

## **Guide**

# **Preventing and responding to work related violence**

## Disclaimer

This publication contains information regarding work health and safety. It includes some of your obligations under the *Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011* – the WHS (NUL) Act – that NT WorkSafe administers. The information provided is a guide only and must be read in conjunction with the appropriate legislation to ensure you understand and comply with your legal obligations.

## Acknowledgement

This guide is based on material produced by HWSA Working Group (ACT, Comcare, NSW, Queensland, SA, Victoria and WA)



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## What is work related violence?

### Definition

Work-related violence is any incident in which a person is abused, threatened or assaulted in circumstances relating to their work. This definition covers a broad range of actions and behaviours that can create a risk to the health and safety of workers. Some industries describe behaviours that fit this definition as 'acting out', 'challenging behaviour' or 'behaviours of concern'.

Examples of work-related violence include:

- biting, spitting, scratching, hitting, kicking
- throwing objects
- pushing, shoving, tripping, grabbing
- verbal threats, armed robbery, sexual assault
- attacking with knives, guns, clubs or any type of weapon.

### Sources of work related violence

This guide covers two types of work-related violence: external violence and service-related violence.

External violence is usually associated with robbery or other crimes and the perpetrator is someone from outside the workplace. It can happen in any industry but often occurs in the retail, hospitality, security, cash-handling, finance and banking industries.

Examples of external violence include:

- a sales assistant, working alone at night, threatened with a knife and robbed
- a construction worker hit by a bottle thrown by an aggravated motorist
- a receptionist experiencing domestic violence, which eventually extends to her workplace via abusive visits and phone calls.

Service-related violence arises when providing services to clients, customers, patients or prisoners. It generally occurs in the hospitality, retail, health, aged care, disability, youth services, education and enforcement industries. Often, service-related violence is unintentional but it does cause harm and is therefore a risk to a worker's health and safety.

Examples of service-related violence include:

- a nurse slapped by a patient, who wakes up in a confused state after surgery
- a teacher pushed over, while intervening in a schoolyard brawl.

## Preventing work related violence

Work-related violence is most common in industries where people work with the public or external clients. It often causes physical or psychological injury, and sometimes can be fatal. It can also impose costs on industries and the community through increased workers compensation and insurance premiums.

Occupations affected by work-related violence include:

- doctors, nurses, ambulance officers, welfare workers, personal carers, hotel receptionists, waiters, housekeeping staff
- police officers, prison guards, sheriffs, teachers, probation officers, debt collectors
- front-office staff, call centre staff, cashiers, security guards
- bus drivers, taxi drivers, couriers, pilots, cabin crew
- sales people, those who work alone or in remote locations, shift workers.

## Your obligations

Work health and safety laws are designed to ensure the health and safety of workers and others in the workplace. 'Health' includes physical and psychological health.

## PCBU duties

A person who conducts a business or undertaking (PCBU) has a primary duty of care to ensure the health and safety of their workers and others in the workplace. They must provide and maintain, so far as is reasonably practicable, a safe and healthy working environment and they must consult with their workers – and with other PCBUs when applicable – about health and safety issues.

## Worker duties

A worker must take reasonable care of their own health and safety in the workplace, and the health and safety of others who may be affected by their actions. They must also cooperate with reasonable instructions given by the PCBU.

## Consultation

Consulting with workers and other PCBUs about work-related violence should occur when:

- identifying risks in the workplace
- making decisions about ways to prevent and manage work-related violence risks
- making decisions about information and training on work-related violence
- witnessing signs that work-related violence is affecting the health and safety of workers
- proposing changes that may affect the health and safety of workers.

Detailed information about consultation is available in the Work health and safety consultation, cooperation and coordination code of practice at [www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au](http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au).

## Risk management

Managing the risks of work-related violence is a planned, systematic process. It involves:

- identifying hazards and assessing risks to determine:
  - what could harm workers
  - how likely it is that harm may occur – e.g. not very likely, very likely
  - how serious the harm could be – e.g. minor, serious, fatal.
- controlling risks, which focuses on determining the most effective risk control measures for any given circumstance
- reviewing and improving the effectiveness of control measures, to ensure prevention measures are working as planned and, when necessary, improved.

Consulting with workers, health and safety representatives (HSRs) and health and safety committees (HSCs) is required at each step of the risk management process. Drawing on the experience, knowledge and ideas of workers is more likely to result in the identification of all hazards and the selection of effective control measures.

