



## SYSTEMS ADVOCACY POLICY

### Background

AMPARO Advocacy is committed to social advocacy as a means of defending and protecting vulnerable people from a non-English speaking background who have a disability.

Social advocacy is speaking out, acting or writing with a minimal conflict of interest on behalf of the sincerely perceived interests of a disadvantaged person or group to promote, protect and defend their welfare and rights by:

- Taking positive, ethical action
- Being on the side of someone who is vulnerable
- Understanding the position and vulnerability of the person
- Remaining loyal and accountable over time
- Being independent with minimised conflicts of interest
- Focusing on the fundamental needs, welfare and interests of the person
- Doing advocacy with vigour and a sense of urgency.

### AMPARO Advocacy's work is guided by the principles of:

- **Human rights:** AMPARO Advocacy will promote, protect and defend the lives and the human rights of people from a non-English speaking background who have a disability.
- **Social Justice:** AMPARO Advocacy will operate in ways that support the achievement of rights, equity, access, participation and equality in our advocacy work.
- **Inclusion in Community Life:** AMPARO Advocacy will operate in ways that value and support the inclusion of people with disability in the life of their diverse communities.

### *Our Mandate*

AMPARO Advocacy takes our mandate from the following important declarations, laws and principles which promote the rights of all people, as well as expectations for the lives of people from a non-English speaking background who have a disability.

*Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006*

*Disability Services Act, (Qld)2006*

*Disability Discrimination Act, (Clth) 1992*

*Anti-Discrimination Act, (Qld) 1991*

*Racial Discrimination Act, (Clth) 1975*

*United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons, 1975*

*Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1966*

*United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948*

*Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities, 2006*

## **Systemic Advocacy Policy**

An important constitutional objective of AMPARO Advocacy is to influence positive sustainable change to attitudes, policies, practices and resources within government and communities to support people from a non-English speaking background who have a disability. Through our individual advocacy work we become aware of systems that impact negatively on the lives of people. The Management Committee's annual planning process will determine a small number of state-wide priority areas where systemic change is needed. The systemic advocacy work is part of the role of AMPARO Advocacy's Coordinator and concerted efforts are made to keep this work distinct from the individual advocacy work.

## **Process**

1. Develop an advocacy plan for the systems advocacy work based on the agreed priorities identified by the annual planning process with the Management Committee.
2. Allocate resources for priority systemic issues.
3. Consider the possible impact of systemic advocacy on individuals before action is taken.
4. Bring priority areas to the attention of government, groups and individuals who can influence systemic change.
5. Join in collective action which supports the issues of people from a non-English speaking background who have a disability.
6. Review our systems advocacy efforts to:
  - Gauge the effectiveness of advocacy strategies,
  - Manage the workload of the coordinator,
  - Ensure as much as possible that the Coordinator role and the systems advocacy work is kept distinct from the individual advocacy work,
7. Manage the tensions created by this role on our work with individuals.