

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Policy Statement

Burke and Beyond is committed to protecting the privacy and confidentiality of participants, their families, staff and community partners who associate with us. Protecting personal information is paramount to develop and maintain relationships and ensure our business success.

In accordance with the "Enhancing Privacy Protection" Act 2012, Privacy Act 2000, Crimcheck and Health Records Act 2001 Burke and Beyond Association Incorporated is committed to protecting the privacy of personal information which is requested and handled on behalf of the participants and employees. Burke and Beyond Association Incorporated respects the individuals right to privacy, and any personal information provided by the participants and staff to the organisation will be held in confidence.

Objective

Our respect for the right to privacy and confidentiality of personal information is paramount. We have policies and procedures to ensure that all personal information, no matter how or where it is obtained, is handled sensitively, securely, and in accordance with the relevant legislation and standards.

We only collect such information for lawful purposes and as is reasonably necessary. And will ensure reasonable steps are taken to secure personal information in its possession from misuse and loss and from unauthorised access, modification or disclosure.

It is the aim of Burke and Beyond to ensure all people are afforded opportunity to provide informed consent for the sharing and/or use of personal information and images.

Scope

This policy applies to all staff, volunteer, participants, their families and business/community partners who collect, receive and/or have access to personal information about participants and staff.

The terms privacy and confidentiality are often interchangeably used, however they are, from a legal standpoint, very different

- Privacy refers to the freedom from intrusion into one's personal matters, and personal information.
- Confidentiality refers to personal information shared with an official person (attorney, physician, therapist), or an organisation, which cannot be divulged to another party without express consent of the individual.

Policy Details

Collection of Information

Burke and Beyond collect and handle a range of personal information for the purposes of providing services, manage staff or to carry out a statutory function. We also collect some personal information for planning, funding, monitoring, and evaluation of services and functions, however where practicable we will remove identifying details for these purposes. The information will otherwise be restricted to program use and organisational management, unless requested for legal purposes. There are very few situations when information can be shared without obtaining consent. For example, in an emergency situation, we would need to release medical or personal information to aid emergency treatment.

POLICY

Also in certain circumstances, this organisation may be required by law to release personal information. Examples include:

- Reporting of notifiable diseases to the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Providing health records to a court when required in relation to legal proceedings.
- Providing health records to a law enforcement agency in response to a search warrant.

If any of these circumstances apply, Burke and Beyond will advise the person as soon as possible and where appropriate that their information has been released and the purpose of its release.

Burke and Beyond will only collect information which is necessary for us to provide an effective and appropriate service. We will ensure consent of participants, their carers and staff if we collect information relating to them from other sources. Consent will be obtained to use this information for any other purpose.

Data Quality

We endeavour at all times to ensure information held by the organisation about participants, staff or volunteers is accurate and up to date. We encourage individuals and carers to notify us of any inaccurate information so that it can be updated or corrected.

Access to personal information

The participant or their authorised representative, and staff of the organisation may review their personal information or file held by Burke and Beyond by writing a letter to the CEO requesting access.

Security of personal information

At Burke and Beyond, we make every effort to see that personal information remains secure and protected from unauthorised or miss- appropriate access. Information or data is restricted to those who need to know, with the distribution of such information kept to a minimum.

Participant information

Participant information which is not required for day to day support is housed on the client management system and as necessary scanned and uploaded to data base. Hard copies kept in a locked filing cabinet in rooms or in our archives. All personal day to day information on participant's attending Burke and Beyond is held securely under lock and key. Only staff members who work with participants and their managers have access.

Sensitive Information

We will not collect any sensitive information about participants except where directed for a specific purpose or required for support planning. Sensitive information is generally regarded as information relating to things such as: diversity, religion, culture, political viewpoints, sexuality and criminal records. As part of the Commonwealth Minimum Data Set that is conducted annually a requirement to report a person's ethnic background is requested. Other identifiers are not used such as names, phone numbers and addresses.

Openness

- Burke and Beyond is completely open with what we do with personal information as shown by:
 - the contents of this Policy;
 - privacy statements included in correspondence of a personal nature to participants, carers and community partners;
 - Personal Data Management System implemented.

Disposal and Retention

Burke and Beyond will retain and dispose of documents and electronic records in line with "*PROS 08/13 Retention and Disposal authority for the Records of the Disability Services Function*".

Confidential documents in hard copy will be disposed of through a suitable contractor using locked recycle bins.

Breaches of this policy

The organisation will ensure that all staff, participants and members of the Board are aware of the details contained in this policy and that personal information is kept in strict confidence and securely stored. In the first instance, alleged breaches of privacy and confidentiality should be referred to the CEO. If a satisfactory resolution cannot be reached through the feedback and complaints processes, the CEO will report the allegation to the Board of Management and consult with the Health Services Commission to seek advice. If a person is not satisfied with the way Burke and Beyond handles the allegation they may take further action.

ADMINISTRATION:

Continuous Improvement:	Improvements to this document can be made by completing a suggestion and improvement form, attaching any suggested amendments and forwarding to your manager and/or the Operations Manager.				
Standards:	Human Services Standards- Empowerment, Access and Engagement, Well Being, Service Management National Disability Standards- Rights, Individual Outcomes, Feedback and Complaints, Service Access, Service Management				
Internal documents related to this:	Model of Support and Consent policies. Access, Planning, Provision & Review procedures. Participant and Staff Handbooks. Human resource recruitment, induction, orientation, performance and supervision policies/procedures. Position descriptions.				
Position Approving Document:	Chief Executive Officer				
Position Responsible for Document	Chief Executive Officer				
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