

POLICY FOR ASSISTANCE ANIMALS

Preamble

U3A in TOOWOOMBA Inc. needs to ensure that people using guide, hearing or assistance dogs are correctly registered and using properly trained and registered animals in accordance with Queensland's Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dogs Act 2009 (the ACT).

1. Purpose

- The policy refers to Section 45 of the Act and requires a member, potential member or non-member tutor, who requires an assistance animal, to provide a current Handler's Identity Card when registering for U3A in Toowoomba Inc. activities
- The policy also refers to Section 12 (2) (b) of the Act - ensuring the dog is wearing—
 - (i) for a guide dog—a harness or identifying coat; or
 - (ii) for an assistance dog—an identifying coat; or
 - (iii) for a hearing or trainee support dog - a harness or identifying coat.

2. Scope

The policy covers all aspects of U3A in Toowoomba Inc.'s activities.

3. Policy

- U3A in Toowoomba Inc. is an inclusive organisation and welcomes people with disabilities to share in courses and activities wherever practical. It is recognised that some people with disabilities rely on guide, hearing and assistance animals, usually dogs, to assist them in their daily activities.
- Objects of the Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dogs Act 2009 in (2) (c) states the Act is - *providing a simple and consistent means of identifying properly trained guide, hearing and assistance dogs.*
- U3A in Toowoomba Inc Members and Non-Member Tutors using a guide, hearing or assistance dog must comply with the provisions of the Queensland Guide, Hearing and Assistant Dogs Act 2009.
- The handler must hold a current Handler's Identity Card.
- The dog must be wearing a harness or identifying coat as required by the Act.
- The only assistance animals recognized by U3A in Toowoomba Inc are animals that comply with the provisions of Queensland Guide, Hearing and Assistant Dogs Act 2009 or compliant animals from interstate. Interstate animals must obtain Queensland registration within a time acceptable to the Management Committee
- Animals that are not compliant with the Queensland's Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dogs Act of 2009 are not permitted at any U3A in Toowoomba Inc. class or activity.

4. Procedure

- Prospective new members of U3A in Toowoomba Inc who rely on a guide, hearing or assistance dog must provide their Handler's Identity Card with the photograph of the handler and the dog as required under the Act.
- Non-Member Tutors who rely on a guide, hearing or assistance dog must provide their Handler's Identity Card with the photograph of the handler and the dog to the Tutor Coordinator when planning the proposed course.
- Existing Members who acquire the need to rely on a guide, hearing or assistance dog must advise the Office Administrative Support officer of their changed status and provide the necessary Handler's Identity Card.
- Members attending classes and activities must advise the Tutor that they have a registered guide, hearing or assistant dog that will be with them at the class or activity.