



# Client Safety Statement

## **OTFC Group's Responsibility to Client Safety**

At the OTFC Group, all staff prioritise client safety throughout the therapy process. This is done in recognition that clients engage with the service to achieve therapy goals and establish meaningful outcomes.

The OTFC Group endeavours to negate all incidents from occurring within each engagement for clients through:

- Creating and promoting a space that reduces impact of potential incidents and ongoing risk management
- Providing effective training and tools for staff to assess and manage risk throughout service delivery, including understanding and identifying Work Health and Safety considerations
- Establishing processes to evaluate, monitor and improve client safety outcomes

## **Incident Management Process**

Whilst client safety is of utmost importance, due to physical nature of our ASI® therapy framework and therapy spaces, there is the possibility that an incident, including injury/ies, may occur for a client when engaged in therapy at the OTFC Group.

Potential incidents that may occur in the OTFC space include:

- Exercise induced physical stressors such as increased sweating and heart rate that may impact physical state of client
- Physical injury including (but not limited to) fractures, lesions, bruises or strains/sprains, sore muscles
- Behaviour related incidents including (but not limited to) client meltdowns, heightened anxiety related to increased sensory stimuli, clients who engage in behaviours of concern towards other clients or OTs (eg hitting, kicking, pushing, biting), swearing or absconding from space.

If an incident occurs, the OTFC Group will provide first aid, call for medical assistance (if required), and follow the Group Incident Management process.

## **Caregiver/Client Rights and Responsibilities**

The therapeutic relationship is one that is based on the sharing of information to help inform positive outcomes. Please let us know if:

- There are any relevant changes that may impact therapy with the treating Occupational Therapist (OT), such as change in family dynamics, school incidents, medication, poor sleep etc.
- You do not understand the clinical reasoning behind our therapy sessions

Consistent engagement with therapy and correspondence with the OT and billable services that support this will ensure you are getting the most out of this process.

All clients and caregivers are encouraged to make direct decisions and choices within therapy that are supportive of their needs.

## **Assessment of Safety and Duty of Care**

OTFC Group staff have a duty of care to all clients, families, carers and the community. It is expected Occupational Therapists provide a standard of care appropriate to their position that aims to achieve the best outcome for each client, whilst respecting presenting needs. Each OT is expected to:

- Have the appropriate qualifications to work as an OT in Australia, including postgraduate qualifications in ASI and knowledge of functional, social, and mental health OT
- Hold current Professional Indemnity Insurance
- Meet the professional development requirements as set out by OT Australia and AHPRA
- Actively engage in individual and group supervision with senior OTs to continually reflect and improve on their skills
- Methodically prepare for each client on their caseload by reviewing assessment reports and past therapist handover
- Complete risk assessments to ensure risk mitigation can be adhered to. This occurs at the beginning of engagement but is monitored throughout, with reference to change in circumstances (medication etc.)
- Undertake consistent training and review of Work Health and Safety practices to support clients in the space. During therapy, OTs are expected to promote client safety awareness, so they are empowered to make decisions and strengthen their own risk assessing capacity

Activities completed within therapy sessions are identified as being safe and deliverable under professional guidance from the occupational therapist. The OTFC Group is not responsible for activities replicated outside of the clinic that have not been provided to the client under direct recommendation from and supervision by the therapist.

## **NDIS, Behaviour Support and Restrictive Practice**

The NDIS Commission have developed a practice guide to acknowledge that children and young people with disability require special considerations and safeguarding in order to protect them from harm whilst actively promoting their development and upholding their legal and human rights.

Given this directive we are required to have a acknowledge how we manage your child in our therapy space. Even though we are confident we can manage their behaviours and how we physically move them through the activities in the therapy space, there are times they might become dysregulated, and situations might arise where we have to intervene to keep them, others or ourselves safe in this space. In the instance where we need to physically move your child or intervene, without the implementation of a NDIS Approved Behaviour Support Plan, this will be deemed an unauthorised restrictive practice and OTFC Group will log this with the NDIS commission. This may have the Reportable incidents team suggest you get a Behaviour Support Plan that outlines how we as providers need to manage client behaviour in certain situations, abiding by NDIS regulation. If that's the case, the OTFC Group are happy to discuss the next steps within this, however also encourage you to [read all about behaviour support and restrictive practices here.](#)