For more information on the risk management process, see the [How to manage work health and safety risks code of practice](#).

## Identifying hazards and assessing risks

Work-related violence hazards generally arise as a result of:

- the work environment
- the work tasks and how they are carried out
- the way work is designed and managed.

Typical hazards that give rise to work-related violence include:

- handling cash, drugs or valuables
- working alone, working in isolation, working in the community, working at night
- providing services to distressed, angry or incarcerated people
- enforcement activities.

Sometimes, a worker may be deterred from reporting a violent incident because:

- it is thought to be 'part of the job' and nothing can be done about it
- only serious incidents are reported
- there is a perception that nothing will happen if the incident is reported
- the worker believes they will be blamed for the incident
- the reporting process is time-consuming and complex
- they just want to forget about it.

To determine if violence is a potential hazard in the workplace:

- review the hazard and incident reports
- talk with HSRs, HSCs, workers, customers and clients
- walk-through and inspect the workplace
- review workers compensation claims
- refer to industry standards and guidelines
- examine local crime statistics.

To determine the likelihood that someone will be harmed by work-related violence, ask yourself:

- Has it happened before, either in this workplace or somewhere else? If it has happened, how often does it happen?
- What are the consequences? Will it cause minor or serious injury, or death?

## Controlling the risks

There are many ways to control the risk of work-related violence but some measures are more effective than others. Risk control measures should be selected on the basis of highest protection and most reliability.

The most effective control measures eliminate the hazard and associated risk – e.g. eliminate cash handling in a public car park by introducing an electronic payment system.

If it is not reasonably practicable to eliminate the hazard, the risk should be minimised, perhaps by implementing a range of control measures – e.g. in a bank, use engineering controls, such as anti-jump barriers, CCTV and other security measures, as well as administrative controls, such as cash-handling procedures (administrative controls are designed to minimise exposure to a hazard – they rely on human behaviour, are open to error and are the least effective way of minimising risks).

Control measures must eliminate or minimise the risk – and must not introduce a new hazard.

## Physical work environment and security

The physical environment can affect the likelihood of violent incidents occurring and the ease with which people can respond to those incidents. The following control measures are the most reliable and will provide the highest protection for workers.

Multiple measures should be used.

- The building is secure, maintained and fit for purpose.
- Security measures are used – e.g. CCTV, anti-jump screens, timer safes.
- Where possible, workers are separated from the public – e.g. with protective barriers or screens.
- Access to the premises and vulnerable areas is appropriately controlled.
- No public access to the premises when people work alone or at night.
- Workers can see who is coming into the premises and can restrict access when necessary.
- Communication and alarm systems are in place, regularly maintained and tested.

- Cash, valuables and drugs are stored securely.
- Cash-handling procedures are developed and implemented – e.g. electronic funds transfer only, locked drop safes, carry small amounts of cash, vary banking times, 'limited cash held' signs displayed.
- Where possible, limit the amount of cash, valuables and drugs held on the premises.
- Workplace uses safe glass – e.g. laminated, toughened or perspex (in picture frame and mirrors also).
- No access to dangerous implements or objects that could be thrown or used to injure someone.
- Internal and external lighting assists visibility.
- Workers and others have a safe retreat to avoid violence.
- Furniture and partitions are arranged to allow good visibility of service areas and avoid restrictive movement.
- Appropriate signage to direct clients and visitors.

## Work systems

Work systems and procedures are administrative controls and should be part of the overall workplace prevention strategies. They are insufficient on their own to reduce the risk of violence and should be used together with control measures relating to the physical work environment and security.

- Have procedures for working in isolation and in uncontrolled environments.
- A policy states appropriate action will be taken to protect workers and others from violence.
- Responsible service of alcohol policy and practices is used.
- Have procedures for opening and closing the business.
- Workers are monitored when working in the community or away from the workplace – e.g. a supervisor checks in regularly throughout the shift.
- A system to map and record areas of concern for safe access and egress.
- Regular handover of information occurs – e.g. with workers, other agencies, carers and service providers.
- Process in place to assess client compatibility and suitability.
- Work practices are evaluated to see if they contribute to aggression.
- Behaviours and their triggers are identified, and strategies to address them are implemented.
- Identification system is in place – e.g. workers and authorised visitors are clearly identified.
- Understanding client condition/disability/triggers/care and behaviour management plans.
- Behaviour and treatment programs are reviewed after incidents or changes in behaviour.
- Where client is known to have a history of aggression, a management plan is in place that has been developed in consultation with appropriately qualified people.
- Policy on the ongoing treatment of clients known to be aggressive or abusive, such as treatment contracts.
- Work practices are evaluated to see if they contribute to aggression.

