

COMPLAINT MANAGEMENT

DCNGOP003

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INTRODUCTION

This policy is about complaints made to a provider, not complaints about the NDIS.

All complaints are taken seriously, all people treated fairly, and all corrective actions completed in a timely manner.

APPLICABILITY

When
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Applies when participant want to submit feedback or make a complaint ○ Applies to all feedback and complaints received regardless of the source

Who
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Applies to all representatives including key management personnel, directors, full times workers, part time workers, casual workers, contractors, and volunteers.

REGULATIONS RELEVANT TO THIS POLICY

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 201 ○ NDIS (Quality Indicators) Guidelines 2018 ○ NDIS Terms of Business ○ NDIS (Complaints Management and Resolution) Rules 2018

ORGANISATION RESPONSIBILITIES

We are committed to complaint handling. We will:

- Implement and maintain a complaint management system
- Make sure people can easily make a complaint
- Deal with all complaints fairly and quickly
- Have information available on how to:
 - Submit a complaint
 - Submit a complaint to the Commissioner
- Keep records on all complaints received

WHO CAN MAKE A COMPLAINT?

Anyone can make a complaint including:

- a participant
- a participant's family or guardian
- a participant's financial manager
- an advocate
- an employee
- a community visitor
- a professional
- a member of the public.

Complaints can be made:

- in person
- by email
- in writing
- by phone
- on the web.

Complaints help us:

- identify problems
- improve services
- provide better outcomes to participants.
- Complaints can be made about any part of the quality or delivery of our services such as if there is dissatisfaction:
 - with the way services are provided
 - with decisions we have made
 - about the conduct of our employees
 - about personal information not kept private.

Complaints can be made anonymously. Complaints can be made to us or directly to the Commissioner.

COMPLAINT MONITORING

As part of complaint management responsibilities:

- all complaints should be monitored using a complaint register
- the complaint register should include up-to-date progress of each complaint and whether it is currently open or closed (resolved)
- if there is any doubt about the end resolution of a complaint, seek feedback from the person who made the complaint
- regular reports from the complaint register should be provided to key management personnel for review.

COMPLAINT RECORDS AND REVIEW

Accurate information of complaints received including decisions made, actions taken, and eventual outcomes must be recorded and kept for 7 years from the date of the complaint which allows us to:

- enable reviews of any complaints received
- assist in identifying any systemic issues raised
- allow a response to the Commissioner, if required
- be stored securely and accessible only by the people handling complaints

COMPLAINT REFERRALS

Complaints to the Commissioner may be referred to other agencies or bodies if needed including:

- non-compliance with the NDIS code of conduct
- inappropriate or unauthorised use of restrictive practice
- employee screening issues e.g., if an employee of the provider was found to have a criminal history (for more information, refer to the worker screening policy)
- incidents relevant to other bodies (police, consumer affairs agencies or other regulatory bodies).

OUR COMPLAINT SYSTEM

Our complaints system is documented and information on how to make a complaint is available to participants, their families, guardians, or advocates in a way that is culturally appropriate.

We work to ensure participants:

- are aware of their right to make a complaint
- feel empowered to make a complaint
- are supported to make a complaint
- are involved in the resolution process after making a complaint
- know they will not be adversely affected as a result of making a complaint.