
GOV - Positive Behaviour Support - Restrictive Interventions

POLICY

Headway Gippsland has processes in place to ensure each person's human rights are respected and upheld. Where a person's behaviour requires some restriction of their rights, we ensure the least restrictive alternative is applied only as part of an interim or approved behaviour support plan. and for as little time as possible.

We will work with people who use our services, their family, support network and advocates to empower them and provide appropriate support for each person who has a restriction placed on their rights.

We will ensure monitoring processes and strategies are in place to regularly monitor and review all interventions that restrict rights.

RESTRICTIVE INTERVENTIONS AND NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME (NDIS)

Victoria and the NDIS Commission share responsibility for the oversight of restrictive practices under the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Framework.

Under the NDIS Commission, registered providers in Victoria are required to comply with the NDIS (Restrictive Practices and Behaviour Support) Rule 2018. A NDIS behaviour support plan must be developed, confirmed, authorised and lodged with the NDIS Commission.

Under the NDIS Commission, behaviour support focuses on person-centred interventions to address the underlying causes of behaviours of concern or challenging behaviours, while safeguarding the dignity and quality of life of people with disability who require specialist behaviour support.

Headway Gippsland is required to meet the requirements outlined in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (Restrictive Practices and Behaviour Support) Rules 2018.

Headway Gippsland ensures people using our service with behaviour management plans are implemented only with the approval of the organisations Authorised Program Officer and reporting requirements will be met.

Restrictive practice means any practice or intervention that has the effect of restricting the rights or freedom of movement of a person with disability. Under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (Restrictive Practices and Behaviour Support) Rules 2018 certain restrictive practices are subject to regulation. These include seclusion, chemical restraint, mechanical restraint, physical restraint and environmental restraint.

UNDERSTANDING RESTRICTIVE INTERVENTIONS

As per the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission, Restrictive Practices are defined as follows:

Seclusion

Seclusion is the sole confinement of a person with disability in a room or a physical space at any hour of the day or night where voluntary exit is prevented, or not facilitated, or it is implied that voluntary exit is not permitted

Physical Restraint

Physical restraint is the use or action of physical force to prevent, restrict or subdue movement of a person's body, or part of their body, for the primary purpose of influencing their behaviour. Physical restraint does not include the use of a hands-on technique in a reflexive way to guide or redirect a person away from potential

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harm/injury, consistent with what could reasonably be considered as the exercise of care towards a person.

Mechanical Restraint

Mechanical restraint is the use of a device to prevent, restrict, or subdue a person's movement for the primary purpose of influencing a person's behaviour but does not include the use of devices for therapeutic or non-behavioural purposes.

Chemical Restraint

Chemical restraint is the use of medication or chemical substance for the primary purpose of influencing a person's behaviour. It does not include the use of medication prescribed by a medical practitioner for the treatment of, or to enable treatment of, a diagnosed mental disorder, a physical illness or a physical condition.

Environmental Restraint

Environmental restraint restricts a person's free access to all parts of their environment, including items or activities.

DEVELOPMENT OF BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT PLANS (BSP)

A behaviour support plan must be developed by a registered specialist behaviour support provider.

Headway Gippsland Inc. staff are responsible for the implementation of BSP in collaboration with the participant and specialist behaviour support provider.

USE OF RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES

Restrictive interventions can and will only be used when it is:

- part of the person's approved BSP
- administered in accordance with the person's approved BSP and only applied for the period of time that has been approved.

Headway Gippsland staff are trained to adopt strategies which do not restrict individual rights and freedom.

Least restrictive alternatives, consistent with the positive behaviour support framework, must always be tried before more restrictive options are considered.

USE OF BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT PLANS

An NDIS behaviour support plan is a document developed for a person with disability by an NDIS behaviour support practitioner. It is developed in consultation with the participant, their family, carers, guardian, and other relevant people, as well as the service providers who will be implementing the plan.

A behaviour support plan focuses on the individual needs of the participant. This includes positive behaviour support to:

- build on the person's strengths
- increase their opportunities to participate in community activities
- increase their life skills

A participant may have an interim plan while the practitioner undertakes functional behaviour assessment and develops a comprehensive behaviour support plan.

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REPORTING OF RESTRAINT

All episodes of physical restraint must be reported through Headway Gippsland internal Incident Reporting procedure. Incidents should be reported immediately following the incident, or as soon as possible and as a minimum within 24 hours. Staff should call their Coordinator, or On-Call for advice regarding any incident that involved the use of restraint.

The Authorised Program Officer, in conjunction with senior management, will review all incidents resulting in the use of a restrictive intervention, authorised or emergency, within 2 working days. The review will include,

- Providing appropriate support to the participant and staff member,
- Providing information to the family or advocate in consultation with the person using the service.
- Reporting to the CEO and Board

The Office of the Professional Practice and NDIS Senior Practitioner may be contacted for support, advice or direction, with the approval of the CEO.

As a registered provider Headway Gippsland is responsible for the monthly reporting of the use of any regulated restrictive practices. The Authorised Program Officer (APO) is responsible for ensuring monthly reports are submitted via the NDIS Commission Portal.

Headway Gippsland is required to report unauthorised use of restrictive practices in relation to a person with a disability. Where unauthorised restrictive practice occurs, the APO is responsible for reporting the incident to the Commissioner.

The APO will notify the NDIS Commission of the use of a restrictive practice that is unauthorised or not in accordance with a behaviour support plan within five business days of being made aware of the incident.

Whenever the use of a restrictive practice, whether or not authorised, results in serious injury to a person, this is a reportable incident requiring notification to the NDIS Commission as would be the case for any other incident resulting in serious injury to a person with disability. and must be reported within 24 hours.

Participants and/or their representatives will be invited to be involved in the review of any incidents involving restrictive interventions.

AUTHORISED PROGRAM OFFICER

Under Section 7 of the Disability Act 2006, the act states the requirement for a Disability Service Provider to appoint a person responsible, an Authorised Program Officer, for the protection of the rights of any person subject to a Restrictive Intervention.

The responsibilities of the Authorised Program Officer are-

- To monitor the well- being of any participant subject to approved restrictive interventions and ensure they have a Behaviour Support Plan in place
- To report any incidence of the application of approved restrictive interventions
- To monitor and report the occurrence of any emergency or unapproved applications of restrictive interventions
- To Report application of restrictive practices using the RIDS system.

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STAFF TRAINING

Staff will receive training in positive behaviour support and will work collaboratively with specialist behaviour support providers to ensure they are aware of and working within agreed guidelines and implementing approved strategies, Ongoing training will occur when any changes to a BSP occur.

In any instances where unauthorised restrictive interventions are used staff will complete an incident report as per incident reporting procedures and will undergo a debrief with their coordinator and the APO.

Where any unauthorised restraints are used participants and/or their representative will be involved in the debrief and review of the incident.

REFERENCES

National Disability Insurance Scheme (Restrictive Practices and Behaviour Support) Rules 2018

Reportable incidents Detailed Guidance for Registered NDIS Providers June 2019

National Framework for Reducing and Eliminating the Use of Restrictive Practices in the Disability Service Sector