Accessing Sex Services

POLICY AND PROCEDURF

Introduction

Every adult, with a disability or not, has a right to seek consensual sexual expression. People with a disability have a right to a sexual life, just like everyone else.

Purpose

This policy framework supports clients of Subee Newlake to have equal opportunity to access appropriate services as reflected in state and federal laws and expressed within Ageing, Disability and Homecare policies.

Sexuality remains important throughout a person's life and sexual behaviour should be given the same level of acceptance. People should not be denied access to sex on the basis of their disability or aged.

This policy should reflect an organisational wide supportive LGBTIQ+ culture.

Scope

- This policy applies to all consenting Subee clients over the age of 16.
- According to ADHC policy (Refer 'Decision Making and Consent') enabling expressions of sexuality are to be seen as part of normal service provision.
- Sexuality relates to capacity and learned behaviour which allows a person to experience and respond to sexual feelings; to behave sexually; and to participate in sexual activity and intimacy with others.
- It includes sexual identity and preference.

Policy Statement

- Requests for assistance are to be considered as part of normal service delivery as part of client choice and dignity.
- Request to access sex services should be directed to the case manager or third party service provider who may refer them on to http://www.touchingbase.org/clients/referral-list or a similar service or provide additional support.
- Requests for sex services may be included in a care plan with the client's consent.
- Subee Newlake Service Coordinators are advised to refer to the Policy and Procedural Guide for disability service providers supporting clients to access sex services.
- All support under this policy must be lawful. Subee staff cannot assist in the accessing of illegal services.
- The legal age of consent is 16.
- To enter a restricted premises (commercial sex services premises, strip club or adult bookshop/sex shop) a person must be over the age of 18.

A client must be able to demonstrate meaningful consent before assistance is provided.

- Meaningful consent means that a person has knowledge and understanding of the sexual nature of the act; gives their consent freely; that the relationship between the parties is to be equal; and that there is no force, threats or power used to gain consent.
- Where possible, the client should be encouraged to make the booking and confirm arrangements themselves.

Care staff assistance

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- Care staff assistance may take the form of providing transport assistance to a legal business and assisting a client inside.
- Care staff are to always maintain the privacy of the client and to adhere to all relevant Subee Newlake policies.
- The rights of care staff not to assist will be upheld without prejudice. Care staff should discuss their concerns with their supervisor/case manager.

NDIS funding

Changes over the last couple of years have seen NDIS funding now cover a range of sexual services to assist a client meet some of their goals. For some people with a disability this is the only way they have experienced a sexual life, while others may use sexual services to learn more about themselves, their bodies and increase their social skills before finding a sexual partner in the community.

Responsibility and Authority

The Senior Management Team has responsibility and authority to ensure this procedure is followed.

Case Managers are responsible for reinforcing this policy with care staff.

All employees are responsible for knowing and following this procedure.

Helpful Resources

People with a Disability Australia https://pwd.org.au/sexwork-and-the-ndis-frequently-asked-questions/

Touching Base https://www.touchingbase.org/

LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care Resources https://agedcare.health.gov.au/support-services/my-agedcare/lgbti-ageing-and-aged-careresources

Ausmed eLearning module: LGBTQI + Older Adults in aged

Joint position statement from touching base and the Disabled Person's Organisations Australia (DPOA)

Joint Position Statement: A call for a rightsbased framework for sexuality in the NDIS

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