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## P046 – Specialist Support Coordination Policy & Procedures

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### 1. Scope

To provide guidance for the delivery of Specialised Support Coordination under registration group 0132 Support Coordination. This Policy and Procedure covers processes aligned with NDIS Practice Standards Module 4:

- Outcome 64 - Specialised Support Coordination
- Outcome 65 – Management of a Participant's NDIS Supports
- Outcome 66 – Conflict of Interest

### 2. Policy Statement

District 360 is committed to providing specialised support coordination services that are tailored to each individual's strengths and needs.

We are committed to:

- Provide a team-based service - if someone is away and a Participant needs assistance another member of the team will assist.
- Assist a Participant learn how to coordinate their needs if that is their choice.
- Provide the required level of experienced professionals in mental health, intellectual disability, positive behaviour support and restrictive practices
- Managing our conflict of interest. We will recommend service providers most suited to your needs

We will ensure:

- Each participant receiving specialised support coordination receives tailored support to implement, monitor and review their support plans and reduce the risk and complexity of their situation.
- Each participant exercises meaningful choice and control over their supports and maximises the value for money they receive from their supports.
- Each participant receives transparent, factual advice about their support options which promotes choice and control.

### 3. Definitions

**Support Coordination** – Assistance to strengthen participant's abilities to coordinate and implement supports and participate more fully in the community. This is longer term support to provide connection and coordination of a participant's NDIS supports.

It can include initial assistance with linking participants with the right providers to meet their needs, assistance to source providers, coordinating a range of supports both funded and

mainstream and building on informal supports, resolving points of crisis, parenting training and developing participant resilience in their own network and community.

Support coordinators are not funded to provide: participant transport, plan administration, plan management, support rostering, advocacy, and disability supports.

**Specialist Support Coordination** – The provision of Support Coordination within a specialist framework necessitated by specific high-level risks in the participant's situation. This support is time limited and focuses on addressing barriers and reducing complexity in the support environment, while assisting the participant to connect with supports and build capacity and resilience.

## 4. Principles

### Conflict of Interest

District 360 has a Conflict of Interest policy and all workers receive training and awareness about Conflicts of Interest.

- District 360 provides each participant with our Conflict of interest policy and explain it to them using the language, mode of communication and terms that the participant is most likely to understand.
- District 360 will offer a range of providers to you to ensure that you retain choice and control over the services and supports you wish to engage with.
- District 360 will discuss with Participants service provision options and email options or complete D360S\_F030 Service Provision Recommendation Form which offers a selection of services available to them. The participant will be advised that the services available are in no way limited to the services listed. The participant will be advised if and when District 360 is a provider offering a service other than Specialist Support Coordination. The participant will be made aware of the Conflict of interest. If the participant opts to proceed with District360 for any other support than Specialist Support Coordination, they will sign the form in acknowledgement that they been provided with adequate information about the providers offered and have not been influenced in their selection decision.
- Conflict of interest Register (D360S\_R012) will be used to record any potential conflict of interest whereby a participant engages multiple District360 services.
- We support each participant to understand the distinction between the provision of specialised support coordination and other reasonable and necessary supports funded under a participant's plan using the language, mode of communication and terms that the participant is most likely to understand.
- If it is understood that any District 360 Workers have any interest in any support option available to the participant, the participant is advised of this interest. We ensure that each participant understands the choices they make about providers of other supports will not impact on the provision of the specialised support coordination.
- Referrals to and from other providers are documented for each participant in their participant file

[See D360S\_P026 Conflict of Interest Service Delivery Policy, D360S\_F030 Service Provision Recommendation Form, D360S\_R012 Conflict of Interest Register]

### **Collaborative and Person-Centred Approach**

District 360 Support Coordinators implement a collaborative and person-centred approach throughout the participant's journey from pre-service to exit. [See D360S\_P001 Person Centred Support Policy.]

