



DTA National Board

Position Paper

Staff trained in Cert IV Leisure & Health – Can They Write Care plans?

From 19th July 2011

The National Board of DTA discussed this topic across several Board meetings and has formed the following as its position on this issue.

In the Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI) funding tool there is a section called 'Complex Needs' where allied health professionals (which does not currently include DT's) can prescribe a directive related to complex health needs. This is only for one question of the ACFI. It does not relate to accreditation at all and in fact should not change the role of the DT or the requirements to have DT services in any way.

There has been no change recently and this question has been in the ACFI since it was developed. If your previous employer has now employed an OT they can only claim for those services that fit under the complex needs question of the ACFI (question 12). There would be very limited scope for this.

A Diversional Therapist should still be creating and evaluating care plans under the accreditation requirements and they certainly do not need to be signed off by anyone else. Leisure care plans are created to meet Standard 3 of the Aged Care Standards.

Under the ACFI requirements the care plans are not used to gain funding - it is based on the assessment process only. The funding instrument does not cover the other service provisions required by law from the service providers such as leisure, lifestyles & recreation.

Staff at a Certificate IV level should be able to write care plans in relation to delivery of maintaining a person's chosen leisure interests; however a Diversional Therapist (Level 1 membership of DTA and/or a university level qualification) would be the best person to write therapeutic care plans including leisure education plans.

Under the Aged Care Act, there is no legal position taken. DTs would not be entitled to make Allied Health directives, but they are entitled to produce lifestyle plans.

With acknowledgement to the input of the current DTA Board and Jacqueline Quirke