



QAI's Guiding Principles

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Queensland Advocacy for Inclusion (QAI) advocates for people with disability in Queensland. Since commencing in 1987, QAI has been governed by people with disability and focused on the most disadvantaged people facing the greatest barriers to inclusion. QAI respectfully acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the traditional owners of this land and recognises their role in our work, in the disability community and in society.

The principles by which QAI operates and by which all efforts should be guided ("the Guiding Principles") are contained in the following;

1. QAI's Vision
2. QAI's Purpose
3. QAI's Values;
4. United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); and
5. The objects contained in the QAI constitution.

1. QAI's Vision

Inclusive communities where all people are equally valued and enjoy human rights.

2. QAI's Purpose

To advocate for the protection and advancement of the needs, rights, and lives of people with disability in Queensland.

3. QAI's Values

Inclusion

Every human life is unique and of equal value.

An inclusive society is where people with disability are respected, feel valued and exercise autonomy over their own lives.

Everyone should have equal access to society's resources. This means removing barriers and supporting people who experience barriers to enjoy the same opportunities as others.

Human beings are fundamentally social beings, in need of connection and a sense of belonging.

Everyone has a responsibility to be inclusive and to understand how our actions and words impact others.

We all have the capacity to do harm but we also have the capacity to learn, grow and positively contribute to people's lives.

We are committed to challenging systems which cause harm and disadvantage people with disability.

Diversity

All lives are enriched when people with and without disability interact and come together. A diverse community adds richness to society.

Everyone has the right to express their own unique identity without fear and for this identity to be respected by others.

A diverse community includes diverse abilities, First Nations peoples, members of the LGBTIQ+ community and people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

Self-determination

All people with disability have the right to make their own choices. This includes making choices that other people disagree with. All people with disability must have self-determination over their own lives and should be supported to make their own decisions.

QAI supports the self-determination of First Nations peoples and celebrates the strength and wisdom of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

QAI supports the rights of children and young people to make and participate in decision-making that affects them. This can involve taking risks to learn, grow and develop decision-making skills.

Social justice

Everyone has the potential to be an ally in challenging ableist systems. We are committed to supporting and resourcing people with disability and their allies to achieve an inclusive society.

People with liberty have a responsibility to work towards deinstitutionalization so we can all enjoy the same liberties and freedoms.

All levels of government have a responsibility to ensure people with disability can fully participate in all aspects of community life.

Integrity

QAI will exercise its Purpose in open, honest, and responsive ways.

QAI will respond to our community's needs and will deliver quality services.

QAI will be accountable to our community and will deliver services in a way that promotes the safety and wellbeing of our clients and staff.

4. United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

QAI endorses the objectives, and promotes the principles, of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. These principles are:

1. Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons;
2. Non-discrimination;
3. Full and effective participation and inclusion in society;
4. Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;
5. Equality of opportunity;
6. Accessibility;
7. Equality between men and women;
8. Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

5. The objects contained in the QAI constitution

The objects of QAI's constitution are:

- To advocate for the protection and advancement of the needs, rights, and lives of people with disability in Queensland;
- To protect and advance human rights including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD);
- To be accountable to the most disadvantaged people with disability in Queensland; and
- To advance the health, social and public wellbeing of disadvantaged people with disability.