

Restrictive Practices Australian States and Territories Authorisation Frameworks



	Legislative / Policy framework	Authorising Entity	Website and key contacts	Types of RPs	Variations from NDIS RRP definitions	Prohibited practices	Scope	NDIS BSP required?	Consent required?	Authorisation period	Statutory appeal
ACT	Legislative Framework Senior Practitioner Act 2018	Delegated Panel PBS plans are approved by independent panels registered with the Senior Practitioner, comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a senior manager familiar with the operational protocols of the intended service setting an independent, experienced clinician with experience in positive behaviour support additional members with experience in the matters under consideration Restrictive Practices in PBS plans are only authorised once the plan has been registered by the Senior Practitioner.	Community Services Directorate (Office of the Senior Practitioner) W communityservices.act.gov.au/quality-complaints-and-regulation/office-of-the-senior-practitioner E actseniorpractitioner@act.gov.au P (02) 6205 2811	NDIS (Restrictive Practices and Behaviour Support) Rules 2018 definition of regulated restrictive practices.		ACT approach aligns with NDIS Commission's High Risk Practices with some punitive approaches included. A legally enforceable Prohibited Practices Regulation is being drafted and will soon be published	Providers who offer any of the following services to another person: education, disability, care and protection of children, a service prescribed by regulation.		Authorisation does not require consent.	Up to 6 months for interim BSPs. Up to 12 months for comprehensive BSPs.	Reviewable decisions may be appealed to ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal.
NSW	Policy Framework NSW Restrictive Practices Authorisation Policy NSW Restrictive Practices Procedural Guide	Delegated Panel Interim BSP: Authorisation of RPs can be provided by a senior manager within the NDIS provider, in accordance with policy requirements. Comprehensive BSP: Authorisation by a Restrictive Practice Authorisation Panel (RPA Panel) convened by the implementing provider, comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a senior manager familiar with RP use in the service setting a specialist with expertise in behaviour support an independent person (may be the same person as the behaviour support specialist) The RPA Panel's decision to authorise a regulated restrictive practice is to be unanimous.	E restrictivepracticesauthorisation@dcj.nsw.gov.au W facs.nsw.gov.au/providers/deliver-disability-services/restrictive-practices-authorisation-portal	NDIS (Restrictive Practices and Behaviour Support) Rules 2018 definition of regulated restrictive practices.	Does not include seclusion of children and young people, which is a prohibited practice.	Aversion. Overcorrection. Misuses of medication. Denial of key needs. Unauthorised restrictive practices. Any practice that degrades or demeans, may be reasonably perceived as harassment or vilification, is unethical. Corporal punishment of children, punishment that involves immobilisation, force feeding, depriving of food, humiliation or frightening the child / young person.	NDIS services.		Yes. Consent is required from the person with disability or their legal guardian.	Up to 6 months for interim BSPs. Up to 12 months for comprehensive BSPs.	No.
NT	Legislative Framework National Disability Insurance Scheme (Authorisations) Act 2019	Delegated Individual Senior Practitioner	Department of Health W health.nt.gov.au/professionals/restrictive-practices-authorisation E restrictive-practices-authorisation-unit@nt.gov.au	NDIS (Restrictive Practices and Behaviour Support) Rules 2018 definition of regulated restrictive practices.	Does not include seclusion of children and young people, which is a prohibited practice.	Prone or supine physical restraints. Pin downs, basket holds, take downs. Physical restraints that restrict or affect respiratory and digestive functions. Physical restraints that force the head forward, inflict deliberate pain or discomfort, including hyperextension of the joints or apply pressure on the chest. Aversive practices, overcorrection. Misuse of medication. Denial of key needs. Practices that relate to degradation or vilification, practices that limit access to community. Culture or language. Seclusion of a person under the age of 18 years.	NDIS providers providing NDIS supports to NDIS participants.	Yes.	Authorisation does not require consent.	Up to 6 months for interim BSPs. Up to 12 months for comprehensive BSPs.	Review by CE Department of Health. May be escalated to NT Civil Administrative Tribunal.
QLD	Legislative Framework Disability Services Act 2006 (Qld) Part 6 Guardianship and Administration Act 2000 (Qld) Chapter 5B Public Guardian Act 2014 (Qld) section 12	Delegated Individuals Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> can provide short term authorisation for chemical, mechanical, physical, and environmental restraints Public Guardian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> can provide short term authorisation for the use of seclusion and containment A guardian for restrictive practice (general) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> can provide longer term authorisation for chemical, mechanical or physical restraint and environmental restraints Delegated Panel Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) can authorise seclusion or containment in comprehensive BSPs.	Disability Connect E enquiries_rp@dcsdatsip.qld.gov.au P 1800 902 006 Office of the Public Guardian (for short term approvals) E OPG-PBS@publicguardian.qld.gov.au	NDIS (Restrictive Practices and Behaviour Support) Rules 2018 definition of regulated restrictive practices. Disability Services Act 2006 (Qld) section 144 definition of restrictive practices.	Environmental restraint is referred to as 'restricting access'. Containment means preventing the free exit of an adult with an intellectual or cognitive disability from premises where the adult receives disability services or NDIS supports or services, other than by secluding the adult. Locked doors, gates and windows are exempt from this definition where they are in response to an adult with a skills deficit.	Any use of restrictive practices that is not in compliance with part 6 of the Disability Services Act 2006 (Qld) would be unlawful.	NDIS services and state disability services. Adults who have an intellectual or cognitive disability, and are at risk of harming themselves or others, and receive services from government provided or NDIS funded services.	Yes, for longer term authorisation. Queensland requires a Positive Behaviour Support Plan, with template available from Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services.	Yes, consent is required from QCAT (for containment and/or seclusion) and a guardian for restrictive practice (general) for other types of restrictive practices (chemical, mechanical, physical or environmental restraint).	Up to 12 months for containment and seclusion authorisations. The decision to approve or consent to a restrictive practice must be regularly reviewed, at a minimum of once per year. Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal has review and appeal jurisdiction.	No.
