

Capricorn Citizen Advocacy

CITIZEN ADVOCACY ROLES

Policy number:	2.1.0	Approved by Management Committee:	27 th March 2024
Version:	4.0	Signed off by Executive:	27 th March 2024
Responsible person:	Coordinator	Scheduled Review Date:	27 th March 2027

Purpose

This policy sets out four Citizen Advocacy roles from which Capricorn Citizen Advocacy may choose to provide support to people with disabilities. The selected advocacy role will depend on the circumstances that exist for the person with the disability.

As a measure to secure the advocacy office's long term success, Capricorn Citizen Advocacy will endeavour to cultivate a wide diversity of advocacy roles in the relationships it facilitates and supports, but will aim for long term advocacy relationships to dominate the program's development.

Policy

1. Long-Term Advocacy Role

A long-term advocacy role has an open ended, potentially unlimited time commitment in which the advocate is required to respond to address those needs of the protégé that are of a significant and ongoing nature.

These roles may exist for many years and once commenced, the relationship may even last the remaining lifetime of the advocate or the protégé.

Long term advocacy roles are always included in the total number of matches achieved by us for the outcomes submitted to the State Government funding agency.

2. Short-Term Advocacy Role

A short-term advocacy role is a time-limited commitment in which the advocate is required to respond to address those needs of the protégé that are of a significant, but not urgent or ongoing, nature.

A short-term advocacy relationship will “complete” when the goal of the short-term advocacy has been pursued satisfactorily, or to the extent that is possible for the time being.

Short term advocacy roles are included in the total number of matches achieved by us for the outcomes submitted to the State Government funding agency.

3. Crisis Advocacy Role

A crisis advocacy role is a time-limited commitment in which the advocate is required to immediately respond to address those needs of the protégé that are of a critical or urgent nature.

A crisis advocacy relationship will “complete” when the situation of the protégé, which precipitated the crisis advocacy response, is no longer critical or urgent.

Crisis advocacy roles are included in the total number of matches achieved by Capricorn Citizen Advocacy for the outcomes submitted to the State Government funding agency.

4. Co-Advocacy Role

In some cases, the program may find it necessary to appoint a second advocate for a protégé; that is, a ‘co-advocate’. This advocate will work on additional issues identified with/for the protégé than those being addressed by the originally appointed advocate.

The advocate and co-advocate are expected to work as a team in the best interests of the protégé. Co-Advocacy roles are not usually included in the total number of matches achieved by us for the outcomes submitted to the State Government funding agency.

How does Capricorn Citizen Advocacy Determine which role is Appropriate?

The three main advocacy roles are not exclusive and so it is quite possible for example, that a crisis advocacy role could develop into a long term advocacy role.

a) Recruitment of Advocates

Recruitment of advocates will use a variety of different strategies and techniques and will be representative of the diversity of advocacy roles and the diversity of the advocate's likely employment, family and community environments.

During orientation of prospective advocates, the Coordinator will describe the diversity of advocacy relationships, with emphasis on the three main dimensions i.e. formal/informal; instrumental/expressive and degree of demand.

The orientation process must be flexible to suit the individual needs of the prospective advocate, and the actual type of advocacy role that he/she/they will be taking on.

The follow along and support provided by the Coordinator to the advocate will also need to be tailored to the specific needs of both the advocate and protégé and should address the actual advocacy being undertaken.

b) Crisis Advocacy

Capricorn Citizen Advocacy will recruit and support a number of crisis advocates so that the advocacy office can adequately represent people in crisis, without diverting staff into a direct relationship with an individual protégé.

The *Annual Protégé Recruitment Plan* will refer to the likelihood that potential protégés in crisis will become known to the program, and that the critical needs of such people will be addressed by a member of the crisis advocate pool who has been linked with them by the Coordinator.

A register of crisis advocates will be kept in the office and reported upon in each monthly Coordinator's report via a table. The Coordinator's role will include the active recruitment and orientation of crisis advocates and will aim to ensure that these people keep their skills current.

c) Social Over-Protection

Capricorn Citizen Advocacy will be mindful of, and consciously address, the detrimental nature of social over protection - in particular its likelihood to reduce the level of developmental challenge a person experiences and in its contribution to the stereotyped perception of incompetence.

In orientation sessions, the Coordinator will inform the advocate about the risks of socially overprotective behaviours and the assumptions which underlie such behaviour i.e. that the protégé is less capable of exercising their rights; is lacking in competencies; and unable to meet any of their own needs. If social overprotection is apparent in a protégé's life, the Coordinator will assist the advocate to devise relevant and appropriate ways to reduce such overprotection.

Related Documents

[3.1.2 Recruitment of Protégés Policy](#)

References

Not Applicable

Ratification

This policy was adopted by Capricorn Citizen Advocacy's Management Committee at its meeting held on 27 / 03 / 2024.



SIGNED:
President

27 / 03 / 2024
(Date)



SIGNED:
Secretary

27 / 03 / 2024
(Date)