



## Macarthur Access Group for Inclusive Communities Terms of Reference

### Background

The Macarthur Access Group for Inclusive Communities (MAGIC) project seeks to explore how government can work with communities to ensure people with a disability access the services and supports they need to live life to the fullest.

This project developed from consultations by Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) staff with families whose children have a disability. Through these consultations, families reported having difficulty accessing disability specific services as well as 'generalist' services as well as businesses and recreation opportunities in the community.

### Framework

As a signatory to the 2006 United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Australia must protect the rights of people with disabilities.

The importance of accessibility is highlighted in Article 9 of the Convention which states "To enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas. These measures, which shall include the identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility, shall apply to, inter alia:

- a. Buildings, roads, transportation and other indoor and outdoor facilities, including schools, housing, medical facilities and workplaces;
- b. Information, communications and other services, including electronic services and emergency services.

States Parties shall also take appropriate measures to:

- a. Develop, promulgate and monitor the implementation of minimum standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services open or provided to the public;
- b. Ensure that private entities that offer facilities and services which are open or provided to the public take into account all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities"...

The National Disability Agreement (NDA) 2009 provides the platform for disability service provision by all Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments. Some of the key priorities of the NDA are early intervention and prevention, lifelong and lifespan planning and an approach centred on the needs of the person with a disability and those important to them. These outcomes are reflected in all NSW Government policies relating to disability services.

ADHC's strategic directions reflect the NDA and emphasise early intervention, access to mainstream services and the national disability reform agenda that is driving a more accessible and equitable disability service system.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will be fully implemented in NSW by 1 July 2018. One of the key messages from the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is that inclusion of and access for people with disability to mainstream services, community based activities and other government initiatives, is a shared responsibility.

NDIA will give priority to encouraging the full inclusion of people with disability, their families and carers in mainstream community life, through increased social and economic participation. The NDIA states that everyone in the community has a role to play in considering how people with a disability participate and how easily they are able to connect to services, supports, community and social activities.

## **Values**

MAGIC will be a group driven by the voices of the community and owned by the community. The work MAGIC undertakes will be strength and evidence based. It will be underpinned by the notion that people with disability in Macarthur have the right to access and inclusion in a community that respects and accepts differences. Accessible services and resources are those that easy to approach, reach, enter, use and/or interact with. Inclusive services and resources are those that are not only available to meet the needs of the person with a disability, but the needs of the person's carers, friends and family.

MAGIC will work in a consultative, transparent and ethical way. The group will work with and make use of other existing local networks such as the Macarthur Disability Network. Any information that MAGIC produces will be in plain English and easily accessible by all in the community.

## **Purpose and Programs**

The MAGIC project aims to build the capacity of Macarthur communities to include and involve people with a disability in the community.

This will be achieved by creating:

1. local standards for the inclusion and integration of people with a disability in Macarthur. These Standards will serve to act as a kite/endorsement mark for the local community.
2. a service network that consolidates and strengthens existing supports, referral structures and services available in the community by:
  - endorsing and monitoring membership to the network for specialist and mainstream organisations and businesses wishing to display the kite mark;
  - coordinating and consolidating information about local services and expertise within the community;
  - supporting collaboration between network members and prospective network members regarding inclusion and integration;
  - providing information to the local community and local media regarding inclusion and integration that is easily accessible through new technologies such as an App for mobile devices;
  - building network members and promoting the charter to mainstream and specialist community services and businesses;
  - building the capacity of Macarthur communities to include and involve children and young people with a disability and their families within their communities.

The information on the specialist and mainstream organisations, including the endorsement level through the kite mark, will be available through a website and an App for mobile devices. The App for

mobile devices will have a 'by location' search function similar to those used by hospitality review Apps such as 'One Spoon' and 'Eatability'. The App would enable community members to provide review and feedback on the different specialist and mainstream services, with services also being able to respond to comments and feedback. The MAGIC working group will develop a project implementation plan to guide the implementation of the project.

## **Membership and Governance**

The MAGIC working group will comprise non government organisations, State and local government, local business and families within the Macarthur community.

The working group will report to the Macarthur/Wingecarribee Managers Network, operated by Sector Connect. Members will meet on a monthly basis at the Sector Connect office in Mount Annan.

Current Membership is available in attachment 1. This document will be updated as required.

## **Information Management**

All decisions will be recorded on the meeting minutes that will be distributed via email to members and be publicly available on the Sector Connect website.

Further information will be outlined in the MAGIC Implementation Plan.