



THE NATIONAL COALITION OF COMMUNITY BASED
AUSTRALIAN EPILEPSY ASSOCIATIONS

ACN: 097 003 382

National President:

Dr Christine Walker

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Epilepsy Australia Charter

The agencies in Epilepsy Australia express their commitment to the principles conveyed herein which aim to promote a better quality of life for all people with epilepsy and their families in Australia, the Asian and Oceanic Region and throughout the world, whenever possible.

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This commitment is based on the agencies' own pledge to acting ethically and reflects the duties each agency undertakes to meet its goals in relation to improving the quality of life of people with epilepsy.

The agencies acknowledge that all Australian Federal, State and Territory legislation, and international treaties to which Australia is a signatory, relating to anti-discrimination, human rights, and equal opportunity takes precedence over any principles expressed within this Charter. With this in mind the intention is for this Charter to be consistent with such legislation and treaties.

Principles.

We affirm that people with epilepsy have the following rights:

1. The right to a life with dignity.
2. The right to participate in education and to seek employment to the best of their ability.
3. The right to participate in their local community on an equal footing with other community members.
4. The right to seek and be granted medical treatment of epilepsy and other conditions of the highest quality, based on the latest research-based evidence.
5. The right to refuse medical treatment under certain circumstances.
6. The right to receive assistance through community based organisations of all types to improve one's quality of life.
7. The right to have their concerns heard by Government and community agencies

Our roles and responsibilities:

As the principal community-based agencies working to improve the quality of life of people with epilepsy the roles and responsibilities of Epilepsy Australia and its member agencies pertain to:

1. Ensuring that we adopt the highest ethical standards and act within the spirit of all Federal, State and Territory legislation and any international treaties relating to human rights, anti-discrimination and equal opportunity to promote a better quality of life for all people with epilepsy.
2. Support individuals with epilepsy and their families to achieve their rights and their potential under those rights.
3. Work with Governments, community members and agencies and health professionals to further the understanding of the needs of people with epilepsy so they are able to meet their potential as community members, and to achieve a life of dignity.
4. Work together to achieve these aims where appropriate so as to avoid unnecessary duplication and possibly consequent confusion; at the same time
5. Member agencies of Epilepsy Australia recognise and uphold the right of all members to work independently in the states and territories where they are established to deliver services to people with epilepsy and their families living with epilepsy

6. Mediate between the different social and political interests in our nation to further the rights of people with epilepsy and their families.
7. Contribute to policies and policy debates to ensure the voices of people with epilepsy are heard, acknowledged and included.

Signed by:

Date:

This Charter will be reviewed from time to time when necessary.