



Restrictive Practices Authorisation (RPA) News

RPA Newsletter - March 2019

In this Issue

Welcome to our second issue of the RPA Newsletter! We hope you found the first issue enlightening and useful.

In this issue we will be highlighting the recent work of the FACS Central Restrictive Practices Team in relation to all things restrictive practices. Items discussed include:

- [Version 2.1 of the NSW \(FACS\) RPA System](#)
- [Resources in development](#)

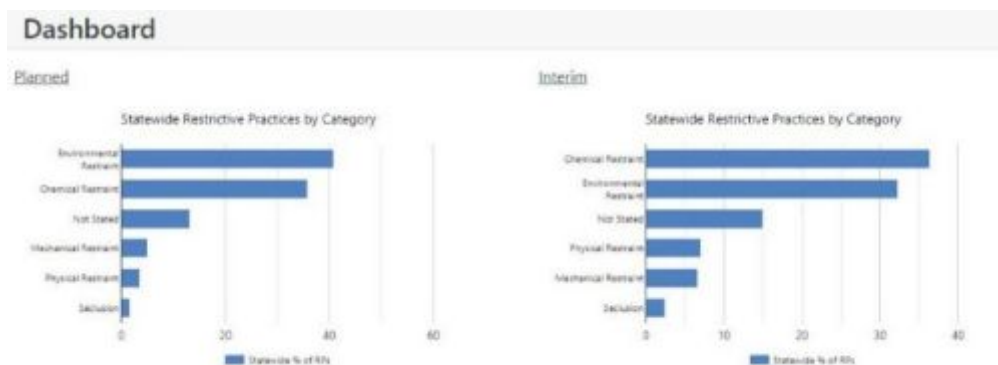
You can also test your knowledge with our new [quiz](#) or find a familiar face in our new *Spotlight On...* section.

Version 2.1 of the NSW (FACS) RPA System

The Central Restrictive Practices Team has been hard at work improving the NSW (FACS) RPA System (the System) to ensure the system is fit for purpose and accessible by users. Earlier this month version 2.1 of the System was released. Key upgrades have included:

Open Actions	<p>Found on the Home page, open actions provides a user with a list of their outstanding items that are awaiting completion or approval.</p> <p>Reminders and notifications are also available here for items such as upcoming authorisation expiry and panel meetings.</p>
Self-help Information	<p>A number of self-help tip bubbles are now available to users. These provide users with quick access to basic information about the policy or procedure, or about using the System. These are available across a range of actions from setting up a participant to creating a submission.</p> <p>More of these will become available as they are developed.</p>
Dashboard	<p>A summary of the users' organisations engagement and usage of the System can be found on the Home page.</p> <p>Service Providers can use this to monitor and track their RPA submissions, outcomes and reviews, and to better understand restrictive practices within their organisation.</p> <p>See the image below for a snapshot of what the dashboard looks like.</p>
Summary Views	<p>Users can now access a summary view which provides brief information on participants, submissions, outcomes, reviews and more.</p>
Email Notification	<p>Email notifications are now generated in response to an action when a user submits or assigns another user to an activity.</p>

The Quick Reference Guides (QRGs) and the System User Guide are currently being updated to reflect the above enhancements. Following the update of these resources, all users will be notified and they will be made available via the Help section in the System.



For more in-depth information on the System and how to use it, you can access the NSW

(RPA) System User Guide by [clicking here](#). If you require further assistance in using the System, please email the Central Restrictive Practices Team at RestrictivePracticesAuthorisation@facs.nsw.gov.au.



Resources in Development

In addition to those mentioned previously, the Central Restrictive Practices Team have been busy developing new, and updating existing, resources for services and practitioners to use in relation to restrictive practices. The following resources are currently in production and will be made accessible in the near future:

NSW RPA Policy and Procedural Guide Review

Since the release of the NSW RPA Policy and RPA Procedural Guide, the Central Restrictive Practices Team has been logging queries and issues from the sector on the Policy and Guide. This information is being used to strengthen both documents and to provide clarity on key aspects. The review of these documents is in the final stages and it is anticipated the revised version will be released in early April 2019. Thank you to those that have contacted the team to seek clarification.

To access the current NSW RPA Policy and RPA Procedural Guide please visit the [FACS Restrictive Practices Authorisation Portal](#).

Updates under consideration include:

- RPA Panel consent function for environmental restraint
- Greater emphasis on supported decision making
- Further clarification of RPA Panel member roles
- Revision of the language around therapeutic or safety devices
- The inclusion of information on the cessation of practice

EnABLE

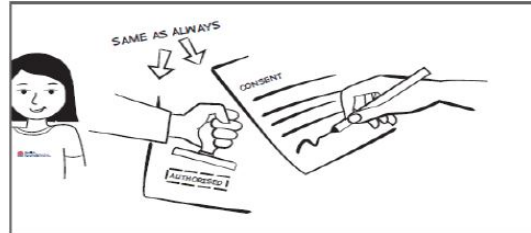
Currently in development, EnABLE has been designed to be a restrictive intervention self-assessment tool which service providers and practitioners can use to help them better understand how to prevent, reduce or reverse the use of restrictive interventions. Aligned with the NSW RPA Policy, the program will respond to the user's interests and provide guidance on next steps.

