

SUPPORT FUND

Policy No. 1

The Group has in the past and continues to recognise that not all things such as facilities; services and equipment can be provided by other Agencies. In addition the Group acknowledges there is a significant un-met need, which cannot be adequately funded and that those who the Group and associated Agencies support are in the majority of cases well provided for. As a consequence a need is seen that where practicable individuals who receive a direct benefit should make a contribution where it is practicable to do so.

No request will be made from persons to make a contribution until the Management Committee has resolved the following:

- There is a clearly defined need;
- Those who will receive a direct benefit have been identified;
- That all practicable avenues of other possible funding sources have been pursued;
- That a specific individual Trust Account is established; and
- That all actions have clearly defined management and audit trails.

The Support Fund to which people with disabilities, their families and friends can contribute has been established to further enhance as far as practicable the direct lifestyle needs of each person with a disability. It should be noted that the Group does not have the authority to compel any person/s to make a contribution and therefore it must be given willingly.

The “Objects” of the Association, Schedules 1 & 2 of the Disability Services Act and the following minimum Standards shall act as a guide when decisions are made. This will ensure that each person with a disability who contributes not only receives a direct benefit but is also provided with the best possible outcome to further enhance their overall quality of life.

The purpose of the Support Fund is to acquire for a number of residents and/or an individual such things as facilities, services and equipment that is not funded in part or full through Government Agencies [eg DSC], Organisations [eg Lotteries West, Rotary] and/or the Group. By making a collective purchase the cost for each person will be significantly reduced as well in most instances maximise the use of that which is purchased. The Group where practicable will assist financially and/or in kind with the acquisition of such things as facilities, services and equipment as and when required.

The Standards **Support Fund**

No Support Fund will be established unless there is defined and agreed need and that the under-mentioned Standards are fully considered when making an informed decision.

Service Access

Each person with a disability seeking facilities, services and equipment shall have access to a service on the basis of relative need and available resources.

Individual Needs

Each person with a disability shall receive facilities, services and equipment, which is designed to meet, in the least restrictive way, his or her individual needs and personal goals.

Decision Making and Choice

Each person with a disability, family, guardian/administrator or carer shall have the opportunity to participate as fully as possible in pro-actively planning, making decisions that relate to the facilities, services and equipment they are seeking.

Privacy, Dignity and Confidentiality

Each person with a disability shall have the right to privacy, dignity and confidentiality in all aspects of their life, which shall be recognised and respected.

Participation and Inclusion

Each person with a disability shall be supported and encouraged to participate in the life of the local community through maximum inclusion.

Valued Status

Each person with a disability shall have the opportunity to develop and maintain skills and participate in activities that enables them to achieve valued roles in the community.

Consultative Process

To ensure that the use of funds is of both direct benefit and maximised determination of needs shall be undertaken through the consultative process.

Complaints and Disputes

Each person with a disability, parent, guardian/administrator or carer shall be able to formally raise and have resolved any complaint or dispute that they may have regarding the use of the Support Fund that directly affects the person with a disability who they represent.

Service Management

The Group shall adopt all legislative and management practices, which maximise direct outcomes for people with disabilities in particular the person who contributes to the Support Fund.

Income and Expenditure

All money received and/or expended shall be accountable for through appropriate Trust Funds in accordance with legislative requirements, accounting and audit standards and policies established by the Group, in particular this policy.

The Group shall ensure before the acceptance of any funds that the release of any money from a person with a disability is in accordance with the Guardianship and Administrative Act 1990.

Donations

Any person who makes a donation of over \$2.00 to the Group is eligible to receive a deductible tax benefit.