

Complaint management

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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

- applies when participants 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 workers, part time workers, casual workers, contractors and volunteers.

Documents relevant to this policy

-  Complaint record form
-  Complaints register
-  Feedback and complaints (easy read)

Regulations relevant to this policy

-  National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 (Cth)
-  NDIS (Quality Indicators) Guidelines 2018 (Cth)
-  NDIS (Complaints Management and Resolution) Rules 2018 (Cth)
-  Disability Service Safeguards Act 2018 (VIC)
-  Disability Services Act 2006 (Qld)
-  Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Act 2019 (Qld)

Processes relevant to this policy

-  Manage complaint

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 NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commissioner (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.

How to complain to the Commission about a provider

The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission has a page called [How to make a complaint about a provider](#) with information on how to submit a complaint to the Commission.

Ways to make a complaint to the Commission about a provider include:

- by phone: 1800 035 544 (interpreters available) or TTY 133 677
- via the [National Relay Service](#)—ask for 1800 035 544
- or by completing the online [Complaint Contact Form](#).

The Commission has [fact sheet](#) with information on how complaints are handled.

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

