

CABONNE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT – WORKING WITH CLIENTS WHO HAVE EXITED THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

STRATEGIC POLICY

Responsible Department: Cabonne Services

Responsible Section: Community Services

Responsible Officer: Department Leader – Community Services

Objective

To ensure that Cabonne Community Transport meets legislative requirements and encourages the involvement of the individual and significant others in meeting NSW Standard 2: Participation and Inclusion.

Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that every person exiting the Criminal Justice System:

- Is assessed for service based on eligibility and safety;
- Is provided with individualised care, and services are planned and delivered based on consultation with the client and their carer in the most effective way.

Policy

Cabonne Community Transport is committed to providing an effective, tailored service to all eligible clients, including those with complex needs who have exited the criminal justice system.

The service understands that individuals with disabilities who have been in contact with the criminal justice systems will have complex needs. This may include mental illness, disability, homelessness, substance abuse, potential violence and social isolation.

An individual's disability is often overshadowed by their criminal history. It is now recognised that it is not the individuals themselves but their complex needs, along with systemic failures that may result in the involvement with the justice system.

Community Transport aims to actively support the client to develop their interests and activities in ways that is meaningful and respectful, whilst offering the client a choice regarding the delivery of service. This will be done in a way that also considers the rights and welfare of the wider community.

The service Coordinator will actively seek information on, and liaise with, other services available to assist the individual to minimise any barriers within the community.

Whilst the service is aware that within small communities, staff and volunteers may know the past criminal history of the client, confidentiality will be maintained at all times. The service will strive to maintain the balance between ensuring both the safety of clients, staff, volunteers and the community. A family member / carer must always be present during the delivery of services.

Cabonne Community Transport will ensure appropriate training and guidance is provided to all service staff and volunteers. Ongoing training and monitoring will be offered to ensure their understanding of this Policy

Cabonne Community Transport reserves the right to withdraw, reduce or suspend service provision following consultation with the client, their family and / or their carer if:

- The service cannot meet the needs of the individual
- There is disruptive and / or aggressive behaviour
- The client places themselves, staff, volunteers or other community members at risk.

Cabonne Community Transport staff and volunteers have the right to refuse service if they feel unsafe or threatened in any way at any time whilst delivering services. The health and safety of all people within the community is paramount.

References

Anti-Discrimination Act 2004 (NSW)

Community Services (Complaints, Review and Monitoring) Act 1993 (NSW)

Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)

Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Commonwealth)

National Standards for Disability Standards 2013

History

Minute No.	Summary of Changes	New Version Date
18/04/08	Adopted by Council	24 April 2018
22/11/15	Readopted by Council per s165(4)	22 November 22