## Training

Training should not be viewed as the main way to control the risk of work-related violence, but rather as part of an overall approach.

Training can be provided in the following areas:

- violence prevention measures (part of the induction training package before starting work)
- workplace policy and procedures, including emergency response
- de-escalating aggression – e.g. identify signs of aggression, verbal and non-verbal communication strategies, encourage reasoning, listen carefully, acknowledge concerns
- communication skills
- situational risk assessment – e.g. when visiting homes or working off-site
- positive behaviour strategies and managing behaviours of concern.

## Reviewing risk control measures

A review of risk control measures should occur:

- at regular intervals – e.g. annually
- when workers' or HSR feedback indicates risk control measures are ineffective or not as effective as they should be
- when an HSR or HSC requests a review
- when there have been significant changes in the work environment or work tasks
- after incidents.

A review of risk control measures can include an examination of:

- the physical environment
- work functions and tasks
- consultation processes
- prevention measures
- issue resolution procedures.

Improving the effectiveness of risk control measures can arise with:

- changes to the physical environment
- new working procedures
- additional training.

## Case studies (preventing)

### Social worker

A community services organisation employs workers who go to households to assess their client's welfare. They often work alone. Their clients suffer financial hardship, health and behavioural issues, or drug and alcohol problems. Before visits, each client is sent a written report that outlines certain conditions, including requirements for a safe physical layout.

Sam arrives at a client's house and finds an untidy front yard with odds and ends strewn across the lawn. A barking dog prowls the yard, unchained, and visitors come and go on a regular basis. Sam phones a supervisor at head office to voice her concerns. The visit is cancelled due to the unsafe conditions.

The supervisor phones the client to advise them of the cancelled visit and makes a new appointment after the client's assurance that the yard will be cleaned, the dog chained and other safety issues rectified.

### Call centre staff

Call centre staff are regularly exposed to verbal threats and abuse from their customers. The phones ring constantly and during peak periods there are numerous missed calls and queues of frustrated callers. Not surprisingly, staff turnover at the call centre is high, morale is low, and staff shortages exacerbate the problem of missed calls and long queues.

In consultation with workers, the following areas are identified for improvement:

- Reduce waiting time and missed calls.
- Escalate problem calls to senior staff.
- Regulate calls taken by each worker.
- Training.

The following short-term risk controls are then implemented:

- 'Relief' workers are trained to take calls, to improve waiting times and reduce missed calls.
- New workers are encouraged to escalate problem calls to senior staff.
- Workers set their own pace, with less emphasis on the number of calls taken.
- Training in conflict resolution and listening skills.

The following long-term risk controls are also identified:

- Improve access to 'relief' workers.
- Transfer calls to other departments when queues are long.

Implementing these controls resulted in:

- a faster response to calls and less waiting time
- a decrease in missed calls and fewer disgruntled customers
- greater engagement and productivity of workers
- improved communication with customers.

## Responding to work related violence

Responses to work related violence will vary depending on the nature and severity of the incident. Systems should be in place that document what to do at the time of, and immediately after, an incident.

### At the time of an incident

During a violent incident, you should:

- set off the duress alarm
- implement the internal emergency response
- implement the external emergency response
- use calm verbal and non-verbal communication
- use verbal de-escalation and distraction techniques
- seek support from other staff
- ask the aggressor to leave the premises
- retreat to a safe location.

### Immediately after an incident

Immediately after a violent incident, you should:

- ensure that everyone is safe
- provide first aid or urgent medical attention where necessary
- provide individual support where required, including practical, emotional and social support
- report what happened, who was affected, and who was involved.

You must also notify your work health and safety regulator if the incident results in:

- a fatality
- someone requiring immediate hospital treatment
- amputation
- a serious head or eye injury
- a serious burn
- de-gloving or scalping
- a spinal injury
- loss of a bodily function
- serious lacerations.

The bulletin [Work Health and Safety – Incident notification](#) provides further information.

## Incident management

A response system should address immediate safety issues, medical treatment, internal reporting and notifications required by external agencies, such as the police and work health and safety regulator.

Incident management policies and procedures must be developed and implemented in consultation with HSRs and workers who are likely to be directly affected by work-related violence.

