COMMUNITY LIVING VICTORIA

6.17 SEXUALITY

PURPOSE

To ensure that supported individuals have the same rights as all other people to express their sexuality.

To ensure that individuals acquire accurate knowledge regarding the hygienic and anatomical functioning of their bodies, and the impact of their emotions and related actions on themselves and on others.

DIRECTIVE

Employees must be sensitive to the needs and abilities of each individual. Employees must recognize the individual's right to sexual expression and to make informed choices regarding their sexuality. Sexuality encompasses sex, gender identities and roles, sexual orientation, intimacy, pleasure and reproduction. Sexuality is experienced and expressed in thoughts, desires, beliefs, attitudes, values, behaviours, practices, roles, and relationships. While sexuality can include all of these dimensions, not all of them are always experienced or expressed.

Employees are to treat individuals with respect and dignity. Employees shall never impose their values, morals or judgement on individuals as outlined in the *Standards of Employee Conduct and Ethics* policy, 3.13.

Individuals supported by Community Living Victoria (CLV) have the right to sexual expression of their own choosing if:

- it is not at variance with the law
- all parties involved are consenting adults

PROCEDURE

It is expected that employees adhere to the following guidelines:

- individual privacy will be respected and provided
- sexual rights and responsibilities will be respected
- individual's confidentiality will be upheld
- individuals have the right to be informed and to make decisions which affect their lives
- CLV will provide specific opportunities for individuals to acquire knowledge of sexual health, as appropriate, either through the provision of its own services or by referral to other agencies for support, education, individual counselling and strategies, as needed

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