

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY FOR BEYOND SUPPORT FOUNDATION**

### **1. Introduction**

Beyond Support Foundation is committed to promoting the well-being, empowerment, and inclusion in the community we serve. We recognize the importance of community engagement as a cornerstone of our mission. This policy outlines our approach to community engagement and the principles that guide our interactions with the communities we serve.

### **2. Scope**

This policy applies to all employees, contractors, agents and volunteers of Beyond support foundation who are involved in engaging with the community. This policy will also apply to agencies and individuals who Provide services to BSF and will be included in all relevant external supplier contracts.

### **3. Objectives**

- To foster a sense of belonging, trust, and cooperation within the community we serve.
- To empower individuals by involving them in decision-making processes and program development.
- To ensure that our programs and services are responsive to the unique needs and challenges faced by our target population.
- To build partnerships and collaborations with other organizations, government agencies, and community stakeholders to maximize our impact.

### **4. Principles of Community Engagement**

#### **4.1 Inclusivity**

We are committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment that respects diversity in all its forms. We actively seek the participation of individuals from diverse backgrounds, ensuring that all voices are heard and valued.

#### **4.2 Respect and Dignity**

We treat all community members with respect and dignity, recognizing their inherent worth. We acknowledge the strength and resilience of teenage single mothers and women with vitiligo.

#### **4.3 Participation and Collaboration**

We believe that community members should play an active role in shaping the programs and services that affect them. We actively seek input, feedback, and collaboration from the community in decision-making processes.

#### **4.4 Transparency**

We are committed to open and honest communication with the community. We provide clear information about our activities, goals, and financial matters, and we seek community input on relevant matters.

#### **4.5 Accessibility**

We strive to make our programs and services accessible to all, regardless of physical or logistical barriers. We take proactive steps to address accessibility issues and accommodate diverse needs.

#### **4.6 Empowerment**

We aim to empower community members by providing them with the tools, knowledge, and support they need to advocate for themselves and their peers.

### **5. What is Community Engagement**

For the purposes of this framework, community engagement is the conversations we have with people about decisions that may affect them. It is about providing opportunities for people to have a say in reviewing, designing, approving, influencing or commenting on the decisions, activities and services

The approach to engagement will need to be tailored to the type of activity taking place which includes;

- **Information Giving:** Where residents and communities are informed but have no influence i.e. a road closure due to an emergency
- **Consultation:** Where residents and communities are consulted and their views influence the outcome, but they don't necessarily have the final say in decisions i.e. we want to know about the priorities in your community
- **Co-Creation:** We do things together and it is jointly decided
- **Supporting Citizen Power:** Individuals and communities Lead and the Council stands back supporting only when invited to do so

### **6. Community Engagement Strategies**

To achieve our objectives, we employ the following community engagement strategies:

#### **6.1 Community Needs Assessment**

We regularly conduct needs assessments within the teenage single mothers and vitiligo-affected women community to identify their priorities and challenges.

#### **6.2 Community Consultation**

We actively seek input and feedback from community members through surveys, focus groups, and community meetings to inform our program development and decision-making.

#### **6.3 Capacity Building**

We offer training and skill-building opportunities to community members to enhance their personal and professional development.

## **6.4 Partnerships and Collaborations**

We establish partnerships and collaborations with local organizations, government agencies, and other stakeholders to leverage resources and expertise for the benefit of our community.

## **6.5 Regular Evaluation**

We evaluate our community engagement efforts regularly and make adjustments as necessary to ensure their effectiveness and relevance.

## **6.6 Accountability**

We hold ourselves accountable to the community we serve and regularly report on our community engagement efforts to ensure transparency and demonstrate our commitment.

## **7. The Importance of Community Engagement**

Engaging with people is at the heart of beyond support foundation, we believe that People who live and work in these communities have the right to influence changes that affect them.

## **8. Our Policy Statement**

This policy sets out a compelling case for engagement that encourages a Partnership of collaboration between beyond support foundation and communities, where the beyond support foundation can enable Communities to do more for themselves. We need to Engage the right people at the right time not necessarily all of the people all of the time.

## **9. We will Listen and Understand**

To fulfil this policy beyond support foundation needs to have key methods to understand and listen to individuals and communities as a basis to engagement in whatever activity they take. Our ability to listen and understand will rely upon a variety of different channels some that are traditional methods but Increasingly through digital platforms and social media. We will Keep People Informed

Our engagement activity will help to shape and inform the policy decisions that We make, meaning that our policies reflect the people they are for and the Place they serve. This should support us to achieve our priorities, solve long standing problems and generate new ideas across the communities.

## **10. We will be Inclusive and act with Purpose**

Beyond support foundation engagement activity must be inclusive and recognise that all people across The communities have a voice and an opinion of worth. Recognising the diversity across the community is important for an equality of opportunity for all people to be involved. This means our engagement must be accessible, use clear language that people can understand and use the most appropriate information available.

Engagement needs to be clear about the purpose, scope and limitations of any activity, this clarity is fundamental to quality engagement.

<b>Principle</b>	<b>Our commitment to the community</b>
A community engagement process must have a clearly defined objective and scope	Beyond support foundation will ensure all community engagement is planned and has clearly defined objectives and scope. This includes identifying the purpose and objectives of the community’s participation in the engagement process. Council will ensure the purpose of the engagement is communicated clearly to the community and/or participants.
Participants in community engagement must have access to objective, relevant and timely information to inform their participation BSF will strive to provide information that is objective and relevant in a timely manner. Information provided is accessible and easy to use	BSF will strive to provide information that is objective and relevant in a timely manner. Information provided is accessible and easy to understand. BSF will ensure the community has the information necessary to participate meaningfully.
Participants in community engagement must be representative of the persons and groups affected by the matter that is the subject of the community engagement	BSF will conduct appropriate research to identify stakeholders that will be impacted. BSF will ensure that participants in the engagement are representative of those impacted in the community.
Participants in community engagement are entitled to reasonable support to enable meaningful and informed engagement	BSF will ensure engagement activities and information provided are accessible to the community. BSF will take into account the diverse communication needs of the community to ensure engagement is inclusive and accessible for all.

We will make the most of what already exists in communities and where possible increase Community capacity

Community engagement is happening in communities through existing voluntary community and faith groups, community based organisations, social workers and there are numerous others. We want to make the most of this activity, linking Up the engagement within our locality areas, learning from what works and where possible increase the capacity in communities to engage and act.

### **11. When to engage**

The Community Engagement Policy aims to support effective project outcomes. Planning for community engagement as part of the initial whole-of-project planning stage to better manage timeframes, cost and resources associated with engagement, is best practice. Good engagement takes time, preparation and resources.

### **12. When not to engage**

There may be times when engagement is not appropriate. Some examples of this include when it has potential to conflict with other engagement activities.

### **13. Who do we engage with?**

Understanding the key stakeholders in any project is paramount to good community engagement. When Beyond support foundation is planning to make a decision, we need to identify those that are likely to be affected and Involve them in the decision making process. It is important to understand that particular groups in our community may have barriers to engaging with us and we need to ensure we design engagement plans that includes methods that enable and encourage participation by all.

### **Review and Updates**

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its alignment with our mission and the evolving needs of our community.

Beyond Support Foundation is dedicated to the principles of community engagement outlined in this policy and will work tirelessly to promote the well-being and empowerment of the vulnerable children, teenage single mothers and women with vitiligo.