

TOP CARE LIFESTYLES PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSION POLICY

Standard 2: Participation and Inclusion

Each person is encouraged and supported to contribute to social and civic life in their communities in the way they choose.

Overview

People with a disability should have the opportunity to participate in community life as they wish, as all people do. This means going beyond being present in the community to being actively included and participating in general community life. Engagement and meaningful inclusion are fundamental to being active members of all relevant aspects of community life and contributing to the economy by working and/or choosing where to spend money.

POLICY STATEMENT

Top Care Lifestyles:

- works with other service providers and with the broader community to increase the options and opportunities for people with a disability. Top Care Lifestyles supports people to have the specific aids they need to enable them to engage in the community in a way which is equal to all other Australians.
- ensures that the people it supports are able to participate in the community in their own way and have an ordinary and meaningful life like people of similar age, gender and culture
- actively promotes the genuine connection and active inclusion of children and adults with a disability with their chosen communities (and fulfil their obligations under the *Disability Services Act 1993*).
- supports and promotes the benefits to individuals and the community of

citizenship and the participation of people with a disability, including through work, learning and leisure.

- assists people to be included and participate in community life in ways that are meaningful to them. We do this through a skilled and respectful workforce that offers the same opportunities and choices as other people in the community, so people with a disability can join in everyday life, share experiences and go to ordinary places.

Further guidance on participation and inclusion is contained in other standards: in particular Rights, Individual Outcomes and Service Access.

Legislation

Top Care Lifestyles recognises that it has legislative obligations, which are monitored and maintained.