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MEMEBRSHIP PROJECT

AMPARO Advocacy Inc. is a small non-profit community organisation which defends, protects and promotes the rights and interests of vulnerable people from a non-English speaking background who have a disability. We provide individual advocacy within the Brisbane Metropolitan area and undertake a small amount of systemic advocacy on issues that impact people across the State. The organisation is governed by a voluntary management committee, the majority of whom are people from a non-English speaking background who have a disability and we are funded by The Department of Communities, Disability Services.

The aim of the Membership Project is to grow and strengthen the membership base of AMPARO Advocacy by recruiting broader state-wide and local membership to assist in building AMPARO's capacity so that the organisation can grow and be sustainable over time.

AMPARO Advocacy believes that people from a non-English speaking background who have a disability have a rightful place in the community where they are respected and valued; are supported in culturally, sensitive and responsive ways; have authority to direct their own lives and are actively participating and contributing to the social, economical and political life of the broader Australian society.

People from a non-English speaking background who have a disability remain the core group of our membership along with family members. In order to continue our strong leadership and governance of the organisation into the future we recognise the need to strengthen our membership base and to embed our organisation in the broader community by encouraging others to become members.

By being involved with AMPARO Advocacy people have the following opportunities:

- Connecting with others from same and different cultural backgrounds
- Bringing information to a wider platform of people who, together, can do more
- Hearing about the challenges and changes to people's lives through their involvement with advocacy
- Feeling a sense of purpose in support of common values
- Gaining a broader understanding of difference, disability, multiculturalism and the importance of supporting diversity in our society
- Connecting with others from the same and different cultural backgrounds
- Being able to acknowledge own personal history and tell own story of others' lack of understanding and devaluing
- Learning more and being able to help others in community through your own advocacy efforts
- Sharing outrage about injustice
- Developing common bonds and friendship.
- Gaining in depth understanding of the issues faced by people and their advocates

We are searching for members who support our mission, values and beliefs and who will be interested in supporting the work of the organisation and keeping us connected to the life experiences of people from a non-English speaking background who have a disability.

If your organisation or members of your organisation are interested in finding out more about AMPARO Advocacy, or if you know of any other individuals who you believe may be interested in having contact with us, or if you require further information about this project, please contact us on 3369 2500 or via email info@amparo.org.au.

Please also search our website www.amparo.org.au.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours Sincerely

**Membership Project Committee
AMPARO Advocacy Team**