

POLICY

Safeguarding for Participants

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to define EPIC Support Service's position with regards to safeguarding in order to promote, enhance and protect participant

- Human rights
- Decision making, choice and control
- Safety and wellbeing
- Citizenship and quality of life.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all EPIC Support Services' employees, volunteers, contractors and participants.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

EPIC Support Services will provide safeguarding supports and mechanisms to participants who are vulnerable and whose human rights or individual outcomes are at risk of being compromised.

Safeguards will include preventative and reactive responses to minimise an individual's vulnerability and risk, and will include the following strategies:

- Involvement of participants (and others as appropriate) in the determination and review of their own safeguards during the individual planning process, including strategies to enhance individual skills and capacity to minimise vulnerability and risk.
- Supporting and empowering participants to make informed choices and decisions about their own life.
- Supporting and maximising the role of the participant's family, friends, carers and advocates in safeguarding.

- Providing accessible information to participants, their families, friends, carers and advocates, and the general community on rights and available safeguards.
- Training and developing employees in determining individual vulnerability, risk, duty of care and dignity of risk, and determining and facilitating the implementation of the range safeguarding strategies available.
- Providing an effective complaints and feedback mechanism so that complaints are dealt with fairly, promptly, confidentially and without retribution.
- Adhering to all mandatory reporting requirements.
- Monitoring service provision to detect deficits in safeguarding practices.
- Maintaining an effective incident reporting system to ensure timely and appropriate responses to individual incidents, identifying trends and areas requiring review and improvement.

RELATED DOCUMENTS
Responding to Abuse and Neglect Procedure
Complaints, Feedback and Compliments Policy and Procedure
Complaints, Feedback and Compliments Form
Decision Making and Choice Policy
Duty of Care
Use of Restrictive Practices Procedure
Critical Incident Reporting Procedure and Form
Participant Individual Planning

RELEVANT LEGISLATION OR STANDARDS
United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
Disability Services Act 2006
National Standards for Disability Services