## **5. Procedures**

### **Specialised Support Coordination can include the following:**

- Managing and coordinating service for complex needs
- One on one meetings to discuss and explain the plan
- Assisting a Participant to get the best value out of their plan
- Assistance in setting up the NDIS portal
- Help to Explain Service Agreements
- Research and recommend service providers to suit participant needs
- Support with contacting service providers
- Ongoing support after a Participant plan has been implemented
- Preparing a Participant and the paperwork for plan review

A Specialist Support Coordinator will be funded where there are additional high or complex needs in the participants' situation. They will be a qualified as an Occupational Therapist, Psychologist or Social Worker and/or experienced support coordinator with over 5 years' experience working in the disability sector.

Specialist support coordinators will support participants to manage challenges in their support environment which may include health, education, or justice services. Specialist support coordination aims to reduce barriers to implementing or using an NDIS plan.

### **Specialised Support coordination at District 360 will involve the following:**

- On intake of a Participant requiring Specialist Support Coordination, a suitably qualified worker will gain a documented understanding of the risk factors experienced by the participant with high risk or complex needs.
- All Participants receiving Specialist Support Coordination will be involved in the evaluation of their situation and the identification of the supports required to prevent or respond to a crisis, incident or breakdown of support arrangements, and the promotion of safety for the participant and others. The implementation of this will always be underpinned by Participant Choice and Control.
- All workers will undertake consultation with the participant and, with the participant's consent, the participant's support network and mainstream services (as appropriate) in planning and coordinating supports to implement the participant's plan, and any plan review.
- Specialist Support Coordinators will, in consideration of each participant's individual needs, preferences and circumstances, identify suitable NDIS providers and mainstream service providers that have the appropriate skills and experience to deliver the required supports identified.

- At all stages of the service arrangement, the District 360 will maintain a proactive engagement to ensure that all providers implementing the participant's plan understand and respond to the risk and/or complexity of the participant's situation, and collaborate with other relevant providers, where required.
- The Specialist Support Coordinator will be responsible for the monitoring, organising regular stakeholder meetings and maintain minutes, reporting obligations associated with the participant's plan.

**When managing a participant's NDIS Supports, District 360 will:**

- Arrange supports and services using the participant's NDIS amounts as directed by the participant and for the purposes intended by the participant.
- Provide participants with information about their support options using the language, mode of communication and terms that they are most likely to understand.
- Support Participants to build their capacity to coordinate, self-direct and manage their supports and to understand how to participate in Agency planning processes. We help them to understand and be involved in establishing agreements with service providers and managing budget flexibility.
- Ensure that supports funded under a participant's plan are used effectively and efficiently and are complemented by community and mainstream services to achieve the objectives of the participant's plan.

**Initial Contact**

District 360 will ensure the timely and responsive provision of services by responding to requests for specialist support coordination services as soon as possible.

Where people have referred by the NDIS Planner, initial contact will be made with the participant to provide information about the service (ideally within two business days)

If the participant is interested in the service, an initial meeting will be arranged at a suitable place, convenient for the participant (ideally within five days of responding to a request).

Consent processes will be implemented to ensure the participant is aware and provides approval for personal information being obtained. [See Participant Consent Form]

With consent, an initial assessment process will commence to identify the appropriate to the level of support required.

**Initial Meeting**

A strengths-based approach is employed to ensure participants are directed to progressing towards their established or newly identified goals.

District 360 has a strong focus on collaborating with participant to identify meaningful goals. Our competent Specialist Support Coordinators will use the initial meeting to discuss some potential strategies to support the progress towards existing goals or achieve new goals.

The potential participant's existing NDIS Plan will be reviewed, with consent to support discussions about the development of a support plan.

## Engaging Support Networks – Adults

District 360 recognises the importance of the role of support networks including family, carers, and other service providers.

District 360 will implement processes to identify family members/carers as soon as possible in all service episodes and maintain an ongoing relationship with family members/carers as partners in service delivery.

Participants will be invited to identify their family members / carers during their initial contact with District 360, and District 360 processes will include family members/carers to the extent that the participant wishes.

