Policy 2.1 – Participation and Inclusion

Last Amended: 07/04/2015
Date Ratified: 18/01/2016
Next Review: 18/01/2018

Review Responsibility: Chief Executive Officer

Documents Attached:
- PR2.1 – Participation and Integration Procedure
- PS2.1 – Participation and Integration Performance Standards

Chief Executive Officer’s Name: Teresa Barrie
Signature: ______________________________
Date: ______________________________

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Policy Statement:
The organisation is committed to ensuring that, wherever practicable, clients have access to the same places as the rest of the community, receive their services in community settings alongside other members of the community; and have the opportunity to socialise and build relationships with members of the wider community in order to ensure participation and integration.

Guiding Principles
The organisation will:
- Structure its programs and services to be provided in a way that facilitates the integration and participation of clients with other members of the community.
- Build into the agency’s program strategies to make the greatest possible use of community facilities and services.
- Use community facilities and services in a manner, and at times that coincide with those of the wider community.
- Select volunteers on the basis of their own involvement and connection with the wider community, amongst other attributes.
- Involve other members of the community in the integration of Kids Are Kids!’ clients in participative community activities.
- Collaborate with other community groups, and their members, to facilitate the inclusion of Kids Are Kids! clients in their activities.
- Avoid large group activities for clients, that are likely to have the unwanted effect of stigmatising or being excluded from community contact, acceptance or involvement.

Procedures:
Procedures will be implemented to enable Kids are Kids! Therapy and Education Centre Inc to meet its policy objective of service access. Refer to Appendix 1 for the following procedures:
- PR2.1 – Participation and Inclusion Procedure

Performance Standards:
Performance Standards will be met to ensure that the procedures specified are implemented effectively. Refer to Appendix 2 for the following performance standard:
- PS2.1 – Participation and Inclusion Performance Standards

Delegations:
Chief Executive Officer

Legislative Base/Authority:
Organisation Policy
Policy 2.1 – Participation and Inclusion

**Related Policies:**
- 2.2 – Valued Status
- 6.2.5 – Programs and Services

**Review of the Policy**
This policy will be reviewed on a bi-annual 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.
The following procedures are to be implemented to enable Kids Are Kids! to meet its policy objective of ensuring that clients enjoy maximum participation and integration in and with the community.

Kids Are Kids! will:

1. Structure its programs and services to be provided in a way that facilitates the integration and participation of clients with other members of the community.

2. Build into the agency’s program strategies to make the greatest possible use of community facilities and services.

3. Use community facilities and services in a manner, and at times that coincide with those of the wider community.

4. Select volunteers on the basis of their own involvement and connection with the wider community, amongst other attributes.

5. Involve other members of the community in the integration of Kids Are Kids!’ clients in participative community activities.

6. Collaborate with other community groups, and their members, to facilitate the inclusion of Kids Are Kids! clients in their activities.

7. Avoid large group activities for clients, that are likely to have the unwanted effect of stigmatising or being excluded from community contact, acceptance or involvement.

8. Provide opportunities for children of all levels and abilities to join in group therapy programs.
Appendix 2 – Performance Standards

PS PR2.1 Participation and Inclusion

The following performance standards must be met to ensure that the procedures specified are implemented effectively:

Performance Standards

The following performance standards must be met to ensure that the procedures specified in the previous section are implemented effectively:

1. Kids Are Kids! policy on Participation and Inclusion is available on its website and upon request.

2. Ensure all employees have been provided with a copy of Kids Are Kids!' Policy on Participation and Integration and a staff copy of the policy is kept in each service outlet.

3. Kids Are Kids!' programs and services have been structured in a way that facilitates the integration and participation of clients with other members of the community.

4. Agency volunteers and staff are themselves well connected and involved with the local community.

5. Kids Are Kids! have collaborated closely with community groups and clubs that offer recreational, sporting or other activities of interest to Kids Are Kids!' clients.

6. Kids Are Kids! have arranged its community activities in a manner that minimises the possibility of stigmatisation or exclusion of its clients.

7. All clients and their families are given the opportunity and encouraged to complete the annual consumer satisfaction survey with specific questions relevant to measuring the client/families' perception of how well Kids are Kids! are supporting them and their meaningful participation and inclusion in the community.

8. Kids Are Kids! will offer families a variety of group programs to encourage participation and inclusion of children at all levels and of abilities.