

Core Module Manual

Full Care Lifetime

COMPLAINTS, COMPLIMENTS AND FEEDBACK POLICY AND PROCEDURE

The purpose of this policy and procedure is to demonstrate that the organisations commitment to deal with all feedback including suggestions and complaints fairly, promptly, confidentially. Full Care Lifetime will provide feedback in a timely manner and document this feedback following due process to reach mutually satisfactory and agreed outcomes.

POLICY

Full Care Lifetime manages feedback effectively in order to identify areas for improvement.

Full Care Lifetime has an effective complaints, compliment and feedback handling system that addresses the principles of visibility and accessibility, responsiveness, assessment and investigation, feedback and continuous improvement.

PROCEDURES

- All complaints are to be dealt with fairly and without reprisal or fear of retribution.
- Complaints can be lodged by the following:
- Directly with a staff member or by providing a completed Complaints, Compliments and Feedback Form
- All interested party has the right to give their feedback/complaints anonymously. If such event occurs, the provider will treat the information confidentially
- by email to: <company email>
- by phone on <company phone>
- in writing to: Full Care Lifetime, <company address>
- At any time, people can make a complaint about NDIS service providers or the support they provide to the NDIS Commission.
- Complaints to the NDIS Commission can be lodged:
- online at www.ndiscommission.gov.au; and
- by phone on 1800 035 544
- Complaints about the NDIA should be directed to the Agency itself or the Commonwealth Ombudsman.
- Complaints to the NDIA can be lodged:
- by phone on 1800 800 110; and
- by email to feedback@ndis.gov.au
- Complaints to the Commonwealth Ombudsman about the NDIA can be lodged:
- by phone on 1300 362 072
- online at www.ombudsman.gov.au.
- Staff must support people making a complaint about the NDIA to contact the Agency or Commonwealth Ombudsman, where this is required.
- Complaints received by the Full Care Lifetime will be handled in the following manner:
- Within 1 working day all complaints will be recorded on a Complaints, Comment and Compliment form by the complainant or member of staff receiving the complaint.
- Within 1 working day the complaint will then be forwarded to the Director or delegate.

Core Module Manual

Full Care Lifetime

- If the complaint is about a member of staff, it is to be referred to the Director immediately and the Director will ensure the details are gathered and recorded in writing.
- The Director will record details of all complaint in the Complaints Register and allocate a suitable investigating officer unless the complaint is regarding the Director
- The Acknowledgement of Complaint letter is sent to the complainant
- If the complaint is regarding the Director, details are to be recorded by the person receiving the complaint and forwarded to the Chair of Company's Board within 1 working day. The Board will be convened to ensure a full investigation is undertaken.
- In instances when the complaint relates to suspected or actual assault, abuse, neglect or other criminal behaviour the Director will be informed immediately, and the appropriate investigative department will be informed.
- The allocated investigating officer (usually a Service Manager) or Director will commence investigation of the complaint within 1 working day.

The investigating officer will contact the complainant within 2 working days of receiving the complaint and:

- Clarify and document the nature of the complaint or concern and the resolution sought by the complainant
- Explain the complaints procedure, individual's rights and what to expect
- Explain their right to an advocate
- Document all information on the Complaint Investigation Form
- The investigating officer will interview the involved parties and develop a course of remedial action for the Director to approve.
- When the plan of action has been approved the investigating officer is to inform the complainant of the remedial action within 10 working days of meeting with the complainant.
- The Director will ensure the complainant is also informed of the final outcome in writing using the Outcome of Complaint Letter and advised of their right to take the matter to the Board or raise it with the relevant external bodies.
- If either the complainant or other parties involved in the complaint are unsatisfied with the result or want the matter dealt with further, the matter will be taken to the Board of the Company.
- When the complaint cannot be resolved internally external mediation will be promoted.
- All current complaints resolved and unresolved will be tabled in a non-identifying summary form at the next Management Meeting to inform of any potential problems.
- In addition to addressing the specific complaint the organisation will utilise the information for feedback into the organisation's continuous improvement cycle.
- Staff will be educated about the complaint's procedure, their role and how to support participants and carers with making complaints. Education will occur when staff commence working at Company and periodically through staff training and the staff newsletter.
- Feedback is defined as "any comments or compliments made about any aspects of the services provided by Full Care Lifetime (including the actions of an employee, volunteer or persons otherwise engaged by Full Care Lifetime)".
- Feedback may lead to Full Care Lifetime reviewing and adapting an aspect of service or may not require any action beyond acknowledging the feedback and passing on details to relevant parties
- Feedback will be recorded on the Complaints, Compliments and Feedback form by the person providing the feedback or the member of staff receiving the information
- The information will then be forwarded to the people involved, Service Manager and Director.
- The Director will record the details on the relevant register and decide what action is required if any.
- If the comment is of a negative nature, it may be necessary to implement the complaints procedure above.

