

Queensland Police Service Disability Service Plan

FACT SHEET

The Disability Services Act 2006 (the Act) requires every Queensland Government agency to develop a Disability Service Plan to identify and address issues regarding service delivery to people with a disability. The Queensland Police Service (QPS) Disability Service Plan will come into effect from July 1, 2007.

What is a Disability?

A disability is “a person’s condition that is attributable to an intellectual, psychiatric, cognitive, neurological, sensory or physical impairment; or a combination of these impairments; and results in a substantial reduction of the person’s capacity for communication, social interaction, learning, mobility or self care or management and the person needing support.”

(s. 11 *Disability Services Act 2006*)

Why have a Plan?

Anyone can be victimised by crime however people who have a disability can be more vulnerable to victimisation than others in the community. Approximately 22% of Queensland’s total population have a reported disability. Most disabilities resulted from physical conditions with the remainder resulting from mental and behavioural disorders. Approximately 62% of people with a disability require assistance to manage their condition or to cope with everyday activities of life. Partners, parents, children and friends are the major providers of care and assistance (Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) (2004), *Disability Aging and Carers: Summary of Findings 2003 State Tables for Queensland*, Cat No 4430.0).

More than 500 QPS members report having one or more disabilities representing over 4% of the membership. Sensory and physical disabilities are the most reported disability. The QPS recognises the significant contribution that members with a disability and members who care for people with a disability bring to the organisation. The QPS acknowledges the right of people with disabilities and their families and carers to enter and participate in an equitable workplace.

What does the Plan aim to achieve?

The Plan provides direction for the development and improvement of services that are responsive to the needs of both clients and members with a disability and their families and carers.

The following strategies are included in the QPS Disability Service Plan:

- Improving QPS services to meet the needs of people with a disability, their families and carers.



- Improving access to information about QPS services for people with a disability, their families and carers.
- Improving access to information regarding grievance and complaint mechanisms for people with a disability, their families and carers.
- Raising the awareness of QPS members of the needs of people with a disability, their families and carers.
- Improving access to QPS buildings and facilities for people with a disability, their families and carers.

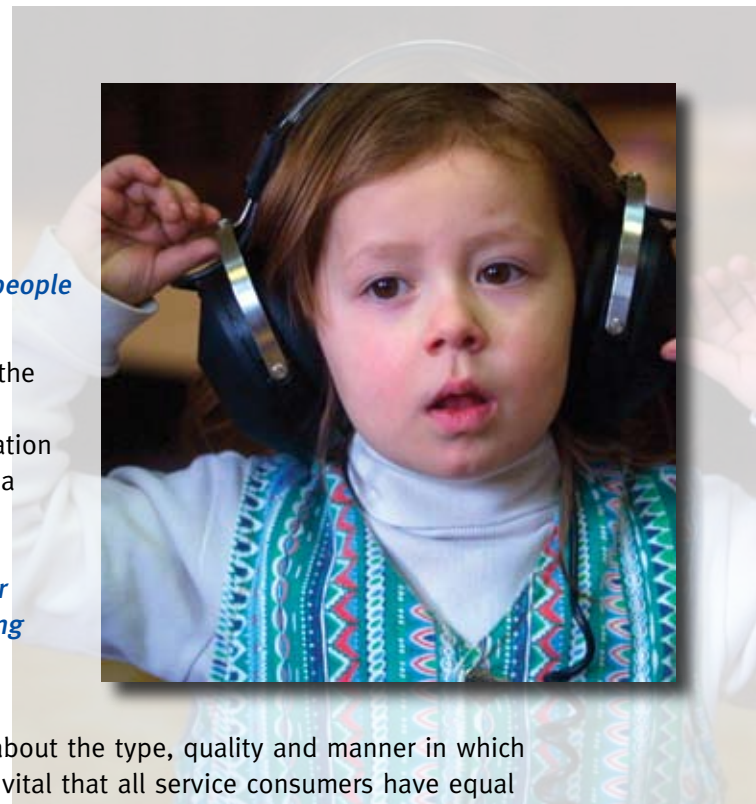
What are our Priorities?

The QPS will assign priority to the following strategies:

Improving access to information about QPS services for people with a disability, their families and carers.

Information needs to be delivered in many ways to suit the needs of people with a disability. The QPS will adopt an equitable but flexible approach to delivering this information that enables people to get the information they need in a manner that suits them.

Improving opportunities for people with a disability, their families and carers to participate in consultation regarding QPS services.



The QPS is committed to consulting the community about the type, quality and manner in which services are delivered. It is vital that all service consumers have equal opportunity and access to participate in consultation relating to services as a lack of opportunity and access may result in inequity.

How will the Plan be Reviewed and Evaluated?

The Plan is intended to be dynamic and will periodically be reviewed to ensure it remains relevant and responsive to the needs of people with a disability, their families and carers, and consistent with the principles of the *Disability Services Act 2006*.

Achievements against the performance indicators will be included in the Service's Annual Reports commencing in 2007-2008.

Further Information

For inquiries concerning the Disability Service Plan, please use our online submission form at <http://www.police.qld.gov.au/Forms/contact.asp>.

Alternatively, you may telephone Police Headquarters on 3364 6464, TTY 3364 4655 or send a fax message on 3236 2359.

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