

Safeguarding Policy

Introduction / Purpose

Intelife is committed to upholding and protecting the rights of people with disability as set out in the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#).

The purpose of this policy is to state Intelife's intention and commitment to protecting the rights, freedoms and inherent dignity of all participants and to ensure tailored safeguards are in place for each participant.

Safeguards are supports and mechanisms that promote, enhance and protect an individual's human rights, decision making, choice and control, safety and wellbeing, their citizenship and quality of life.

Safeguards can include a range of informal and formal supports and mechanisms operating at the level of the individual, the community, their disability service provider (Intelife) and overarching government systems and legislation. This policy and accompanying guidelines provide guidance for establishing and maintaining appropriate safeguards and safeguarding practices within Intelife.

Scope

This policy has application to all Intelife program areas providing supports and services to people with disability.

Policy Statements

This policy aligns with the NDIS Practice Standards and specifically with the Quality Indicators for:

- Independence and informed choice
- Violence, Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation and Discrimination; and
- Support Planning.

Intelife has adopted the [Zero Tolerance Framework](#) by National Disability Services, which assists disability providers to understand, implement and improve practices which safeguard the rights of people they support. The Framework supports the empowerment of people with disability to safeguard themselves which is the foremost consideration in determining or tailoring safeguards for reducing an individual's vulnerability.

To that end, Intelife's safeguarding processes and practices will work to ensure each participant:

- is supported to make informed choices, exercise control and maximise their independence, which may include support to access their right to an advocate of their choosing
- has access to supports and services free from violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation or discrimination
- is actively involved in the development of their support plan. The plan reflects their needs, requirements, preferences, strengths, and goals. The plan is regularly reviewed to identify and manage risks and make arrangements (tailor safeguards) to prevent or decrease individual vulnerabilities.