

APNSA Statement of Values

November 2022

These are the values that we seek to embody and implement through our activities, events, campaigns, projects, and through how we treat each other, and our members, supporters, and the wider public.

OUR VALUES

JUSTICE, DIGNITY

We want a fairer world – where no one is living in poverty, where no one is being punished and humiliated by the government, and where no one is being denied their dignity. But we also want to treat each other fairly, while we are working together and fighting for that future world.

EMPATHY, COMPASSION, CARE

We want to empathise with each other's struggles and stories, and learn to understand the difficulties we all battle. We want to never judge the choices, backgrounds, or experiences of others. We know we are all trying to contribute, while living with great financial and personal stresses.

EQUALITY, DEMOCRACY

We all have equal worth. Anyone who is on a low-income, or supports our aims, has the right to be part of our organisation. We aim to make decisions democratically, with the contributions, feedback, and voices of all our members and supporters.

ACCESSIBILITY, INCLUSION, TOLERANCE

We want to create an inclusive, accessible space. We know that living in poverty creates huge barriers to being part of a community organisation, as does health issues, caring commitments, and other personal factors. We want to do what we can to make it as easy as possible for those living in poverty to participate in our activities. We want to be as inviting and welcoming as possible, especially to those who have never been part of an activist organisation before. We want to respect and embrace each other's differences.

HONESTY, INTEGRITY, AUTHENTICITY

We want to be honest and open with each other and ourselves, and be willing to challenge ourselves and each other. We want to build strong relationships based on truthfulness, integrity, and authenticity.

ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY

We want to create an organisation that promotes accountability and transparency, where we hold each other to account for what we say and do, and where our structures, processes, and decisions are open to members, supporters, and the public.

SOLIDARITY

We stand united – we want to improve everyone’s lives and conditions. We all share the same interests, and we will not allow ourselves to be pitted against each other.

SUPPORT, COMMUNITY, CARE

We want to create a caring community that supports each other through the struggles we all face with our brutal and punishing welfare system, and cruelly expensive housing market.

EDUCATION

We want to build our confidence, knowledge, skills, ability to advocate for social change, and ability to advocate for ourselves. We want to empower ourselves and each other to run strong campaigns and projects, and to know our rights and how to exercise them.

WHO WE STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH

In everything we do, we seek to stand alongside, support, promote, and elevate the voices and interests of the following groups, who are particularly at-risk of poverty, housing crisis, and homelessness:

- First Nations people
- Low-income people, especially low-income people in regional communities
- Homeless/houseless people
- People with a disability
- People with mental health conditions, or who are neurodivergent
- Refugees and migrants
- People of colour
- Women, especially older women
- Survivors of domestic violence
- LGBTQIA+ people