

Errata

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Unit: HLTHPS006 Assist clients with medication

Resource: Learner Guide

Update: Version 1.3 updated to Version 1.4

Affected pages: 3-4

Use the attached pages to update the affected document.

Home and Community Care Act 1985 (Cth)

- ▶ The *Home and Community Care Act 1985 (Cth)* sets out guidelines for home and community care services and how they should be delivered in the community.

Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Cth)

- ▶ The *Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Cth)* outlines the responsibilities that employers and workers have to ensure work is carried out safely and in a healthy environment. This includes the tasks involved in administering and managing medication.

Disability services legislation

Each state and territory has its own disability Act. You can often find summaries of these in printed material around your organisation, or in Easy English versions to help the people you support to understand their rights. These will provide information about the person's rights to receive or refuse medications. The National Standards for Disability Services are federal guidelines for providing services that promote the safety of people with a disability, wellbeing and independence in areas such as medication administration.

There are two main Commonwealth laws that protect everyone in Australia from discrimination based on disability. They are the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)* and the *Disability Services Act 1986 (Cth)*. They overlap with state and territory laws and prevent the same kinds of discrimination. Workers must comply with both sets of laws.

Here are laws that apply for each state and territory:

- ▶ Australian Capital Territory – *Disability Services Act 1991*
- ▶ New South Wales – *Disability Inclusion Act 2014*
- ▶ Northern Territory – *Disability Services Act 2008*
- ▶ Queensland – *Disability Services Act 2006*
- ▶ South Australia – *Disability Services Act 1993*
- ▶ Tasmania – *Disability Services Act 2011*
- ▶ Victoria – *Disability Services Act 2006*
- ▶ Western Australia – *Disability Services Act 1993*

State-specific laws and codes

Each state and territory has its own drugs and poisons legislation and regulations. The contents of these laws vary. Common inclusions are handling procedures for different categories of medication, who can administer medication, and when medication can be administered. Your organisation's policies should be written with these laws taken into account, so while it is not necessary for you to know the drugs and poisons laws themselves from beginning to end, they can be a good source of information if you would like to confirm or understand more about the relationship between the policies of your service and the laws it (and you) must follow.

The following provides examples of legislation that applies in each of Australia's state and territories. Regulations and amendments have been made to several of these Acts.

Drugs and Poisons Acts by state and territory	
ACT	<i>Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2008</i>
NSW	<i>Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966</i>
NT	<i>Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2012</i> <i>Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulations 2014</i>
QLD	<i>Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulations 1996 part of the Health Act 1937</i>
SA	<i>Controlled Substances Act 1984</i>
TAS	<i>Poisons Act 1971</i> <i>Poisons Regulations 2018</i>
VIC	<i>Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981</i> <i>Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2006</i>
WA	<i>Medicines and Poisons Act 2014</i> <i>Medicines and Poisons Regulations 2016</i>

Drugs and poisons schedules and classifications

The Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons (SUSMP) in Australia classifies substances (medicines, drugs, poisons) into Schedules, which are based primarily on the toxicity of the substance. The SUSMP is a guide used to promote a common reference point when packaging or labelling various substances, and for inclusion in the different state and territory legislation. You will see the schedule of a medication on its label, for example S2, S4 and S8.

Although you are unlikely to have to assist people with medicines that the SUSMP classifies as Schedule 8, knowing about this classification system allows you to follow organisational procedures that specify a category of drug.

Schedule 4

Schedule 4 drugs:

- ▶ are labelled as prescription-only medicine
- ▶ include cardiovascular drugs, antibiotics, diuretics, sleeping tablets, some pain killers (Panadeine Forte®) among many others
- ▶ are sometimes referred to as 'drugs of dependence', because medications such as anabolic steroids are subject to misuse and trafficking.

Schedule 8

Schedule 8 drugs:

- ▶ are labelled as a controlled drug
- ▶ are defined as substances that should be available for use but require restrictions relating to manufacture, supply, distribution, possession and use to reduce abuse, misuse and physical or psychological dependence
- ▶ include morphine, pethidine, oxycodone and methadone.