

Participation and Inclusion Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define Early Start Australia's (ESA) position in relation to providing opportunities for individuals to play a valued role and have meaningful participation in their community.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all clients and all services provided by ESA.

POLICY STATEMENT

ESA recognises that all people with a disability have the right to be included in meaningful ways in their community including in the areas of learning, work, leisure, learning and relationships. ESA supports individuals to actively participate in their community in a way which is meaningful to them and which promotes a valued role for the individual.

ESA will develop client services in a manner which:

- Recognises that each individual is unique and has their own interests and skills
- Ensures that all individuals (and their parents/carers) are involved in decisions on how they choose to be involved in their community, and with whom they would like to connect
- Provides opportunities for inclusion and participation with members of the community, and in inclusive community activities
- Provides opportunities for the individual to actively contribute to their community.
- Ensures there is an awareness of and sensitivity to an individual's cultural beliefs and background which will include providing opportunities for the individual to make meaningful connections with culturally appropriate groups.
- Promotes a collaborative approach with the individual, their family and friends to provide opportunities for community inclusion and participation.
- Encourages partnerships with other organisations and community members to provide opportunities for individuals to actively participate in and play a meaningful role in their community.

Authorised By CEO	Effective Date	25 Sept 2018
Version 1	Review Date	25 Sept 2019