



Informed Consent Policy

Key points I need to know:

- Every person we support has the right to make informed choices and give informed consent.
- Consent must never be assumed and must be actively sought.
- Information must be provided in a way the person can understand.
- Supported decision-making will be used wherever possible.
- Consent can be withdrawn at any time.

Policy Statement

Hōhepa Wellington is committed to upholding the rights, dignity, autonomy, and wellbeing of all people we support. This policy outlines our commitment to ensuring that informed consent is obtained for support, services, interventions, treatment, and other decisions affecting a person's care and wellbeing.

We recognise that every person has the right to make decisions about their own life and to be supported to participate in decisions affecting them. Hōhepa Wellington is committed to a supported decision-making approach that presumes capacity, promotes choice, and enables people to make informed decisions to the greatest extent possible.

Responsibility

General Manager

Key Principles:

- **Presumption of Capacity:** Every person is presumed capable of making informed decisions unless there are reasonable grounds to believe otherwise.
- **Supported Decision-Making:** People will be provided with the support, information, and communication methods necessary to participate in decisions affecting them.
- **Informed Choice:** Consent will only be sought after relevant information has been provided and understood.
- **Respect for Autonomy:** People have the right to make decisions, including decisions that others may not agree with.
- **Effective Communication:** Information will be provided in a form, language, and manner that supports understanding.
- **Privacy and Confidentiality:** Information shared as part of the consent process will be managed in accordance with privacy legislation and organisational policies.
- **Right to Refuse:** People have the right to refuse or withdraw consent at any time, unless otherwise provided for by law.

Scope

This policy applies to all employees, volunteers, contractors, healthcare professionals, and others acting on behalf of Hōhepa Wellington. It applies to all situations where informed consent is required for the provision of services, support, treatment, information sharing, participation in activities, or other decisions affecting people we support.



Definitions

Informed Consent: A voluntary decision made by a person after receiving sufficient information, understanding the options available, and having the opportunity to ask questions.

Supported Decision-Making: A process that assists a person to understand information, consider options, communicate decisions, and participate in decisions affecting their life.

Capacity: A person's ability to understand relevant information, consider the consequences of a decision, and communicate their decision.

Substitute Decision-Maker: A person legally authorised to make decisions on behalf of another person, such as a Welfare Guardian or Enduring Power of Attorney for Personal Care and Welfare.

Consent Principles

Hōhepa Wellington is committed to ensuring that:

People are provided with sufficient information about the purpose, benefits, risks, alternatives, and likely outcomes of decisions requiring consent. Information is presented in a manner appropriate to the person's communication needs, culture, language, and level of understanding.

People are given reasonable time to consider information and seek support before making decisions. Consent is documented appropriately and retained as part of the person's record. People are supported to involve family, whānau, advocates, or other support people where desired.

References

Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights

Privacy Act 2020

Health Information Privacy Code 2020

Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988

New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990

Ngā Paerewa Health and Disability Services Standard NZS 8134:2021

Associated Documents

Informed Consent Procedure Guideline

Informed Consent Form

Rights of People We Support

Support Decision Making Policy

Privacy and Confidentiality Policy

Abuse Neglect and Safeguarding Policy

Open Disclosure Policy



Document Control	
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