

COMPLAINT MANAGEMENT

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.

Definitions:

A complaint is an expression of dissatisfaction with the provision of a service, including how a previous complaint was handled, for which a response or resolution is expected.

Applicability

When

- Applies when clients want to submit feedback or make a complaint
- Applies to all feedback and complaints received regardless of the source

Who

Applies to all representatives including key management personnel, directors, full time employees, part time employees, casual employees, contactors, and volunteers

Our commitment:

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 client
- A client's family or guardian
- A client'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 clients

Complaint can be made about any part of the quality or delivery of our service 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:

- 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

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 and 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 complaints system:

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

We work to ensure clients:

- 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 won't be adversely affected as a result of making a complaint