

## **NDIS Practice Standards and Quality Indicators - 2021**

From 15 November 2021 NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission introduced new NDIS Practice Standards and Quality Indicators

The three areas relate to mealtime management, severe dysphagia management and emergency and disaster management.

### **Mealtime management & Severe Dysphagia Management**

Access Therapy specifically provides occupational therapy supports. Where involved in assessment related to feeding, it is a speech pathologists clinical responsibility to advise on swallowing and risk of aspiration. Our assessment templates, followed by occupational therapist during initial appointment or at subsequent visits, require questioning related to feeding as it relates to function. Where there are concerns related to aspiration and swallowing, a recommendation is made for speech pathologist assessment. A mealtime management plan cannot be completed by an occupational therapist. Intervention would not necessitate feeding, therefore where a concern relates to mealtime management or severe dysphagia, the participant and relevant parties are advised to contact a speech pathologist.

Access Therapy does not provide support coordination services; it is the support coordinators responsibility to refer. Advice is always provided to support the referral or indicate a possible need from occupational therapist perspective.

### **Emergency and Disaster Management**

The need for a plan to provide support during times of sustained disruption as it relates to running Access Therapy are clearly outlined in our Contingency Emergency and Disaster Plan to limit delays to support as it relates to issues that could impact our service.

When a client experiences a disaster or emergency, many of our services do not take priority such as a wheelchair trial, as our service does not provide planned day to day supports.

Access Therapy provides occupational therapy support on a needs basis as it relates to individual needs such as:

- Functional assessment and reporting
- Assistive technology (basic and complex) trials and prescription
- Practice and training in the use of new equipment
- Development of support procedures as indicated (E.g., manual handling)
- Home modifications

Where the client experiences an emergency or a disaster, Access Therapy will respond accordingly to ensure individual needs are addressed.

Possible scenarios include the client's emergency impacts their home or equipment/assistive technology or support (care).

On notification Access Therapy will initially liaise with relevant parties in relation to required support, likely in the areas of:

- accommodation
- equipment
- care

When occupational therapy needs of the participant have been ascertained the occupational therapist will complete all or some of the following actions:

- Assess home environment or temporary accommodation to determine appropriateness of environment for client and access needs
- Provide advice or recommendations for access in relation to clients individual needs as it relates to their disability specific needs
- Review all equipment to determine whether ongoing use is safe and discuss alternatives, if at risk
- Meet with support staff to determine if further training is required due to changes in staff, environment or equipment
- Facilitate supply of replacement or hire equipment
- Provide support and justification for short term accommodation, as required
- Complete training and demonstrations with support staff and establish new procedures as appropriate to occupational therapy