

## MEMBERSHIP

The current committee (chaired by Dr Bernie Fay, Head Social Worker) includes a family representative, an external ethics consultant, representatives of the Sisters of Charity of Jesus & Mary Congregation, clinical, nursing and allied health professionals.

## ETHICS COMMITTEE AND STAFF

Opportunities will be provided by the Ethics Committee for discussion, education and debate relating to ethical matters.

## HOW TO DEAL WITH ETHICAL ISSUES

It is the organisational view that where an ethical issue arises, key decisions are made at local level.

The ethics committee provides a framework on ethical decision making and approved guidance documents in order to enhance capacity at local level.

## GUIDELINES APPROVED BY THE ETHICS COMMITTEE

- Do Not Resuscitate Directives
- Guidelines on the Care of the Dying
- Guidelines on Ethical Decision Making



## CONTACT DETAILS:

Ethics Committee  
Muiríosa Foundation  
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# ETHICS COMMITTEE



**Valuing life,  
helping people build  
meaningful lifestyles**

**STAFF INFORMATION GUIDE**

## Philosophy

Canon Joseph Triest, founder of the Sisters of Charity of Jesus & Mary, being aware of the appalling conditions in which many people with intellectual disabilities live, established the order in Belgium in 1803. The order was based on the values of compassion, justice and love. The desire of those involved was to establish a sense of dignity through their personal encounters and relationships. Today, the organisation is addressing the issue of human rights of all who use services. Those who work for the Muiríosa Foundation aim to build a society where vulnerable members will be greeted as equal citizens.

## Rationale for Establishment of Ethics Committee

It is inevitable that from time to time, issues arise which necessitate staff of the Muiríosa Foundation to make difficult decisions. It is important that we recognise the dilemma this can cause for staff and the need for a code of ethics which can guide their decision making.

## Vision and Mission

Each citizen with an intellectual disability leading a meaningful and fulfilling life

### **deeply embedded**

within and positively valued by their community,

### **confident of**

their central involvement in determining their critical life choices and support arrangements,

### **and assured by**

the active presence in their lives of a strong network of voluntary, personally committed friends, supporters and advocates.

## Service Mission

The Muiríosa Foundation facilitates citizens with an intellectual disability and their families to make choices that promote their best interests, choices that optimally capture the balance of empowerment and necessary safeguard through:

- Listening carefully and deeply to citizens with intellectual disability and their families;
- Working in partnership with citizens with intellectual disability, their families, statutory agencies and community groups;
- A combination of direct and mediated support.

## The Purpose of the Ethics Committee is to:

- Provide assistance and guidance in the development of guidelines for all staff in the organisation.
- Give advice and / or interpretation of reports where this is requested by the Management Executive team or the Board of Directors.
- Provide an information resource on ethical principles for the staff of the organisation.
- To be aware of national and international developments which may impact on the lives of those who use our services in terms of our ethical principles.
- To adjudicate on applications for research projects where staff and those who use our services are the subjects of these projects.