Ways in which District 360 will support family members/carers can include (but is not limited to):

- Identifying family members/carers as soon as possible and ensuring this is recorded in the participant's record.
- Reviewing family member/carer information regularly throughout service delivery.
- Promoting and developing the strengths of the family and assisting them to develop their own network of formal and informal resources.
- Ensuring that the needs of family members/carers who are children or aged persons are met, by maintaining knowledge of specialist support services/organisations that can assist them.
- Engaging with family members/carers prior to the participant exiting

If a participant refuses or does not wish to nominate a family member / support person during the initial access process, this will be respected.

District360 Supports will review this at each service review.

Information will only be provided to a family member or person directly involved with the participant:

- if the participant provides consent;
- if the information is critical to ensure the person can provide support to the participant;
- the support person needs to know the participant has been made an involuntary patient; or
- it is to prevent harm to the participant or to another person.

If participants do not provide their consent for a support person to be involved in their service, District 360 will aim to engage with family members without breaching participant confidentiality.

District 360 can:

- provide the family member/carer the opportunity to present their issues and needs;
- consider the concerns and needs raised by family in the assessment, planning and support of the participant ;
- provide participant information in general terms, and provide reassurance about the supports;

- provide opportunities for the family member/carer to be involved in District 360 at a service level; and
- provide support to assist family members to access other services and advocacy supports.

## **Engaging Support Networks – Children**

Where District 360 provides services to a child, it is important to have the family's involvement in the service provided.

District 360 is committed to:

- collaborating with the family and other providers to support the coordination of supports provided.
- recognising and acknowledging the expertise and knowledge of the family about the child.
- building the confidence of family members to understand how family routines and everyday activities can support the child's development through collaborating with other service providers.
- ensuring that support plans are flexible and customised to suit the child's and family member's preferences.
- promoting supports that include the child in daily routines in their natural learning environment.
- working with the family and other providers where the family wishes to engage a key worker, to identify an appropriately skilled and experienced worker.
- sharing information, knowledge, and skills with the family, and other providers where consent has been provided to do so.
- respecting and valuing feedback from the child, family, and other professionals to improve service delivery.

## **Initial Assessment**

Where possible, the initial assessment will identify if the participant considers there have been barriers to participation in services and the community in the past.

In the Initial Assessment, the Specialist Support Coordinator may discuss NDIS and mainstream service providers appropriately skilled and experienced to provide the required services (see D360S\_P034 Service Entry and Exit Policy and Procedures).

The need for a Participant Risk Assessment will be considered and incorporated in a proportional way to ensure early identification of support coordination strategies to respond to crises, incidents, or breakdowns of support arrangements [See P014 Risk Management Policy]

Information about all providers involved in implementing the participant's plan will be obtained, with consent, to ensure the benefit of the NDIS Plan is for the participant by:

- getting a holistic/whole picture understanding of the participant's needs and preferences;
- understanding what support service management strategies have been and will be successful;
- mitigating duplication of services.

Staff involved in assessment, planning and review activities have the relevant skills (or the capacity to acquire skills) in order to provide:

- active engagement and early intervention strategies, including with families;
- participatory and strength-based planning, assessment and review;
- holistic and collaborative approaches to service delivery; and
- capacity building of families and carers.

All documentation relating to assessment, planning and review will be maintained on participant files.

During all assessments, planning and review activities, staff will discuss participants' rights and responsibilities with them. They will confirm participants' understanding verbally, using an interpreter or advocate where required.

Staff will advise the person of their right to involve a support person in their dealings with District 360.

Where required, participants will be provided with information and support to access a person of their choice, such as an advocate, to assist them to access the service. See D033 Involvement Policy & Procedure.

In accordance with the D360S\_P002 Privacy and Confidentiality Policy, respect for and protection of participants' privacy and confidentiality will be reinforced on an ongoing basis, verbally and in literature promoting the services offered by the organisation.

If necessary and with the participant or their supporter/s consent, other parties such as service providers who deliver existing or complementary services to participants will be included in assessment, planning and review activities.

Staff will support each participant's right to practice their culture, values and beliefs while accessing supports.

## **Intake**

Following their Intake Interview, where a participant is offered services and accepts, the Specialist Support Coordinator will work with the participant and their supporter/s to assess their needs, develop and agree upon a Service Agreement.

