

Health Support Training and Competency Based Assessment of Support Workers

Why have a policy and guidelines



Government of South Australia
Department for Families
and Communities



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Children, Youth and
Women's Health Service



The Need for Clear Guidelines, Why Develop A Policy?

- agencies usually exist to support people with a disability live ordinary lives in the community
- need to ensure that individuals have access to a wide range of options that are not dictated by the complexity of their health support due to illness, degeneration of their condition or ageing.



The Need for Clear Guidelines, Why Develop A Policy? (cont)

- Has in the past often been an all or nothing regarding health support
- Agencies may have had training and support of staff in place but unsure if it was adequate and not sure what to do if someone's health needs became complex
- The provision of health support within community settings requires access to skilled and experienced support workers who can readily provide the care and support required for people with disabilities. Needed to set some standards



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The Need for Clear Guidelines, Why Develop A Policy? (cont)

- The Office for Disability and Client Services was constantly receiving enquiries about how to access and fund registered nurse services from agencies supporting clients with high or complex health support needs.



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Aimed To Achieve In The Development of the Policy and Guidelines

- community based and portable across settings
- framed in language that non health care professionals can understand
- assist agencies to meet their duty of care and risk management responsibilities
- were possible assist agencies to link directly with generic health support systems
- target specialist Nursing Services to areas of greatest need moving away from the privileged few agencies
- set minimum standards for agencies to adhere to
- linked to service agreements - non negotiable



Other Considerations

- Nurses Board of South Australia (nbsa) have developed a set of standards entitled “Delegation of Care by a Registered Nurse or Midwife to an unlicensed Health Care Worker.” Registered Nurses need to abide by the standards and any policy or guidelines needed to be aligned.
- Australian Nurses Federation (ANF) interested in the policy and ensuring nurses are protected put their main interest is level 3 support

