



CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A conflict of interest occurs when a social worker's services to or relationship with a client is compromised, or might be compromised, because of decisions or actions in relation to another client, colleague, him or her self, or some other third party (Reamer, 1998).

Gifis (1991) describes a conflict of interest as a situation where regard for one duty leads to disregard of another (Gifis 1991, in Reamer, 1998, p45).

Potential or actual conflicts of interest are very complex situations for social workers, or for any professional for that matter. Conflicts of interest can occur in many different contexts.

They may occur in the context of a social worker's relationships with a client/multiple clients in direct practice or could be in the context of a social worker working in management, supervision, policy, research or community development, to name a few.

When faced with a potential or actual conflict of interest, it is important that social workers consider, even if they feel that they can manage the potential conflict or feel that there are no significant issues, the perception that others (clients, colleagues, the community, employers etc.) may have when/if a conflict of interest comes to light. It is important, therefore, that social workers are proactive in discussing any potential/actual conflicts of interests with supervisors or employers so that all possible outcomes and interpretations of actions and situations can be explored. There have been instances where complaints have been made against social workers when they have failed to consider all possible outcomes and failed to consider how a seemingly innocent action could be perceived in quite the opposite way by another person.



NDIS CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A conflict of interest occurs when a person or organisation has an opportunity to put what will benefit them (their own interests) ahead of the interests of the person they are supporting.

These conflicts may be:

- actual – it happened or is happening
- potential – it might happen
- perceived – it seems like it has happened or might happen.

Conflicts of interest that are not managed effectively can pose risks to a participant's safety and limit their choice and control. Conflicts of interest can also pose a risk to providers and the sustainability and integrity of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Description of possible conflict of interest:

Awen Case Management & Advocacy declares that:

No risk of conflict of interest identified

I have considered the nature of the project/task, considered my professional duties and personal interests and declare that to the best of my knowledge no actual, potential or perceived conflict risk of exists.

Risk of conflict of interest identified

I have considered the nature of the project/task, considered my professional duties and personal interests and consider that an actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest risk exists.

**Participant/Carer/Parent/Caseworker -
Please check which options below apply:**

- Awen Case Management & Advocacy has discussed with me the potential of a conflict of interest.
- Awen Case Management & Advocacy has provided me with options for additional providers.
- Awen Case Management & Advocacy has discussed the need for quarterly reviews of any conflict of interest.
- I agree to continue supports with Awen Case Management & Advocacy and manage the conflict of interest.

Participant Name:

Date:

Signed by:

Signature:

More information can be found at:

<https://www.ndis.gov.au/providers/provider-compliance/conflicts-interest-ndis-provider-market>



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