Fact Sheets

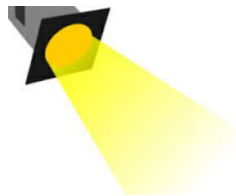
Fact sheets will continue to be developed and published by the Central Restrictive Practices Team as required.

Video Resources

Two Whiteboard style video animations are currently in production. This style of resource will engage stakeholders and provide a high level outline of the key aspects of restrictive practice authorisation.



Spotlight on...



Chadi Abdul-Wahab

*Behaviour Support Specialist, The Benevolent Society
FACS Independent Specialist*

How did you get to where you are today?

Currently working as a Behaviour Support Specialist with The Benevolent Society and working with FACS as an Independent Specialist, Chadi Wahab has been working in the sector for sixteen years.

Studying a Bachelor of Psychology, Chadi first developed an interest in Applied Behaviour Analysis while at university. Upon graduating, he began working as a Senior Behaviour Therapist for the first Applied Behaviour Analysis School in Australia. During this time, Chadi sought further education and completed the Analysis and Assessment of Severe & Challenging Behaviour Course through the Institute of Applied Behaviour Analysis, under the direct instruction of Gary LaVigna PhD. There for nearly six years, Chadi was then offered an opportunity to join Ageing, Disability and Home Care (FACS) as a Behaviour Support Practitioner. Here Chadi specialised in complex clients and cases. He soon joined the Regional Behaviour Intervention Team (RBIT) servicing the Northern Sydney area. While working as member of the Regional Behaviour Intervention Team Chadi was

responsible for facilitating and running restrictive practice authorisation panels. It was here where he learnt about and developed his skills and knowledge in restrictive practice authorisation training.

Two years later Chadi moved to the Regional Behaviour Intervention Team servicing the Metro South area. During his time working in the Metro South area the focus of the team evolved from a focus on behaviour intervention to having a greater focus on sector development. While still continuing to facilitate and run RPA panels Chadi, alongside his team, also began to develop RPA training packages for the sector, providing training and support including one-on-one coaching; helped to establishing RPA mechanisms for NGOs; and established inter-agency RPA panels. Chadi also led a project which focused on finding gaps in the policy, specifically around routine psychotropic medications. This ultimately led to the statewide establishment and roll-out of the Complex Case Review process for individuals prescribed routine psychotropic medication (CCR-PM).

In 2017, after seven years with FACS Chadi transferred to The Benevolent Society as a Behaviour Support Specialist, and most recently also provides his services to FACS as an Independent Specialist.

What do you see are the benefits of having the FACS Independent Specialists participating on RPA Panels?

Chadi sees the FACS Independent Specialists are a great resource available to any services whom are conducting RPA panels, whether they are new to the sector or have years of experience. Personally, Chadi perceives the role of the FACS Independent Specialist as one which goes beyond sitting on RPA panels. Rather, he sees it as an opportunity to continue to provide training, development and support to the sector in their understanding and use of RPA and would encourage services to take advantage of the free service and capacity building opportunity.



Test Your Knowledge!

1. Who completes and releases the Outcome Summary in the NSW (FACS) RPA System?
 2. How many panel members do you need for an interim RPA submission and what panel member roles should they fulfil?
 3. The NSW Government is responsible for the _____ of restrictive practices.
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Did You Know?

A pool of **FACS Independent Specialists** are available for service providers to book for face-to-face, video or phone RPA Panels. They can fulfil the Panel member role of both the Behaviour Support Specialist and the Independent Specialist.

To request a FACS Independent Specialist refer to *Chapter 7* of the [RPA System User Guide](#). Please remember to request a FACS Independent Specialist at least **15 business days** before your Panel meeting. If you still have questions about requesting a FACS Independent Specialist please email RPABookings@facs.nsw.gov.au



Get in Contact!

RPA News will be published monthly on the [FACS RPA webpage](#). If you would like to suggest a colleague or service to be included in *Spotlight On...*, or if you have any questions about restrictive practices authorisation or this newsletter, please email: RestrictivePracticesAuthorisation@facs.nsw.gov.au.

Answers

Q1. The Panel Convener / Service Provider Manager is responsible for completing and releasing the Outcome Summary within the NSW (FACS) RPA System.

Q2. Only one panel member is required for an interim RPA submission. This panel member role is the Service Provider Manger.

Q3. The NSW Government is responsible for the authorisation of restrictive practices.

Our mailing address is:

RestrictivePracticesAuthorisation@facs.nsw.gov.au

Why am I getting this?

All individuals registered with the NSW (FACS) RPA System will automatically receive the RPA Newsletter.

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