



COMPLAINTS, COMPLIMENTS AND FEEDBACK POLICY & PROCEDURE

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

Policy

Calming Waves Support Services Australia Pty Ltd manages feedback effectively to identify areas for improvement.

Calming Waves Support Services Australia Pty Ltd has an effective complaints, compliment and feedback handling system that addresses the principles of visibility and accessibility, responsiveness, assessment, investigation, feedback and continuous improvement.

Procedures

All complaints must 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.
- By email – feedback@cwss.com.au
- By phone – 03 8905 4247
- In writing – 5 Fairway court Pakenha,
- Via the online complaints form
- 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
- 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
- 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.



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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 Calming Waves Support Services Australia Pty Ltd will be handled in the following manner:

- Within 1 working day all complaints will be recorded on a Complaint or Feedback 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.
- 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 an external mediator within 1 working day. The mediator 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 to:

- 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 parties involved and develop a course of remedial action for the Director to approve.

When the action plan has been approved the investigating officer is to inform the complaint of the remedial action within ten working days of meeting with the complainant.

The Director will ensure the complainant is informed of the outcome in writing using the Outcome of Complaint Letter which advises them 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 mediator of Calming Waves Support Services Australia Pty Ltd.



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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 by making complaints. Education will occur when staff commence working at Calming Waves Support Services Australia Pty Ltd 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 Calming Waves Support Services Australia Pty Ltd (including the actions of an employee, volunteer or persons otherwise engaged by Calming Waves Support Services Australia Pty Ltd)."

Feedback may lead to Calming Waves Support Services Australia Pty Ltd 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 Feedback form by the person providing the feedback or the staff member receiving the information.

The information will then be forwarded to the people involved, the 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 negative, it may be necessary to implement the complaints procedure above.

Compliments will also be communicated at staff meetings to ensure staff are recognized and examples of best practice identified and acknowledged.

Complaints Escalation and Dispute Resolution

Where a complaint about Calming Waves Support Services Australia Pty Ltd 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 a disability who has been 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

Calming Waves Support Services Australia Pty Ltd's Management team will review this policy and procedure annually. This process will include a review and evaluation of current practices, Calming Waves Support Services Australia Pty Ltd's service delivery, the Incident



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Register. staff, participants and another stakeholder feedback will be incorporated. Feedback from service users, suggestions from staff and best practice developments will be used to update this policy.

Calming Waves Support Services Australia Pty Ltd's Continuous Improvement Plan will be used to record and monitor progress of any improvements identified and where relevant feed into Calming Waves Support Services Australia Pty Ltd's service planning and delivery processes.