These policies and procedures should include:

- emergency and evacuation plans
- reporting procedures and incident investigation
- worker supervision and monitoring
- sanctions against aggressors – e.g. referral for clinical review
- guidelines on communicating with other agencies – e.g. police, ambulance
- testing and maintenance of communication and duress equipment
- regular emergency drills
- training, to ensure workers are familiar with policies and procedures
- site preservation requirements.

## Incident investigation

All contributing factors should be identified when investigating a violent incident. The investigation will help determine how to prevent an incident recurring and how to respond to future incidents. Investigators should be impartial and have appropriate knowledge and experience in work health and safety issues.

## Investigation principles

### Investigate as soon as possible after the incident

Collect evidence when it is still available, when the people involved can remember events and the order in which they happened.

### Collect information

Find out:

- what happened
- where it happened – e.g. the physical location and environment
- why it happened.

Collect information by conducting interviews and reviewing written reports, patient histories, training records, workplace plans and before-and-after photographs.

### Look for causes

Did the response systems work? Look at all aspects of the incident – the environment, equipment, people, responses.

### Review risk control measures

Do the risk control measures work as intended? How could they be improved?

### Identify new control measures

The main reason for conducting an investigation is to prevent future incidents. The investigation should lead to improved preventative measures and response processes.

### Outcomes

The results of an investigation should be documented and communicated to all relevant parties, such as HSRs, HSCs and affected workers. The investigation report should outline what happened, what has been done, and what will be done.

## Case studies (responding)

### Service station attendant

In a suburban service station, a night attendant works alone. The facility is old and poorly lit, and takings are kept in the cash register (there is no safe). One night, an armed robber assaults the attendant and steals all the cash from the till.

The incident investigation identifies a number of risk factors:

- working alone and at night
- poor visibility inside and outside the service station
- cash handling, high cash volumes and set cash transfer times
- **workers trapped in unsafe situations.**

#### Short-term risk controls

Following the investigation, changes are made to the physical environment and work practices as follows:

- night opening hours are reduced and a night-time security patrol is introduced
- wires are installed at the counter to separate customers from workers
- the alarm system is upgraded
- a time-locked safe is installed
- cash-handling procedures are implemented.

#### Long-term risk controls

Six months after the incident, further changes are made as follows:

- a service window is installed for night transactions
- pay-at-the-pump facilities are used after 6pm
- internal and external lighting is improved
- security cameras are installed (and customers know they are being recorded)
- improved barriers are installed at the counter.

### Parking inspectors

Local council parking inspectors often work alone and in unfamiliar working environments. They are often threatened, sometimes assaulted, when issuing parking fines. The council, in consultation with its HSRs and HSCs, completes a risk assessment which identifies the following risk factors:

- inspectors work alone and sometimes at night
- work locations are unpredictable and uncontrolled
- threats are more common when inspectors enforce parking laws near pubs and clubs.

#### Short-term risk controls

After the risk assessment, changes to work practices are made as follows:

- night patrols are cancelled
- inspectors work in pairs during all shifts
- supervisors are contacted on a regular basis during all shifts

- inspectors are trained in recognising signs of aggression and defusing conflict.

### Long-term risk controls

The council implements technological advances, such as:

- licence recognition, which allows infringement notices to be issued by post
- parking bays with sensors, to track parking times.

## Violence prevention policy

A violence prevention policy should be developed in consultation with HSRs, HSCs, workers and managers. It should be displayed in a prominent place and should include:

- **A purpose statement**
  - This workplace policy was developed with the intent of providing a safe and healthy workplace where workers are not subjected to aggression and/or violence.
  - The PCBU is committed to supporting workers who are exposed to, or have witnessed, aggression and violence.
- **Objectives**
  - Aggression and violence are not acceptable and will not be tolerated at this workplace.
  - Appropriate action will be taken if aggression or violence occurs.
  - Reporting incidents is very important. Incidents will be investigated to identify all causes and to work out how to prevent it from happening again.
- **Responsibilities**
  - Outline the roles and responsibilities of relevant people – e.g. senior managers, workers, emergency response coordinator, security.
- **Risk management**
  - This policy is supported by the hazard identification, risk assessment and risk control of work-related violence.
- **References and related documents**
  - Reference to all relevant documents and sources used in the development of this policy.
- **Enforcement**
  - The policy is endorsed by the board, chief executive officer, and work health and safety committee.
- **Approval and review date**
  - The date this policy was approved and the date it will be reviewed – e.g. 12 months after approval.

