

Resolving Disputes about Treatment, Care and Support Needs

What is a dispute about treatment, care and support needs?

A dispute occurs when you disagree with the Lifetime Support Authority's (LSA's) assessment of your treatment, care or support needs as set out in your MyPlan.

If you disagree with an assessment, you should first discuss it directly with your Service Planner.

You can also:

- request a reassessment in writing; or
- apply for a review by the Expert Review Panel (ERP).

Who can lodge a dispute, and when?

A dispute concerning your treatment, care and support services can be made by you, or someone acting on your behalf, after you've received your MyPlan from the LSA.

If you don't agree with the whole or a part of your MyPlan, the first step is to discuss it with your Service Planner.

If you don't feel comfortable doing this, or if you've tried this and are not satisfied with the result, you can email the LSA's Lead Service Planner at lifetime.support@sa.gov.au or write to them at PO Box 1218 Adelaide SA 5000 to ask for a reassessment.

In your letter or email to the LSA requesting a reassessment, you must state that you disagree with the assessment and explain why. Decisions about treatment, care and support services are made based on the 'necessary and reasonable' criteria as outlined in the LSS Rules, and it is recommended you consider the LSS Rules in preparing your request.

What happens when the LSA conducts a reassessment?

An LSA assessor who was not involved in the original decision will be appointed to do the reassessment. They will review all of the information provided for the original assessment, and follow the same procedures to reassess your MyPlan. You will be given the opportunity to explain why you dispute the original decision.

Once the reassessment has been completed (which should occur within 28 days of lodging your dispute), the assessor will make a decision about the dispute. They will provide you with written reasons for their decision within 14 days of their assessment, and the Lead Service Planner will contact you to discuss it.

When and how can I apply to the ERP?

You can submit an application for a review by the ERP within 28 days of receiving your MyPlan. You can make this application at any time during the reassessment process.

Once you submit an application to the ERP, any reassessment that is already underway will cease.

You can also apply directly to the ERP for review within 28 days of receiving your original or reassessed MyPlan.

The ERP application form is available on the LSA website, or you can send the form to the LSA at PO Box 1218 Adelaide SA 5000.

To find out more about lodging a dispute with the ERP, contact the LSA's Review Officer on 1300 880 849.

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Who is on the ERP and how do they make a decision?

The ERP will include up to three experts from the health, medical and disability sectors who have significant experience in working with people with severe injuries.

The members are independent from the LSA and are chosen by a Convenor, who is appointed by the Minister for Health. Your treating health practitioners cannot be involved in a review of an assessment or decision made.

The ERP process is governed by the *'Guidelines as to the procedures of expert review panels'* issued by the Minister for Health and available on the LSA website at www.lifetimesupport.sa.gov.au.

The LSA provides administrative support services to the ERP, and may contact you on their behalf.

How long will the ERP take to make a decision?

The time it takes the ERP to resolve a dispute about treatment, care and support needs will vary, and will depend on access to relevant information in a timely manner, or the completion of assessments. The ERP may take time to come to a resolution and ensure the right decision is made.

What happens when the ERP has made a decision?

The ERP will provide you with its decision in writing, and will outline the reasons for their decision.

This decision is final, and the LSA is required to comply with the ERP decision.

For more information contact the Lifetime Support Authority