



3. Behaviour Reporting

(Developmental Service Delivery Component *Three*)

When supporting individuals with complex psychosocial and other cognitive disability within a supported independent living (SIL) service, reporting properly on incidences of behaviour becomes critically important.

Behaviour as a Measure of SIL Performance

When supporting participants with complex cognitive and psychosocial disability or a combination of psychosocial and disability related health support needs, it is most frequently disability related behaviour that is the reason the individual in question is in a SIL in the first place, or more accurately, the risk the behaviour places on the individual themselves and others (staff, stakeholders, members of the general community) because of their disability. Therefore it can be said that the number or quantity of incidences over time is the measure of a SIL's performance.

Behaviour Incidents Qualified

However the value of knowing the quantity of the number of incidents over time is only valid if an incident is qualified by certain conditions that makes the occurrence eligible for inclusion as an incident. That condition, as mentioned in the paragraph above, is risk. It is risk associated with the disability related behaviour in addition to dysfunctional outcomes that creates the need for 24/7 support. Risk to self or others if left unchecked can result in catastrophic outcomes. Therefore *only* behaviours associated with risk are reported as incidents. The following list taken from the Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria (2016) further qualifies behavioural incidents.

1. Absconding	7. Intentional & Excessive Risk Taking
2. Aggression – Verbal with Threats	8. Property Damage
3. Aggression – physical	9. Psychosis (behaviours suggesting potential psychosis)
4. Arson	10. Sexualised
5. Disruption – deliberate disruption of services / organisation	11. Suicidal Ideation / Self Harm / Attempting Suicide
6. Drug seeking / Using	12. Theft

This list is not exhaustive. Other occurrences may also qualify as a behavioural incident so long as the condition of risk is present. To help ascertain whether or not an occurrence qualifies, Nganana has devised a definition of a behavioural incident as being:



“an episode of behaviour that has resulted in the need for emergency services (including mental health emergency), or if continued unabated, would reasonably result in the need for emergency services”.

This is a very important distinction, the difference between behaviour of risk and behaviour that while also of a dysfunctional nature, does not necessarily place the individual or others at risk. An obvious example is someone who spends excessive time in an old car body in the back yard pretending to drive may present as dysfunctional, however where the same individual repeatedly attempts to take someone’s vehicle and drive it on the road without necessary skill or licence poses a significant risk to themselves and the community. Another example; shouting at someone, or becoming chronically disengaged, or refusing to shower are all dysfunctional behaviours of note to those generating support plans designed to enhance independent living and community engagement. On the other hand threatening someone with violence if perceived needs are not met, becoming disengaged because of substance abuse, or refusing essential health care are behaviours that place the individual and others at significant risk. Dysfunctional behaviour while of concern due to its ability to compromise a persons ability to live independently, does not necessarily mean they need to live in a SIL. On the other hand incidents of behaviour, if related to an individual’s disability, can be a significant factor in the assessment and decision making determining SIL eligibility. Therefore incidents of behaviour of risk are recorded as an incident of behaviour. These need to be recorded separately as behavioural incidents, with the data therein collected and collated separately from dysfunctional behaviour.

- [see website link “Nganana_Behaviour Incident Form”]

Reporting on Dysfunctional Behaviour

While not qualifying as behavioural incidents, recording and reporting other types of dysfunctional behaviour is still very important.

Dysfunctional behaviour reporting is usually done on an ABC chart, so called due to ABC being an acronym for Antecedent, Behaviour, and Consequence, the three primary headings within an ABC Chart format - [see website link “Nganana_ABC Chart”]. Nganana has developed it’s own ABC Chart template and reporting process in preparation for the input of the positive behaviour support practitioners. Along with behavioural incidents, ABC Charts provide the additional essential information behaviour support practitioners need to do their job.