## Further information

Work-related violence can fall within the scope of various state and federal laws. Physical assault, robbery, sexual assault and threats to harm someone should be referred to the police.

Obligations under the work health and safety laws are outlined in the following publications:

- [Work Health and Safety \(National Uniform Legislation\) Act 2011](#)
- [Work Health and Safety \(National Uniform Legislation\) Regulations 2011](#)
- [Work health and safety consultation, cooperation and coordination](#) code of practice
- [How to manage work health and safety risks](#) code of practice
- [Incident notification bulletin](#)

## Appendix 1 – Work-related violence risk assessment tool

Hazard	Risk factors	Measures to control risk	
Handling cash, drugs &/or valuables	<p>Business is located in a high crime area; few workers on site; working alone; number of ways to exit the site; restricted observation by passers-by; lack of visibility from outside; visibility of alarms &amp; security devices;</p> <p><b>Those risks are increased by ...</b></p> <p>Ready access to ways to escape; armed offender/s; frequency of incidents; Lack of security measures; minimal protection for workers;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• building is secure, maintained and fit for purpose</li> <li>• where possible, workers are separated from the public; (e.g. with protective barriers/screens)</li> <li>• access to the premises and vulnerable areas is appropriately controlled</li> <li>• no public access to the premises when people work alone or at night</li> <li>• workers can see who is coming into the premises &amp; can restrict access when concerned</li> <li>• security measures are used (e.g.: CCTV/anti-jump screens; drop/timer safes)</li> <li>• communication &amp; alarm systems are in place (regularly maintained &amp; tested)</li> <li>• cash, valuables and drugs are stored securely</li> <li>• where possible, limit amount of cash, valuables and drugs held on the premises</li> <li>• workplace only uses safe glass, e.g.: laminated, toughened, perspex (including picture frames, mirrors etc.)</li> <li>• no access to dangerous implements and/or objects that could be thrown or used to injure workers</li> <li>• internal &amp; external lighting assists visibility</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clear signage allows the public/clients to easily find their way</li> <li>• identification system is in place (workers &amp; authorised visitors are clearly identified)</li> <li>• service areas have good visibility</li> <li>• safe room/place is provided (for workers &amp; others to retreat to)</li> <li>• furniture and partitions are arranged to prevent people being trapped &amp; allow good visibility of service areas</li> <li>• cash handling procedures (electronic funds transactions only; locked drop safes, carrying small amounts of cash, varying time that banking is done; signs state limited cash held)</li> <li>• workplace policy states appropriate action will be taken to protect workers and others from violence</li> <li>• workers are inducted on violence prevention measures before starting work</li> <li>• workers are trained in workplace policy &amp; procedures (including emergency response)</li> <li>• workers are trained in de-escalating aggression (signs of aggression; verbal and non-verbal communication strategies; encouraging reasoning; listening carefully; acknowledging concerns)</li> <li>• workers receive communication skills training</li> <li>• workers receive regular support &amp; supervision</li> </ul>	

