



SYSTEMS ADVOCACY POLICY

Background

AMPARO Advocacy is committed to social advocacy as a means of defending and protecting vulnerable people from a culturally and linguistically diverse background with 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 culturally and linguistically diverse background with 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 community life.

Our Mandate

AMPARO Advocacy takes its 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 culturally and linguistically diverse background with disability.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006
Disability Services & Other Legislation Amendment Act (Qld) 2008
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

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 culturally and linguistically diverse background with disability. Through the individual advocacy work AMPARO Advocacy becomes 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. Systemic advocacy is part of the role of the Manager and concerted efforts are made to keep this work distinctly separate 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 culturally and linguistically diverse background with disability.
6. Review our systems advocacy efforts to:
 - Gauge the effectiveness of advocacy strategies,
 - Manage the workload of the Manager,
 - Ensure where possible that the Manager's role and the systems advocacy work is kept distinct from the individual advocacy work.
7. Manage the tensions created within this role on our work with individuals.