

Protective Behaviours Services for People with Disabilities

Background of the Protective Behaviours Program

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Background

Protective Behaviours (PB) is an international personal safety program with the aim to empower people of all ages to prevent and stop violence and abuse through the development of problem-solving, communication and networking skills. The PB program was developed in the early 1970s by Peg Flandreau West, a school social worker working with 'at risk' children in Wisconsin, USA.

PB was introduced to Australia by the Victoria Police Service in 1985 as a child abuse prevention and early detection program. Since this time PB has been successfully adapted to suit people of all ages in particular vulnerable groups including children, young people, seniors, people with disabilities and victims of crime. PB superseded the 'Stranger Danger' program in the early 1990s, as Stranger Danger failed to address the vast majority of child abuse (approximately 90%) which is perpetrated by a person known to the child.

Based on recognising and responding to our feelings of safety, PB is effective in dealing with any potential threat to our safety, whether the threat is perpetrated by a known or unknown person, ourselves or an outside influence. Such threats may include physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse, neglect, school or workplace bullying, peer pressure, self harm, substance abuse, suicide, abduction attempts and even being lost or injured.

PB is based on two core themes:

- 'We all have the right to feel safe all of the time'; and
- 'We can talk with someone about anything, no matter what it is'.

The program is widely endorsed and promoted by education, police, health and welfare departments in Australian states and territories. It is the only personal safety program to receive endorsement from the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN). In Queensland, PB has been endorsed by the Queensland Police Service and Education Queensland, which supports the inclusion of the program in school curriculum.

Protective Behaviours Awareness Sessions

Purpose:	To equip, empower and inspire participants with an introduction to the themes and concepts of Protective Behaviours as they relate to people with disabilities.
Duration:	2 – 3 hours (custom-made to meet client needs)
Target audience:	Adults with disabilities*, carers, disability practitioners, family and friends of people with disabilities. <i>*Suitable for adults with physical and/or mild intellectual disabilities.</i>
Participant numbers:	Up to 200 participants
Learning methods:	Lecture-style presentation with visual aids. Participants have the opportunity to ask questions.
Further information:	Further information regarding this workshop can be accessed by visiting the Member Login section or by contacting us .

Protective Behaviours Presenter Training Workshops

Purpose:	To equip, empower and inspire participants with a comprehensive understanding of the themes, concepts and teaching strategies of Protective Behaviours as they relate to people with disabilities to enable participants to relay this information to people with disabilities. This interactive workshop includes a range of activities and resources to assist participants to conduct their own in-agency/school information sessions.
Duration:	1 day (approx. 8 hours including meal breaks)
Target audience:	Adults with disabilities*, carers, disability practitioners, family and friends of people with disabilities.

**Suitable for adults with physical and/or mild intellectual disabilities.*

Participant numbers: Up to 20 participants (negotiable)

Learning methods: Class and group activities including brainstorming, discussion and a demonstration of activities which can be used by participants with their own clients.

Further information: Further information regarding this workshop can be accessed by visiting the [Member Login](#) section or by [contacting us](#).

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