<p>Working alone/working in isolated or remote areas/ working off site and working in the community</p> <p>Note – remote or isolated work, in relation to a worker, means work that is isolated from the assistance of other persons because of location, time or the nature of the work.</p>	<p>Lack of information; working in a high crime area lack of: visibility from outside, security measures</p> <p><b>Those risks are increased by ...</b></p> <p>armed offender/s; frequency of incidents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• building is secure, maintained and fit for purpose</li> <li>• where possible, workers are separated from the public; (e.g. with protective barriers/screens)</li> <li>• no public access to the premises when people work alone or at night</li> <li>• internal &amp; external lighting assists visibility</li> <li>• communication &amp; alarm systems are in place (regularly maintained &amp; tested)</li> <li>• operational procedures and back up are in place for when workers are alone</li> <li>• or isolated</li> <li>• workers are monitored when working in the community or away from the workplace (e.g.: supervisor checks in regularly throughout the shift)</li> <li>• workers are rotated into alternate duties to reduce exposure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• workers are inducted on violence prevention measures before starting work</li> <li>• workers are trained in workplace policy &amp; procedures (including emergency response)</li> <li>• understanding client condition/ disability/triggers/care &amp; behaviour management plans</li> <li>• workers are trained in de-escalating aggressive behaviour (signs of aggression; verbal and non-verbal communication strategies; encouraging reasoning; listening carefully; acknowledging concerns)</li> <li>• workers are trained in situational risk assessment (for visiting homes or working off site)</li> <li>• workers receive communication skills training</li> <li>• workers receive regular support &amp; supervision</li> </ul>
<p>Working in unpredictable environments</p>	<p>Lack of information; working in a high crime area</p> <p>Those risks are increased by ... Lack of security measures; Lack of supervision; lack of monitoring systems; armed offender/s; frequency of incidents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• procedures and back up are in place for workers working alone or in isolation</li> <li>• communication &amp; alarm systems are in place (regularly maintained &amp; tested)</li> <li>• regular handover and information exchange occurs (with workers, other agencies, carers and service providers)</li> <li>• workplace policy states appropriate action will be taken to protect workers and others from violence</li> <li>• workers are monitored when working in</li> <li>• unpredictable environments (e.g.: supervisor checks in regularly during the shift)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• workers receive regular support &amp; supervision</li> <li>• workers are inducted on violence prevention measures before starting work</li> <li>• workers are trained in workplace policy &amp; procedures (including emergency response)</li> <li>• workers are trained in situational risk assessment (for visiting homes or working off site)</li> <li>• workers are trained in de-escalating aggression (signs of aggression; verbal and non-verbal communication strategies; encouraging reasoning; listening carefully; acknowledging concerns)</li> <li>• workers receive communication skills training</li> </ul>
<p>Working at night or</p>	<p>lack of: security</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• building is secure, maintained and fit for purpose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• workplace policy outline that appropriate action will be</li> </ul>

