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| Red flags for Authorised Program Officers – registered NDIS providers |
| Victorian Senior Practitioner, March 2020 |

# Reducing regulated restrictive practices: red flags

A registered NDIS provider intending to use a regulated restrictive practice must appoint an Authorised Program Officer under Part 6A of the Disability Act. The Authorised Program Officer has a key role in reducing the use of regulated restrictive practices by looking for red flags.

## Red flagEmergency and reportable incidents

The use of a regulated restrictive practice in an emergency should be reviewed by the Authorised Program Officer at the point of approval. When reportable incidents increase, this is a **red flag** that requires attention and action for the Authorised Program Officer.

An example of an **emergency** is when an NDIS participant:

1. does not have an NDIS behaviour support plan which provides for the use of regulated restrictive practices;
2. has an NDIS behaviour support plan which provides for the use of regulated restrictive practices, but that use is not authorised by the Authorised Program Officer and, if the case requires, is not approved by the Victorian Senior Practitioner; and
3. the person in charge of the registered NDIS provider is of the opinion that there is an emergency because there is an imminent risk of the NDIS participant causing serious physical harm to themselves or others and it is necessary to use a regulated restrictive practice to prevent that risk.

If an emergency applies, the registered NDIS provider is authorised to use the regulated restrictive practice if it is the least restrictive option as is possible in the circumstances and the use of the regulated restrictive practice is authorised by the person in charge of the registered NDIS provider and the Authorised Program Officer is notified without delay of the use of the regulated restrictive practice.

The NDIS (Incident Management and Reportable Incidents) Rules 2018 require a registered NDIS provider to report the use of a restrictive practice that is not authorised in an NDIS behaviour support plan as a **reportable incident** to the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission.

## Red flagIncrease in *pro re nata* (PRN)

In some cases, regulated restrictive practices are used as needed or as the situation arises – this is PRN. Increase in the use of PRN is a **red flag** that something is not working well for the NDIS participant.

The team should know what is working and what needs to change. If the team doesn’t understand why the behaviour is escalating, they need to:

1. look at what has changed recently in the person’s environment
2. complete an ABC or STARR[[1]](#footnote-1) chart
3. consider referring to an NDIS behaviour support practitioner for a reassessment.

Under the NDIS (Restrictive Practices and Behaviour Support) Rules 2018, an NDIS behaviour support plan must be reviewed by an NDIS behaviour support practitioner if there is a change in circumstances which requires the plan to be amended, as soon as practicable after the change occurs.

## Implementing an NDIS behaviour support plan

An NDIS behaviour support plan must be reviewed by an NDIS behaviour support practitioner at intervals of not more than 12 months, or when there is a change in circumstances which requires the plan to be amended.

Authorised Program Officers can ensure that the NDIS behaviour support plan is working for the NDIS participant by considering the following questions.

**A – A**re there any unexplained emergencies or increases in PRN reporting?

**B – B**ehaviour support plan: what needs to change to make it work better?

1. Were the goals of the NDIS behaviour support plan met and does the team need to refer the plan to an NDIS behaviour support practitioner to write new goals?
2. Does the person need a new Functional Behaviour Assessment?
3. Is there a good replacement behaviour in the NDIS behaviour support plan that might reduce the person’s need to use behaviours of concern?

**C – C**hallenges for the staff: what support does the team need to provide good quality support?

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1. STARR charts can be used to keep track of setting events, triggers, action, result of behaviour, response from staff. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)