

Operating Detail

Incorporation

Fairholme Disability Support Group Inc., previously known as Parents and Friends of Fairholme Association Inc. was incorporated in accordance with provisions of the Associations' Incorporations Act 1987 (section 9 (1)) on the May 29 1989. The name change became effective from September 22, 2003.

Group Representation

Due to the then changes in the Constitution in 2003 representation is now as broad as what members or those in need seek to make it. The Group has continued in the main to assist families on a wide variety of matters, those in supported accommodation provided by Disability Services Commission, as well as people with disability and/or mental illness, families, carers and significant others. However, this is continually changing because many individuals as well as other Groups have sought to join the Group when making representation.

The Group has, when representing and/or been consulted on matters, achieved consensus of the highest order to reach an acceptable outcome. This was achieved by co-operation and a willingness to listen and make suggested changes that accomplished the best possible outcome.

MISSION [Purpose]

To enrich the lives of people with disabilities, mental illness, their families, carers and significant others.

VISION [View of the future]

The Group aspires to achieve a lasting and positive impact for people with disabilities, mental illness, their families, carers and significant others by contributing to the public good.

VALUES

The Group by reason of its existence and focus is committed to:

- Positive outcomes for people with disabilities, mental illness, their families, carers and significant others;
- People with disabilities having the inherent right, as do other members of society to realise their individual capacities for the whole of self wellbeing and quality of life;
- Establishing and maintaining high level of leadership through but not limited to ethical and corporate governance standards that reflects integrity, openness, fairness and accountability;
- Valuing and acknowledging the advice, opinions and contributions of individuals, families, carers, significant others and organisations;
- Maintaining strength gained by unity and focus; and
- Continuous disclosure on a timely basis.

GOVERNANCE

Constitution

The Group continues to remain strategic and focused on the key elements of its Constitutional Objects, which translates into continuing positive outcomes in the best interests of people with disabilities, mental illness, their families, carers and significant others. These being:

- Safeguarding rights through strong advocacy and consultation;
- Promoting equality by way of inclusion to enable individual needs to be better met;
- Enhancing quality of life [all aspects] and promoting of independence;
- Assisting the further development and sustainability of an individual's and/or family's capacity;
- Developing, maintaining strong and sustaining collaborative partnerships;
- Advancing knowledge, pursuit of change and good practice;
- Encouraging action on issues that affect individuals, families and/or that are systemic; and
- Acquiring funds to provide but are not limited to needs such as amenities, programs and services including recreational and leisure.

As in the past, to achieve the best possible outcomes the Group has continued to use a wide range of planning [strategic and operational] and actions to support and effectively meet each identified need.

Codes and Policies

The Group has adopted Codes and Policies to promote good practices, which all members shall observe and comply with to the extent that it obliges compliance.

Continuous Disclosure

One of the Group's principles is one of continuous disclosure about actual or potentially disclosurable matters or events as when they arise to enable members and significant others to make informed decisions or provide feedback as and when required. All major matters in particular related to policy are always referred to a General Meeting for action resolution.

General Meetings

The Group meets quarterly and conducted its general meeting on each third Saturday in the months of August [also AGM], November, February and May with the Management Committee meeting at least once between each general meeting. General meetings provide the opportunity to all members to have a say and assist with direction setting and bringing to attention any matters of concern and subsequent action/resolution.

Management Committee

The Management Committee comprises of the Group's five office bearers and three general members elected at the annual general meeting.

The role of the Management Committee [delegated in accordance with the Constitution] is to research, advise and consult as widely as is practicable on any issues and/or make recommendations requiring decision at general, extraordinary or annual general meetings. Matters dealt with by the Management Committee are reported to all members at each general meeting and circulated through various minutes and notes. At General Meetings the Management Committee highlight opportunities for the Group to expand, develop and/or improve its services in the most efficient and effective way. As well as advocating it provides advice, but not limited to such matters as legislation, new policies, emerging issues as well as likely changes in the manner in which DSC and/or other service providers may operate.

Registered Australian Business [ABN] and Goods and Services Tax [GST]

The Group is registered [ABN 21 902 498 771] with the Australian Taxation Office [ATO] as an Australian Business effective from November 1, 1999. Also the Group is GST registered effective from February 14, 2011.

Public Benefit Institution [PBI] and Deductible Gift Recipient [DGR]

As the Group is for public benevolence and non-profit making the ATO allows any donation over \$2.00 to be tax deductible. This was by way of Group endorsement on September 14, 2007 as a deductible gift recipient [DGR] under section 30B of the Income Assessment Act 1907.

Charitable Collections Licence

The Department of Consumer and Employment Protection [now Department of Commerce] initially granted the Group a Licence No. 20543 on November 17, 2006, which is now valid until September 11, 2012.