Core Module

Core Module Manual

Full Care Lifetime

- Compliments will also be communicated at staff meetings in order to ensure staff are recognised and examples of best practice identified and acknowledged.
- All complaints will be managed fairly, without reprisal or fear of retribution. Complaints can be submitted anonymously, and all information provided will be treated confidentially.
- Individuals may submit complaints, compliments, or feedback through the following channels:
 - o Directly with a staff member
 - o Completion of a Complaints and Feedback Form
 - o Email: [Company Email]
 - o Phone: [Company Phone]
 - o In Writing: Full Care Lifetime, [Company Address]
- External bodies for escalating complaints:
 - o NDIS Commission:
 - Online: www.ndiscommission.gov.au
 - Phone: 1800 035 544
 - o NDIA Complaints:
 - Phone: 1800 800 110
 - Email: feedback@ndis.gov.au
 - o Commonwealth Ombudsman:
 - Phone: 1300 362 072
 - Online: www.ombudsman.gov.au
- All complaints must be recorded on a Complaints, and Feedback Form within one (1) working day by the complainant or the staff member receiving the complaint.
- The complaint is then forwarded to the Director or delegate for review.
- If the complaint concerns a staff member, it is referred to the Director immediately.
- The Director records all complaints in the Complaints Register and assigns an investigating officer (usually a Service Manager), unless the complaint involves the Director.
- If the complaint involves the Director, it is forwarded to the Chair of the Company's Board within one (1) working day, and a full investigation will be undertaken.
- In cases involving suspected or actual assault, abuse, neglect, or criminal behavior, the Director will inform the relevant investigative authorities immediately.
- The investigating officer will initiate contact with the complainant within two (2) working days to:
 - Clarify and document the nature of the complaint.
 - Explain the complaint process and rights of the complainant.
 - Inform the complainant of their right to an advocate.
 - Information will be documented on a Complaint Investigation Form.
- The investigating officer will interview involved parties and propose a course of action for the Director's approval.
- Once approved, the complainant will be informed of the remedial action within ten (10) working days.
- The Director will provide a final written outcome to the complainant, including their right to escalate the matter to the Board or external bodies.
- If the complainant is dissatisfied with the resolution, they may escalate the matter to the Company's Board.
- If unresolved internally, external mediation will be encouraged.
- A summary of all resolved and unresolved complaints will be discussed at the next Management Meeting to identify potential service improvements.
- Complaint data will be used to improve services and procedures.
- Staff will receive training on the complaint-handling process during onboarding and periodic training sessions.

Core Module

Core Module Manual

Full Care Lifetime

- Updates and reminders will be provided through the staff newsletter.
- Feedback includes any comments, compliments, or suggestions regarding Full Care Lifetime's services or staff.
- Participants are encouraged to provide feedback through feedback form, which is linked to the Continuous Quality Improvement register.
- Feedback will be recorded on the Complaints, Compliments, and Feedback Form and forwarded to the Service Manager and Director.
- The Director will determine any necessary actions.
- Negative feedback may trigger the complaint-handling process outlined above.
- Compliments will be communicated at staff meetings to recognize best practices and staff contributions.
- This complaints and feedback system complies with the **NDIS Rules 2018**, ensuring a fair, transparent, and effective process for managing feedback and concerns.
- For further information, please contact Full Care Lifetime at info@fullcarelifetime.com.au.

Complaints Escalation and Dispute Resolution

Where a complaint about Full Care Lifetime is made to the NDIS Commission, all staff must comply with any orders or requests made by the NDIS Commission; assist in any resolution process or inquiry undertaken by the NDIS Commission; and ensure the complainant or a person with disability affected by the complaint are not adversely affected or fear retribution because a complaint has been made by them or on their behalf.

Monitoring and Review

Full Care Lifetime Management Team will review this policy and procedure at least annually. This process will include a review and evaluation of current practices and service delivery types, contemporary policy and practice in this clinical area, the Incident Register and will incorporate staff, participant and another stakeholder feedback. Feedback from service users, suggestions from staff and best practice developments will be used to update this policy.

Full Care Lifetime Continuous Improvement Plan will be used to record and monitor progress of any improvements identified and where relevant feed into Full Care Lifetime service planning and delivery processes.