



What is the Serious Incident Response Scheme?

Information for home services care recipients

1800 951 822
agedcarequality.gov.au



The Serious Incident Response Scheme (or SIRS) helps reduce the risk of abuse and neglect for people who receive aged care.

On 1 December 2022, the SIRS was extended from residential aged care to include home care and flexible aged care delivered in a home or community setting.

What home services providers must do

Your provider must record all incidents that occur when delivering aged care and services in their incident management system. This includes recording an incident that nearly happened or when someone suspects that something happened. This is so they can learn from the incident and improve their practices so that incidents don't occur again.

Your home services provider must notify the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (the Commission) of certain reportable incidents that

happen while delivering your care and services. The Commission will determine if any regulatory action should be taken.

What is a reportable incident?

A serious incident your provider must report to the Commission could be:

- **Unreasonable use of force** – like kicking, punching or rough handling
- **Unlawful sexual contact or inappropriate sexual conduct** – like stalking, making sexual advances or unwanted sexual touching
- **Psychological or emotional abuse** – like yelling, name calling or ignoring
- **Stealing or financial coercion by a staff member** – like stealing money or pressuring you to give money
- **Neglect** – like not giving you the care you need to stay well
- **Inappropriate use of restrictive practices** – like using physical force or medication to restrict your freedom or movement

- **Missing consumers** – where a care recipient goes missing
- **Unexpected death** – like someone dying unexpectedly because they did not receive proper care and services.

What should I expect from my provider?

If an incident like this happens to you while you are receiving care, staff must:

- check that you are okay, talk to you about what happened and work with you to resolve the issue
- record all incidents in their incident management system
- report serious incidents to the Commission.

Your aged care rights

You have the right to safe, quality care and to live without abuse or neglect. It's always okay to speak up if you are concerned about an issue or incident.

Any incidents or concerns can be raised by you, your representative or by staff to your home services provider. You should not be treated differently if you raise a concern or exercise any of your rights under the [Charter of Aged Care Rights](#).

Where can I go for help?

If you do not feel comfortable talking to your provider or were not satisfied when you did, you can contact the Commission or an advocacy service for help and support.

Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission

You can raise concerns or make a complaint about the aged care services you receive by calling the Commission on **1800 951 822 (free call)**. You can also contact us by [online form, email or post](#).

Translation services

If translation services are required, call Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on **131 450**, and ask the operator to contact us.

Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN)

An advocate is an independent person who helps you understand your rights and supports you to sort out your aged care concerns. They can help you talk to your provider about a problem or raise a complaint with us. This free and confidential help is available from the Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN). Call OPAN on **1800 700 600 (free call)** or visit opan.org.au.

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Phone

1800 951 822



Web

agedcarequality.gov.au



Write

Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission
GPO Box 9819, in your capital city