

Abuse and Neglect Policy

Optimum Choice shall not accept any form of abuse or neglect under any circumstance. All reports whether real or perceived shall be immediately and fully investigated in all cases. This applies to all Optimum Choice personnel (full time, part time, casual or volunteers), participants, visitors, contractors or any other person that come into any contact with Optimum Choice activities.

Abuse definitions include but not limited to:

Physical, sexual, emotional or psychological, financial, exploitation, accidents/incidents or near miss activities, unregulated restrictive practices

Neglect is any case where a person's basic needs are not met

Neglect definitions include but not limited to:

Physical, emotional, passive, supervisory, misconduct, can result in injury or death

Preventing abuse and neglect, Optimum Choice shall:

- Provide support and services in an environment free of abuse and neglect
- Ensure that persons with high support needs and/or communication difficulties are well supported to ensure detection and prevention of abuse and neglect
- Ensure that staff are trained to recognise, prevent or minimise the occurrence/reoccurrence of abuse or neglect of participants and workers

Breach of the Abuse and Neglect Policy

Any staff member found to be / accused of perpetrating any form of abuse or neglect shall be investigated, which may lead to:

- Disciplinary action
- Referral to outside agency such as the police
- Termination of employment

Any attempt to cover up or failing to report suspected or actual incidents of abuse or neglect shall lead to disciplinary actions commenced.

Date 28/03/2020