
- People are provided with information about their rights through staff modelling, training and input from services such as Intellectual Disability Rights Service. Appropriate supports are offered to ensure these rights are realised and practised.
- People are assisted to access and receive ongoing training and support in moral, social and legal aspects of good citizenship to increase positive community membership. The type of support and mode of delivery is agreed through the individual support planning process.
- People are assisted to access and receive ongoing training and support in grooming, dress and behaviour to increase their access to positive community participation.
- People are actively encouraged and supported to develop networks that are independent from the support of paid workers.
- People are actively encouraged and supported to hold roles within the service that are valued. These roles include:
 - a) membership of staff selection panels
 - b) involvement in the induction and training of new staff members
 - c) membership of advisory committees
 - d) First Aid and OH&S officers
 - e) participation in the development and review of policies
 - f) participation in the evaluation of services and supports offered, including evaluation of staff members.
- People are actively encouraged and supported to hold roles within the community that are valued. These roles include but are not limited to being a:
 - a) member of a Neighbourhood Watch Committee
 - b) member of the local library, social and sporting clubs
 - c) member of a local church or volunteer for charity organisations

- d) registered and active voter
- e) participant at TAFE etc.
- The valued roles that each person already enjoys are promoted to enhance the development of positive images for people with disabilities. These roles include but are not limited to:
 - a) their relationship with other family members in the role of son, daughter, brother, sister, aunt, uncle etc
 - b) employee
 - c) sports person and hobbyist.
- Staff members are respectful of the diverse cultural, moral and religious beliefs and practices of people in the service.
- In circumstances where it appears that people's community membership is being threatened or eroded staff members advocate on the person's behalf to ensure a positive outcome for the person.
- Staff members continue to engage in community development and provide the community with ongoing education on the abilities, contributions and competence of people with disabilities in a positive and constructive manner.
- Staff members ensure their behaviour and interactions with people receiving support communicates an attitude of respect and promotes a positive image of people with disabilities.
- Community development activities are approved by the Coordinator in consideration of :
 - a) being commensurate with the staff member's statement of duties
 - b) time and resource commitments
 - c) consistency with Samaritans philosophy and policy.
- For the purposes of ensuring that Samaritans services promote a positive image of people with disabilities only Samaritans management and other approved persons are permitted to represent the service and liaise with the media, funding agencies and legal, community and government representatives.

6.1.6 References

NSW Disability Services Act 1993- Objects 3(a, b, (i, ii, iii), e & f), Principles - all apply and Applications of Principles 2(a, b, d, e, f, g, j, k, l & p)

NSW Anti Discrimination Act 1977

Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992

NSW Disability Services Standards - Standard 3, 5 and 6

Samaritans Disability Services Policy and Standards

Decision Making and Choice

Individual Support Planning and Review

Key Worker Role in Individual Support Planning

Participation and Integration

6.1.7 Person Responsible

It is the responsibility of the staff members to:

- support people using the service to select and access community activities
- promote positive roles for people with disabilities.

6.1.8 Implementation and Evaluation

People using the service are involved in a range of valued roles and community activities. People using the service are active members of the community.

6.1.9 Documentation

Goals are listed in the person's individual support plan. Daily records note the activities and outcomes of community integration opportunities.