

# POLICY

## 5.3 SERVICE USER RELATIONSHIPS, SEXUALITY AND HEALTH

### ***Purpose***

This policy outlines Better Together's commitment to service users' human rights in relationship to personal relationships, sexuality and sexual health.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- a) ensure the safeguarding and implementation of the rights of adults (aged 18 years and over) with disabilities in relation to personal relationships, sexuality and sexual health,
- b) ensure that Better Together staff, services and practice empower people with disabilities to exercise their fundamental human rights as equal citizens and to uphold their dignity every day;
- c) respect the power and control people with disabilities have over matters that affect their lives, such as the choices and decisions they make in relation to personal relationships, sexuality and sexual health,
- d) protect the rights of people with disabilities from abuse, neglect, exploitation, violence, discrimination and restrictive practice; and
- e) define the responsibilities of staff in relation to Service Users exercising their right to personal relationships, sexuality and sexual health.

### ***Applicability***

This policy provides direction for Better Together staff, participants, committee and volunteers (and potential participants) when considering the referral or request for supports and services to the organisation. It is in relation to all service user aged 18 years and above

### ***Policy Statement***

Better Together actively promotes and safeguards the fundamental rights of people with disabilities, as equal citizens, in their choice and decision-making relating to personal relationships, sexuality and sexual health.

Better Together reiterates the NDIS policy and guidelines and affirms that relationships and sexuality are critical to human development and the physical and emotional well-being of every person.

In the application of this policy, Better Together has a responsibility to safeguard the rights of service users to be free from abuse, neglect exploitation and discrimination. This means service users have a right to engage in any form of relationship that is legal, non-abusive, consensual and respectful.

### ***Relevant Legislation, Standards, Conventions and Agreements***

*Disability Act 2006* - (QLD)

*Human Right Act 2019* (QLD)

*Disability Discrimination Act 1992*- (Cth)

*National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013* - (Cth)