

Abuse & Neglect v 1.0

The United Nations' *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* states that a person with disability has the right to liberty, security and freedom from abuse and neglect, and where these rights have been violated, to have equal recognition by law and access to justice.

The Abuse and Neglect Policy provides information and guiding principles to support Elephant In The Room (EITR) with the means to prevent, identify and respond to abuse and neglect when it occurs or is suspected.

EITR upholds the right of people with disabilities to live their lives free from neglect, abuse and exploitation. The purpose of this policy is to:

- ❖ Promote the human rights of the people accessing supports and services provided
- ❖ Create a service environment where risks to the rights and well-being of people receiving supports and services are minimised
- ❖ Ensure that if we become aware of an instance of abuse or neglect, we respond promptly, professionally and compassionately to address the situation in accordance with the requirements of National Disability Services Standard 1 (Rights).
- ❖ Support participants to self-report any abuse, neglect or exploitation. FACS have developed a document "Telling someone about abuse and neglect" in an accessible format. This is available on EITR Website

EITR will ensure the protection of our participants from human rights abuses and neglect while in our care. All clients have the right to receive their services from EITR without threat, intimidation or abuse. EITR will ensure staff are aware of the indicators of abuse and know what to do if they suspect abuse.





The following Principles are observed by EITR

Preventing Abuse - EITR takes reasonable steps to ensure that all paid and unpaid workers understand and perform their roles in preventing abuse of people using its service by any person.

Identifying Abuse - Workers engaged by EITR understand the behaviours or actions that constitute abuse (Appendix 2-Identifying Abuse & Patterns of abuse).

Reporting Abuse - EITR will encourage and support any person who has witnessed abuse of a participant, or suspects that abuse has occurred, to make a report of abuse and be confident of doing so without fear of retaliation and in a supportive environment. All workers are aware of their responsibility to report allegations of abuse (Appendix 3-Types of abuse).

Responding to a report of abuse - Response is prompt, appropriate and in accordance with clearly documented procedures. The response should include appropriate reporting to the NSW Police, and the provision of medical care (Appendix 1 Disability Support Resources).