Staff will meet with the participant as soon as practicable for an assessment and planning meeting.

District 360 will engage in joint assessment and planning activities where the NDIS, Local Area Coordinator, or Plan Management provider in negotiating appropriate supports for the participant. All activities undertaken with, or on behalf of, the participant will be documented in their participant file.

The assessment will take into account:

- the participant's needs (including health, wellbeing and safety needs), goals and longer-term aspirations;
- the participant's preferred links to family, friendships and other support networks;
- the participant's and their supporters' age, ability, gender, sexual identity, culture, religion or spirituality;

- any barriers to community participation;
- risks determined in a participant risk assessment;
- how, when, and where the participant requires the supports to be delivered; and
- the participant's NDIS Plan (noting the Plan does not have to be provided by the participant).

Where possible, services provided to participants should:

- support them to develop, maintain and strengthen independence, problem solving, social and self-care skills appropriate to their age, developmental stage and cultural circumstances; and
- help participants to take control of and responsibility for their choices and enhance their autonomy, independence and community participation.

Where required, staff will identify and provide referrals and linkages in accordance with the Transition, Referral and Exit Policy and Procedure to other services and activities that will enhance the participant's community participation and provide support and assistance to help them access these, including training, employment, health, wellness, cultural and community services.

## **Service Agreements**

Staff will work in collaboration with the participant to formalise the supports to be provided in an NDIS Service Agreement in which:

- expectations are established,
- supports to be delivered are explained, and
- conditions attached to the delivery of supports, including why these conditions are attached, are specified.

Supports provided should:

- recognise the participant's needs and desired outcomes;
- be based on the least intrusive, person-centred and strengths-based options;
- link with other services and supports, with participant consent;
- include the participant's supporters, where possible and with participant consent; and
- recognise, where possible, the participant's preferences including preferred gender of workers providing services.

The participant must sign the Service Agreement before service delivery can commence.

Staff must ensure the participant (and their supporter/s):

- understands their Service Agreement, or is supported to understand it;
- has sufficient time to consider and review their options and seek advice if required; and
- receives a copy of the Service Agreement.

If a copy of the Service Agreement is not provided staff should record the reasons for not doing so. A copy of the Service Agreement will also be kept on the participant's file.

## **Support Planning**



District 360 Specialist Support Coordinators are competent and knowledgeable in efficient planning strategies that maximise participants' rights to exercise choice and control. We understand that effective Support Planning requires a little time to get to know the participant. We anticipate Support Planning to be undertaken within four weeks of the initial assessment meeting.

The information and advice our Coordinators provide is supported with systems that provide accurate, comprehensive and factual information on a broad range of local support available services.

Staff will develop strategies based on a deep understanding of the NDIS environment to achieve participant goals and enhance their wellbeing that represent best value for the participant.

Specialist Support Coordinators are committed to provide participants with all available information necessary to support participants' choice and control.

While District 360 are committed to collaborating with participants to increase their understanding of coordination processes by:

- engaging participants in the coordination process;
- providing information about the processes involved;
- providing information about the resources available;
- strengthening the capacity of participants' informal support networks; and
- providing support and assistance to resolve issues that may arise

## **Monitoring and Reporting**

Specialist Support coordinators will monitor the progress of the plan and report to the NDIA:

- after implementation of the participant's plan @ 8 weeks;
- prior to the annual review of the participant's plan @ 9 months.

Reports to the NDIA should refer to the following expected outcomes:

- The participant has been supported to work towards their goals.
- The participant is well connected with informal and mainstream supports.
- The participant and their network better understand how to participate in the NDIA processes, such as establishing agreement with service providers, managing budget flexibility, and setting and refining goals, objectives and strategies.

The participant's supports are managed within the budget parameters in the plan.

- Participants have genuine choice and control of service providers.
- Where possible a participant's or their nominees are confident at managing their support with no or a reduced need for support coordinator in subsequent plans.
- Participant is able to manage any issues that arise with service provision (including optimising service quality and effectiveness).
- Participants will address issues or barriers in accessing service provision within existing funded supports in the first instance. Requests for additional funded supports are made when there is significant change in circumstances. In these instances, the NDIA will review the plan as required.
- All task items are completed as required.

