



## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Purpose**

This Policy and the Policies and Procedures and related documentation set out in section 1.5 below (**Related Documentation**) supports Aardvark Autism Services to apply the Independence and informed choice NDIS Practice Standard.

### **1.2 Policy Aims**

Aardvark Autism Services is committed to ensuring that each Participant is supported by the provider to make informed choices, exercise control, and maximise their independence relating to the support provided.

### **1.3 NDIS Quality Indicators**

In this regard, Aardvark Autism Services aims to demonstrate each of the following quality indicators through the application of this Policy and the relevant systems, procedures, workflows and other strategies referred to in this Policy and the Related Documentation:

- (a) Each Participant (or their legal guardian) is supported by Aardvark Autism Services to make informed choices, exercise control, and maximise their independence relating to the support provided.
- (b) Active decision-making and individual choice is supported for each Participant including the timely provision of information using the language, mode of communication and terms that the Participant and/or their guardian is most likely to understand.
- (c) Each Participant's right to the dignity of risk in decision-making is supported. When needed, each Participant and/or their guardian is supported to make informed choices about the benefits and risks of the options under consideration.
- (d) Each Participant's autonomy is respected, including their right to intimacy and sexual expression.
- (e) Each Participant is supported to make informed choices, exercise control, and maximise their independence relating to the supports provided.
- (f) Each Participant has sufficient time to consider and review their options and seek advice if required, at any stage of support provision, including assessment, planning, provision, review, and exit.
- (g) Each Participant's right to access an advocate (including an independent advocate) of their choosing is supported, as is their right to have the advocate present.

### **1.4 Scope**

- (a) This Policy applies to the provision of all services and supports at Aardvark Autism Services.
- (b) All permanent, fixed term and casual staff, contractors and volunteers are required to take responsibility for ensuring a full understanding of the commitments outlined in this Policy.
- (c) The relevant persons specified in the column corresponding to a procedure described in this Policy have the responsibility to implement the relevant systems, procedures, workflows, and other strategies referred to in the relevant procedure.

### **1.5 Related Documentation**

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The application of the above NDIS Practice Standard by Aardvark Autism Services is supported in part by and should be read alongside, the Policies and Procedures and related documentation corresponding to this Policy in the Policy Register.

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## **2. Definitions**

In this Policy:

**Aardvark Autism Services** means Aardvark Autism Services Pty Ltd ABN 89 665 926 367.

**Client** means a Client of Aardvark Autism Services (including an NDIS Participant).

**Key Management Personnel** means Jayne Franklin and other key management personnel involved in Aardvark Autism Services from time to time.

**Legislation Register** means the register of legislation, regulations, rules, and guidelines maintained by Aardvark Autism Services.

**Policy Register** means the register of policies of Aardvark Autism Services.

**Principal** means Jayne Franklin.

**Related Documentation** has the meaning given to that term in section 1.1.

**Worker** means a permanent, fixed term or casual member of staff, a contractor or volunteer employed or otherwise engaged by Aardvark Autism Services and includes the Principal.

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## **3. Policy Statement**

- (a) In the provision of its supports and services, Aardvark Autism Services is committed to ensuring that all people including people with disability have the right to:
- (1) respect for their human worth and dignity.
  - (2) freedom of expression, self-determination and decision-making.
  - (3) realise their potential for physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development.
  - (4) full participation in society equal to other people, according to their individual and cultural needs and preferences.
  - (5) autonomy including their right to intimacy and sexual expression.
  - (6) information and support to understand and exercise their legal and human rights.
  - (7) privacy of their personal information.
  - (8) raise concerns and be supported to formalise complaints.
- (b) Aardvark Autism Services is committed to collaboration and consultation with persons with disability (and the Client's family, carers and chosen community where appropriate) to promote and ensure active choice and control in relation to services and supports.

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- (c) Aardvark Autism Services is committed to providing Clients and/or their guardian with sufficient time for collaboration with and support for the individual Client to participate in decisions that affect their lives through their involvement in the planning, provision, management and evaluation of the services and support they receive.
- (d) In the provision of its supports and services, Aardvark Autism Services is committed to employing a person-centred approach in service delivery, placing the Client's right to self-determination at the centre of decision-making processes, including keeping the Client informed of choices, opportunities and potential limitations so they can make informed choices, including a dignity of risk decision.
- (e) Aardvark Autism Services will proactively and sensitively support our Clients and/or their guardian to develop their capacity to make informed choices, exercise control and maximise their independence relating to the services and support we provide to them.
- (f) Each Client and/or their guardian has sufficient time to consider and review their options and seek advice if required, at any stage of support provision, including assessment, planning, provision, review, and exit.
- (g) Each Client's right to access an advocate (including an independent advocate) of their choosing is supported, as is their right to have the advocate present at any time and in connection with the provision of services and supported by Aardvark Autism Services to the Client.
- (h) In the provision of its supports and services, Aardvark Autism Services employs skilled staff and has systems and processes in place to support staff to promote and ensure active choice and control by Clients and/or their guardian in relation to services and supports provided by Aardvark Autism Services to them.

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