

## ABOUT US

### Profile of Gold Coast Advocacy Inc (GCA) and Strategic Plan

#### 1 What is Gold Coast Advocacy Inc?

GCA is a community-based, non-profit incorporated association that provides independent individual advocacy for vulnerable people with disability.

GCA is situated at: Suite 1804, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Tower 1, Southport Central, 56 Scarborough Street Southport.

Mailing address: PO Box 2560, Southport 4215

Telephone number: 55640355

Fax number: 55711499

Email: [gca@gca.org.au](mailto:gca@gca.org.au)

The office is wheelchair accessible and there is a wheelchair accessible toilet in the building.

#### 2 What do we do?

GCA provides individual social advocacy for vulnerable people with disability.

GCA provides the following:-

- Individual advocacy
- Advocacy support
- Advocacy development

#### 3 Who do we work with?

GCA works with people:-

With disability (physical, intellectual, psychiatric, sensory, or acquired disability such as multiple sclerosis or acquired brain injury)

- From conception to 65 years
- Who are vulnerable
- Who are living on the Gold Coast, who need advocacy due to a fundamental issue.

#### **4. What region does GCA cover?**

GCA covers the Gold Coast City Council region:-

- North to adjoining Logan City Boundary
- East to the coastline
- South to the NSW border
- West to the adjoining Beaudesert Shire boundary

#### **5. Who makes up GCA?**

GCA is made up of:

- Members
- A Board of Management
- Staff
- Friends and Allies

##### **5.1 Members**

GCA has a membership made up of people with disability, family members of people with disability, and interested community members.

##### **5.2 Board of Management**

GCA is managed by a board of people who have a commitment to social advocacy and its principles.

##### **5.3 Staff**

GCA employs the following paid staff:-

- Manager/Advocacy Worker      38 hours per week
- Advocacy Worker                      20 hours per week
- Advocacy Resource Worker      20 hours per week

##### **5.4 Friends and allies**

GCA recognises the contribution of our friends and allies, which enhances our work

#### **6. Positive image**

*(standard 1, 6)*

GCA has a strong philosophy of presenting images of people with disability that are positive and respectful

For this reason GCA will undertake the following:-

- That our premises are welcoming, attractive, clean, presentable and accessible
- Mindful that some people will require additional support. GCA will, within available resources, provide an accessible office and facilities, including transport, interpreters, note takers and personal care attendants
- When holding functions at other venues we will choose locations that are accessible, attractive, and socially valued
- Staff, Board, and other workers will use respectful language when discussing people being supported by GCA, and people with disability in general
- Presentation of information, such as brochures and posters, will be in appropriate and easily understood language, and again present positive images/messages about people with disability
- When food is provided, we will ensure that it is easy to manage and pleasantly presented
- Staff will be encouraged to dress appropriately for work especially at activities where they represent GCA e.g. meetings, functions, conferences.
- Staff will work to enhance the particular skills of the Board members so that the organisation is presented in a competent manner

## **7 Vision and Direction**

### **7.1 Vision**

*(Standard 5, 6)*

GCA envisages a more civil, just and humane society that embraces diversity and difference where people with disability:-

- Are valued and treated with dignity and respect
- Have their fundamental needs met and are able to grow to their fullest potential
- Claim their place as citizens and have influence in society

- Have the freedom to move around society, to be participants, contributors and leaders in the social, economical, financial, political and spiritual fabric of society

## **7.2 Mission statement**

Gold Coast Advocacy Inc's mission is "to promote, protect and defend, through advocacy, the fundamental needs, welfare and rights of people with disability who are vulnerable."

## **7.3 The Objects of the Association**

1. To provide quality, independent, individual advocacy for vulnerable people with disability by acting, writing and speaking on their behalf to promote, protect and defend their rights and wellbeing, so that their fundamental life needs are met.
2. To provide information and strategies to others in their advocacy efforts, which aim to enhance the lives of people with disability
3. To strive through advocacy, to make it possible for people with disability to belong to, and participate in, community life
4. To challenge ideas and practices, which limit, and/or are harmful to, people with disability
5. To promote a positive image of people with disability
6. To support and promote advocacy development
7. To be an efficient, effective and accountable organisation that reflects the principles and practice of advocacy
8. To network with individuals or organisation who support advocacy against unfair and unjust things happening in the lives of people with disability.