



Participant Risk Policy

Ruby Hill Equine Inc is committed to encouraging & supporting people with a disability to pursue an individual lifestyle that will enable full, equal and safe participation as required under the Disability Services Act 1993, Disability Service Standards and NDIS Scheme 2018. Dignity of risk recognises that people with a disability have a right to make their own decisions and are entitled to take reasonable risks in their everyday life. At the same time, services are required, as far as practicable, to ensure that staff working with participants are safe, and not exposed to health and safety risks (Work Health and Safety Act (NSW) 2011). The Participant Risk Policy operates within a risk management framework that provides staff with a better understanding of the need to manage risks and a structured approach to prevent, minimise, or eliminate injuries or incidents to participants, themselves and others before they occur.

Purpose of policy

The purpose of the Participant Risk Policy is to assist staff to manage risks that may arise while providing support to participants whatever the situation or location so that adverse effects on lifestyle, health, safety and wellbeing are minimised. The policy provides guidance on:

- How to identify and assess risks to participants, staff and others
- Develop participant risk management strategies and plans
- Monitor and review Participant Risk Profiles and Participant Risk Management Plans

Formal assessment and management of risk as required under this policy will enable staff to support participants in a manner that fulfils their responsibilities under duty of care.

Policy principles

All participants receiving support are:

1. Assessed for risks to their lifestyle, health, safety and wellbeing.
2. Have a risk profile completed; and
3. Where risks are identified have a risk management plan developed
4. Service providers are required to meet their work health and safety obligations to provide maximum safety for participants, staff and others.
5. Work health and safety obligations are met in a manner that allows participants to take reasonable risks in their daily lives and without placing staff and others at risk of harm.

6. Risks are identified, assessed, controlled, and monitored to minimise risks to participants and staff as part of a risk management approach. Participant risk assessment and management are fundamental components of the individual planning process and the health care planning process. Participant Risk Profiles and Participant Risk Management Plans are incorporated into Individual Plans and are subject to regular review as part of the individual planning review process.

7. Risk management considers the specific cultural, linguistic and religious needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants and those from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

8. Risks relating to vulnerable participant groups, particularly aged participants, are identified and managed.

9. Information and documentation about risk management in relation to individual participants is made available to those persons who need to know because they are involved in supporting the participant, and provided in a language or format that suits their communication needs.

10. Personal participant information is protected in compliance with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act, 1998, and Health Records and Information Privacy Act, 2002.

Staff of Ruby Hill Equine INC read and use the Participant Risk Policy in conjunction with the Incident Management Policy.