

**POSITION STATEMENT ON MEDICAL CARE AND
TREATMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DOWN SYNDROME**

With this Position Statement on Medical Care and Treatment of People with Down syndrome the aim of the Down Syndrome Society of SA Inc., (DSSSA) is to foster a climate of understanding and mutual respect for the dignity, worth and equal rights of all people, regardless of handicap or disability. All people, including those with Down syndrome, are a part of their local communities, and shall be recognised as having a rich contribution to make in the development and well being of the human community. The vision of the DSSSA is ‘...opening doors together to enrich the lives of people with Down syndrome.’

The position of the DSSSA is that every individual with Down syndrome is entitled to, at a minimum, the same medical care offered to individuals who do not have Down syndrome. No treatment, which would be otherwise medically indicated to promote and sustain his or her physical and emotional well-being, should be withheld from any individual with Down syndrome, exclusively on the basis of this syndrome.¹

¹ Position Statement on Medical Care and Treatment, Updated and approved – 1999 (Canada)