



# Quality Assurance Panels: Independent External Behaviour Support Practitioner role

**March 2026**

Independent External Behaviour Support Practitioners (Independent External Practitioners) are NDIS Behaviour Support Practitioners who have clinical expertise in Positive Behaviour Support (PBS).

Alongside the Senior Manager/delegate(s), Independent External Practitioners on a Quality Assurance (QA) Panel have an essential role to safeguard the human rights of the person with disability.

Independent External Practitioners combine their clinical expertise in PBS and the reduction and elimination of restrictive practices, with their knowledge of the Authorisation of Restrictive Practices in Funded Disability Services Policy (Policy) and the Procedure Guidelines for Authorisation of Restrictive Practices in NDIS Funded Disability Services (Procedure Guidelines) through the QA Panel process.

Independent External Practitioners must stay up to date with current requirements under the Policy and the Procedure Guidelines, as well as contemporary PBS practice.

## Conflicts of interest

Because Independent External Practitioners are not employed by the Implementing Provider who convenes or accesses the QA Panel and they are not the author of the Behaviour Support Plan (BSP) containing the restrictive practices being reviewed, they maintain a degree of independence from the day-to-day support arrangements. This is important to ensure that the human-rights of the person subject to restrictive practices reviewed at the QA Panel remain the focus.

Independent External Practitioners must assess the evidence and information presented to a QA Panel in an impartial way. As with other decision-making members at QA Panels, Independent External Practitioners must identify and manage perceived, potential, and actual conflicts of interest they may identify prior to the QA Panel. A conflict of interest may impact on the ability of a decision-making member to act in an impartial manner on a QA Panel.



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### Preparation for QA Panel

Independent External Practitioners must have access to the person's BSP and any other supporting documentation, including any previous QA Panel Outcome Summary Reports, before the QA Panel.

Prior to attending a QA Panel, Independent External Practitioners should confirm that the BSP meets the following requirements:

- The BSP shows evidence it was developed in consultation with the person with disability and all key stakeholders.
- All restrictive practices are clearly defined in the BSP and only used in response to behaviours of concern.
- The BSP contains information to address each of the five principles for the use of each restrictive practice, namely the principles of Last Resort, the Least Restrictive Approach, Reduce Risk of Harm, Proportionality, and Shortest Possible Time.
- The BSP includes or refer to a Reduction and Elimination plan for each restrictive practice included. A Reduction and Elimination plan should detail a systematic approach to safely reduce the use of a restrictive practice over time. If at the interim plan stage, it should state the steps that will be taken to develop a Reduction and Elimination plan.

Additional or clarifying information can be requested from the Implementing Provider(s) and/or the BSP author in advance to support the QA Panel decision-making process.

### QA Panel discussion and decision

During the QA Panel discussion, the proposed restrictive practice(s) must be assessed against all five principles for the use of each restrictive practice in the BSP.

A restrictive practice must only be approved (authorised) if all five principles are considered met by all decision-making members. Authorisation decisions must be in line with requirements detailed in the Procedure Guidelines.

Independent External Practitioners, in consultation with other decision-makers at the QA Panel, are encouraged to use the Prompt Guide (Appendix 5 of the Procedure Guidelines) to support their assessment about whether each of the principles for the use of restrictive practices are met or not met.

### QA Panel Outcome Summary Report

Together with other decision-making QA Panel members, the Independent External Practitioner captures the reasons for approving or not approving each restrictive practice and any recommendations in the QA Panel Outcome Summary Report.



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The Independent External Practitioner contributes to the development of the QA Panel Outcome Summary Report, including ensuring there is a clear link between the assessment of principles for the use of restrictive practices, the reasons whether the principles for the use of restrictive practices are met or not based on evidence presented in the BSP, and recommendations made in the QA Panel Outcome Summary Report, including the length of time a restrictive practice may be approved.

Once satisfied that the QA Panel Outcome Summary Report accurately reflects the decisions made and recommendations, it should be signed by each decision-making member.

The signed QA Panel Outcome Summary report provides the evidence of authorisation that needs to be submitted by Implementing Providers to the NDIS Commission.

## Contact information

For more information, please contact the Department of Communities Behaviour Support Consultancy Team:

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