SA	Legislative Framework Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (Part 6A) Disability Inclusion (Restrictive Practices – NDIS) Regulations 2021 Restrictive Practices Guidelines 2022	Delegated Individuals Senior Authorising Officer – SAO (Restrictive Practices Unit) Authorised Program Officers – APO (NDIS implementing providers) for Level 1 RPs only.	Restrictive Practices Unit W rdi.sa.gov.au E DHSRestrictivePracticesUnit@sa.gov.au P 1800 862 004	NDIS (Restrictive Practices and Behaviour Support) Rules 2018 definition of regulated restrictive practices.	RPs are categorised as Level 1 or Level 2. Seclusion can only occur in an emergency situation, is for the purpose of de-escalation / regulation, and can not exceed 2 hours. Environmental restraints that involve locking external gates and doors of residential premises where disability supports are provided on a 24 hour basis can only be authorised by the SAO where the person does not have supports to enable them to safely leave at their discretion.	Prone and supine physical restraints. Physical restraints that restrict or affect respiratory and digestive functions. Physical restraints that force the head forward, inflict deliberate pain or discomfort, including hyperextension of the joints or apply pressure on the chest. Restrictive practices that are implemented for a punitive or aversive purpose.	NDIS providers providing NDIS supports to NDIS participants.	Yes, by NDIS Behaviours Support Practitioner.	Authorisation does not require consent. The consent of legal guardians is influential but does not constitute authorisation.	Up to 8 months from the start date of an interim BSP. Up to 15 months from the start date of a comprehensive BSP.	Yes, APO reviewable decisions may be appealed to the SAO. SAO reviewable decisions may be appealed to the SA Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT).
TAS	Legislative Framework Tasmanian Disability Services Act 2011 (currently under review) Policy Framework Restrictive Interventions in Services for People with Disability Policy 2020	Delegated Individual Department of Premier and Cabinet (Assessed by the Senior Practitioner, authorised by the Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet) Delegated Panel Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (TASCAT)	Senior Practitioner – Department of Premier and Cabinet E seniorpractitioner@disability.dpac.tas.gov.au P 0428 197 474	Environmental restraint (lack of free access to all parts of a person's environment). Personal restriction (physical contact to enable behavioural control, or taking an action that restricts a person's liberty of movement).	Does not include authorisation of chemical restraints.	High Risk Practices as identified by the NDIS Commission.	NDIS and state disability services.	No.	Authorisation does not require consent.	Environmental restrictions can be authorised by the Secretary for up to 90 days, or by TASCAT for up to 2 years after a hearing. Personal restrictions can be authorised by TASCAT for up to 90 days without a hearing, or up to 2 years after a hearing. This is via the Senior Practitioner who must endorse the application.	Appeal to the Secretary, TASCAT, then the Magistrates Court.
VIC	Legislative Framework Disability Act 2006	Delegated Individuals Authorised Program Officers can authorise chemical and environmental restraints. Additional authorisation is required from the Victorian Senior Practitioner for the use of seclusion, physical restraint, mechanical restraint and regulated RPs for people with psychosocial disabilities. In an emergency, the person in charge of a registered NDIS provider can authorise the use of a regulated RP to prevent an imminent risk of serious physical harm.	W dffh.vic.gov.au/victorian-senior-practitioner E victorianseniorpractitioner@dffh.vic.gov.au P (03) 9096 8427	NDIS (Restrictive Practices and Behaviour Support) Rules 2018 definition of regulated restrictive practices.	Detain, in Part 8, means a form of restrictive practice used on a person for the purpose of reducing the risk of violence or the significant risk of serious harm the person presents to another person and includes – (a) physically locking a person in any premises; and (b) constantly supervising or escorting a person to prevent the person from exercising freedom of movement.	Prone or supine restraints. Pin downs, basket holds, take downs. Physical restraints that restrict or affect respiratory and digestive functions. Physical restraints that force the head forward, inflict deliberate pain or discomfort, including hyperextension of the joints or apply pressure on the chest.	NDIS and state disability services.	Yes. Template on RDIS for state-funded services.	Authorisation does not require consent. Administrative model including independent person.	Up to 6 months for interim BSPs and up to 12 months for comprehensive BSPs.	Appeal to the Office of the Senior Practitioner, and Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.
WA	Policy Framework Authorisation of Restrictive Practices in Funded Disability Services Policy 2020	Delegated Panel Quality Assurance Panel Comprised of a senior manager of the Implementing provider and an independent NDIS Behaviour Support Practitioner who is not the author of the BSP.	Department of Communities E arp@communities.wa.gov.au P 1800 176 888 or (08) 6217 6888	NDIS (Restrictive Practices and Behaviour Support) Rules 2018 definition of regulated restrictive practices.		Prone or supine restraints. Pin downs, basket holds, take downs. Physical restraints that restrict or affect respiratory and digestive functions. Physical restraints that force the head forward, inflict deliberate pain or discomfort, including hyperextension of the joints or apply pressure on the chest. Restrictive practices that are implemented for a punitive purpose, including aversive approaches, overcorrection, denial of key needs, practices that relate to degradation and vilification, practices that limit access to culture, response cost strategies.	NDIS and state disability services.	Yes.	Authorisation does not require consent. Principles of presumed capacity, decision making and supported decision making apply.	Up to 5 months from the start of an interim BSP, up to 12 months for a comprehensive BSP, up to the expiration date of the BSP.	No.