## **Monitoring - 8 Week Report**

Specialist Support coordinators will monitor the delivery of supports at 8 weeks and complete the NDIS Implementation report and upload onto PACE (if participant has transitioned):

- ensure skill-building supports are implemented and delivered, and complementary to other plans that already exist in a participant's life (i.e. behavioural management plans, individual learning plans, or existing skill development plans);
- work with the participant to increase their ability to access their local community;
- support participant to monitor plan expenditure to ensure that the participant can manage their budget over a 12 month plan;
- strengthen and enhance the participant's abilities to achieve greater independence in coordinating supports and participating in the community;
- assist the participant or service providers where required to manage crises;
- ensure that participant is accessing eligible supports through the Health, Justice, Education and housing sector (as relevant); and
- conduct 6-monthly case reviews.

## **Monitoring – 6 Month Review**

Staff, with the relevant stakeholders, will review the provision of supports for each participant every 6 months with the participant and their supporter/s, or at any time where the participant's needs have changed. The participant can also request a review at any time.

Reviews will include:

- assessing changes to the participant's needs (including health, wellbeing and safety needs), goals and longer-term aspirations;
- the participant's progress towards addressing their needs and achieving their goals;
- recognition and celebration of the participant's progress;
- any barriers to community participation and strategies to help participants overcome them;
- risks identified in a participant risk assessment;
- whether a change to the supports provided is necessary.

Reviews will take into account the participant's NDIS Plan and incorporate any changes to the Plan where practicable.

## **Monitoring – 9 Month Review**

Specialist Support coordinators are responsible complete the NDIS Progress report and upload onto PACE (if participant has transitioned):

- preparing the participant for review by developing new goals, evaluating current supports and exploring new supports;
- assisting the participant to fill in and return any NDIS review documentation;
- reporting on outcomes to the NDIA prior to review (as agreed).

**Reports to the NDIA should refer to the following expected outcomes:**

- The participant has been supported to work towards their goals.
- The participant is well connected with informal and mainstream supports.

- The participant and their network better understand how to participate in the NDIA processes, such as establishing agreement with service providers, managing budget flexibility, and setting and refining goals, objectives and strategies.
- The participant's supports are managed within the budget parameters in the plan.
- Participants have genuine choice and control of service providers.

Where possible a participant's or their nominees are confident at managing their support with no or a reduced need for specialist support coordinator in subsequent plans.

- Participant is able to manage any issues that arise with service provision (including optimising service quality and effectiveness).
- Participants will address issues or barriers in accessing service provision within existing funded supports in the first instance. Requests for additional funded supports are made when there is significant change in circumstances. In these instances, the NDIA will review the plan as required.
- All task items are completed as required.

If any of the indicators above are not met, barriers must be clearly identified, and strategies put in place to address them.

## 6. Other relevant policies

Staff, especially managers and supervisors, are encouraged to read this policy in conjunction with other relevant District 360 policies, including;

- D360S\_P001 Person-centred Support Policy
- D360S\_P026 Conflict of Interest Service Delivery Policy
- D360S\_P034 Service Entry and Exit Policy and Procedures
- D360S\_P002 Privacy and Confidentiality Policy
- D033 Involvement Policy & Procedure
- P014 Risk Management Policy

### Relevant legislation.

- The National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 (NDIS Act)
- NDIS Practice Standards
- WA Disability Services Act 1993
- VIC Disability Amendment Act 2017

## 7. More information

If you have a query about this policy or need more information, please contact the management team at [info@district360.com.au](mailto:info@district360.com.au)

## 8. Review details

Approval Authority	Tanya Johnston
Responsible Officer	Tanya Johnston
Approval Date	14 April 2021
Last updated Date	16 July 2024

Next Review Date*	16 July 2025
Last amended	Updated policy content and included SC reporting requirements (Implementation and Progress reports) to be uploaded on PACE.

*\* Unless otherwise indicated, this procedure will still apply beyond the review date.*

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