outside business hours	<p>measures &amp; alarms; visibility from outside;</p> <p><b>Those risks are increased by ...</b></p> <p>Lack of security measures; Ready access to ways to escape; Lack of supervision; lack of monitoring systems; armed offender/s; frequency of incidents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• where possible, workers are separated from the public; (e.g. with protective barriers/screens)</li> <li>• there is no public access to the premises when people work at night</li> <li>• internal &amp; external lighting assists visibility</li> <li>• service areas have good visibility</li> <li>• there is a safe room/place to retreat for worker &amp; others safety</li> <li>• communication &amp; alarm systems are in place (regularly maintained &amp; tested)</li> <li>• furniture and partitions are arranged to prevent people being trapped &amp; allow clear visibility of service areas</li> <li>• cash handling procedures (electronic funds transactions only; locked drop safes, carrying small amounts of cash, varying time that banking is done; signs state limited cash held)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• taken to protect workers and others from violence</li> <li>• responsible serving of alcohol policy &amp; practices are used</li> <li>• operational procedures for opening and closing the business</li> <li>• skill level, training and experience of workers is appropriate for duties allocated to them</li> <li>• back up is in place for workers working alone or in isolation</li> <li>• workers are inducted on violence prevention measures before starting work</li> <li>• workers trained on workplace policy &amp; procedures (including emergency response)</li> <li>• workers are trained in de-escalating aggressive behaviour (signs of aggression; verbal and non-verbal communication strategies; encouraging reasoning; listening carefully; acknowledging concerns)</li> <li>• workers receive communication skills training</li> <li>• workers receive regular support &amp; supervision</li> </ul>
Providing care or services to people who may be: distressed; afraid; ill; angry; or incarcerated, or have unreasonable expectations of what an organisation and/or worker can provide them	<p>intoxicated or affected by drugs; prolonged and untreated pain, unwelcome and coercive treatment; frequency of incidents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• building is secure, maintained and fit for purpose</li> <li>• facility has safe glass only, e.g.: laminated, toughened, perspex (including picture frames, mirrors etc.)</li> <li>• signage directs and assists clients and visitors find their way</li> <li>• waiting rooms and reception areas are clean and well maintained.</li> <li>• internal &amp; external lighting assists visibility</li> <li>• service areas have good visibility for workers</li> <li>• facility has a safe room/place to retreat for worker &amp; others safety</li> <li>• process in place for client compatibility &amp; suitability assessment</li> <li>• client intake assessments include screening for aggression</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• behaviour and treatment programs are reviewed after incidents and/ or changes in behaviour</li> <li>• where client is known to have history of aggression, a management plan is in place that has been developed in consultation with appropriately qualified people</li> <li>• policy on the ongoing treatment of clients known to be aggressive or abusive, such as: treatment contracts</li> <li>• workers are trained in de-escalating aggressive behaviour (signs of aggression; verbal and non-verbal communication strategies; encouraging reasoning; listening carefully; acknowledging concerns)</li> <li>• workers are trained in situational risk assessment (for visiting homes or working off site)</li> <li>• ratio of workers to clients is adequate for the level of care needed &amp; take into account the range of activities undertaken (such as: peak periods; transfers; meal times, night work; sleep-overs; emergency responses;</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• regular handover and information exchange with workers, other agencies, carers and service providers</li> <li>• workplace policy states appropriate action will be taken to protect workers and others from violence</li> <li>• no access to dangerous implements and/or objects that could be thrown or used to injure workers</li> <li>• structured and planned activities for clients</li> <li>• there is a safe room/place to retreat for worker &amp; other client safety</li> <li>• communication &amp; alarm systems are in place (regularly maintained &amp; tested)</li> <li>• furniture and partitions are arranged to prevent people being trapped &amp; allow good visibility of service areas</li> <li>• workers are trained in positive behaviour strategies and managing behaviours of concern</li> <li>• work practices are evaluated to see if they contribute to aggression</li> <li>• behaviours and what triggers them are identified – strategies to avoid/address behaviours and</li> <li>• triggers are implemented</li> </ul>	<p>acute care/crisis; respite)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• where possible workers are permanent or regular employees who are known to the clients and workplace</li> <li>• workers are inducted on violence prevention measures before starting work</li> <li>• workers are rotated into alternate duties to reduce exposure</li> <li>• procedures and back up are in place for workers working alone or in isolation</li> <li>• workers trained on workplace policy &amp; procedures (including emergency response)</li> <li>• workers receive communication skills training</li> <li>• workers receive regular support &amp; supervision</li> </ul>
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<p>Service methods cause frustration, resentment, or misunderstanding</p>	<p>Waiting; anxiety; overcrowding; communication difficulties certain behavioural and/or psychiatric conditions</p> <p><b>Those risks are increased by ...</b> Person/client is intoxicated or affected by drugs; unwelcome and coercive treatment; frequency of incidents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• building is secure, maintained and fit for purpose</li> <li>waiting rooms and reception areas are clean and well maintained.</li> <li>• internal &amp; external lighting assists visibility</li> <li>• service areas have good visibility</li> <li>• signage directs and assists clients and the public to find their way</li> <li>• there is a safe room/place to retreat for worker &amp; other client safety</li> <li>• communication &amp; alarm systems are in place (regularly maintained &amp; tested)</li> <li>• furniture and partitions are arranged to prevent people being trapped &amp; allow good visibility of service areas</li> <li>• workplace policy states appropriate action will be taken to protect workers and others from violence</li> </ul>	<p>work practices are evaluated to see if they contribute to aggression</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• skill level, training and experience of workers is appropriate for duties allocated to them</li> <li>• workers are rotated into alternate duties to reduce exposure</li> <li>• workers are inducted on violence prevention measures before starting work</li> <li>• workers trained on workplace policy &amp; procedures (including emergency response)</li> <li>• workers are trained in de-escalating aggressive behaviour (signs of aggression; verbal and non-verbal communication strategies; encouraging reasoning; listening carefully; acknowledging concerns)</li> <li>• workers receive communication skills training</li> <li>workers receive regular support &amp; supervision</li> </ul>
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Enforcement activities	<p>Working in unpredictable environments</p> <p><b>Those risks are increased by ...</b></p> <p>Lack of supervision; lack of monitoring systems;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• communication &amp; alarm systems are in place (regularly maintained &amp; tested)</li> <li>• operational procedures for working in isolation &amp; uncontrolled environments</li> <li>• workers are monitored when working in the community or away from the workplace (e.g.: supervisor checks in regularly throughout the shift)</li> <li>• procedures and back up are in place for workers working alone or in isolation</li> <li>• system to map &amp; record areas/places of concern workers receive regular support &amp; supervision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• workers are rotated into alternate duties to reduce exposure</li> <li>• workers are inducted on violence prevention measures before starting work</li> <li>• workers trained on workplace policy &amp; procedures (including emergency response)</li> <li>• workers are trained in de-escalating aggressive behaviour (signs of aggression; verbal and non-verbal communication strategies; encouraging reasoning; listening carefully; acknowledging concerns)</li> <li>• workers are trained in situational risk assessment (for visiting homes or working off site)</li> <li>• workers receive communication skills training</li> </ul>
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