

FACT SHEET:

RPA Panels

BACKGROUND

For Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) funded organisations in NSW, behaviour support services are regulated by the ADHC Behaviour Support Policy.

Where behaviour support for a person with disability involves the use of certain practices which impose restrictions, policy requires an additional layer of clinical scrutiny, specific consent and monitoring. The mechanism which provides this is known as Restricted Practice Authorisation (RPA).

Within ADHC and many of its funded partners, this mechanism takes the form of a number of regularly convened RPA Panels.

The RPA Panel is responsible for:

- Transparent review of formal RPA Submissions;
- Issuing of formal decisions to either grant or decline authorisation;
- Monitoring the use of Restricted Practices; and,
- Regular reporting to ADHC in relation to the operation of their RPA mechanism.

RESTRICTED PRACTICE AUTHORISATION

The recommendation for use of a Restricted Practice requires formal authorisation. To be granted RPA, the use of a Restricted Practice must be informed by strict guidelines which provide clear conditions and limitations on their use.

The purpose of an RPA mechanism is not to create obstacles in the face of common sense, but rather to ensure that the use of a Restricted Practice:

1. can be clinically justified;
2. is authorised within the context of ADHC work practice requirements;
3. includes provision for appropriate consent; and,
4. can be safely implemented and monitored.

All service providers are expected to develop and maintain an RPA mechanism that addresses the above purpose in order to manage the use of Restricted Practices and maintain rigorous standards within their own service.



RPA PANELS

RPA Panels serve to authorise, limit and monitor the use of Restricted Practices. ADHC-funded service providers can investigate a number of ways to establish an RPA Panel:

- network with other funded service providers to share panel members, especially independent members;
- discuss possible resource options with their nearest ADHC Manager, Behaviour Support; and,
- consider the use of technology (eg telephone/video conferencing) to overcome logistical barriers.

RPA Panel roles include:

- **Panel Convenor** - lead role in the RPA process, including the timely circulation and completion of all RPA documentation.
- **Panel Member** - a senior manager within the service who understands the RPA process and is in a position to make operational and/or resource decisions within the organisation.
- **Independent Member** - objective observer during the process who contributes to the discussion as required, enabling the Panel Convenor to consider each RPA Submission and to reach an informed decision on the outcome.

PERSON-CENTRED APPROACHES

Although the use of a Restricted Practice may be considered appropriate in one case, it does not follow that it is justifiable in another case. It is important to recognise that Restricted Practices impact on a person's human rights.

Each RPA Submission should demonstrate adherence to policy and minimum work practice requirements, and be considered within the context of the individual support needs of the person and the capacity and capabilities of their support system.

The ADHC Behaviour Support Policy sets out strict rules about Restricted Practices, including requiring formal Authorisation and specific informed consent.

Further information: http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/individuals/support/behaviour_support