## **Zero Tolerance (Easy English) Policy**





## Step 1: What does "Abuse" mean?

Abuse is a violation of a person's human rights and has a number of forms such as:

- a) Financial abuse: The misuse of a person's assets, property, possessions and finances without their consent; for example;
  - Denying a person with a disability the use of their own assets, property, possessions and finances;
  - theft, fraud, exploitation and pressure in relation to assets, property, possessions and finances;
- **b) Emotional abuse**: Actions or behaviours that reject, isolate, intimidate or frighten by threats a person, for example;
  - denying cultural or religious needs and preferences;
  - > emotional abuse perpetrated by other people with a disability;



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- where a person subjects another person to behaviour that may result in psychological trauma, such as bullying, harassment, humiliation and threats.
- **c) Physical abuse**: Actions that involve the inappropriate use of physical contact or force against a person, for example;
  - threats of physical abuse made to a person with a disability by another person;
  - > excessive use of physical force or restraint
- **d) Sexual abuse**: It can be any behavior or sexual act that is threatening, violent, forced, etc. and to which a person has not given their consent or has not been able to give their consent.
- e) Neglect: The failure to care adequately for a person with a disability to the extent that the health, wellbeing and development of the person is significantly impaired or at risk.

To be effective, zero tolerance of abuse requires a clear understanding of what abuse is and the types of behaviour that are abusive.

## **Step 2: Employee Obligations**

Every employee must:



- provide services without engaging in abuse, exploitation, harassment or neglect
- report any form of abuse or suspected abuse.

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- ➤ not engage in sexual abuse or misconduct and must report any such conduct by other workers, people with a disability, family members, carers or community members.
- > show respect for cultural differences when providing services
- > act ethically, with integrity, honesty and transparency.

Don't forget to treat others with respect!

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