

## Indicators of Violence, Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation and Discrimination (References NDIS Standard 1)

Incident types	Behavioural indicators and physical signs
Physical abuse, unlawful physical contact or physical assault	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inconsistent, vague, unexpected or unlikely explanation for the injury.</li> <li>• Unexplained injuries – broken bones, fractures, sprains, bruises, burns, scalds, bite marks, scratches or welts.</li> <li>• Other bruising and marks that may suggest the shape of the object that caused it.</li> <li>• Avoiding or being fearful of a particular person or worker.</li> <li>• Being overly compliant with workers.</li> <li>• Frequent and overall drowsiness (associated with head injuries).</li> <li>• Out of character aggression.</li> </ul>
Sexual contact, sexual assault or sexual misconduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dropping hints that appear to be about abuse.</li> <li>• Bruises, pain, bleeding – including redness and swelling around breasts and genitals.</li> <li>• Torn, stained, or bloody underwear or bedding.</li> <li>• Repeating a word or sign, such as 'bad', 'dirty'.</li> <li>• Presence of a sexually transmitted disease.</li> <li>• Pregnancy.</li> <li>• Sudden changes in behaviour or character, e.g.: depression, anxiety attacks (crying, sweating, trembling, withdrawal, agitations, anger, violence, absconding, sexually expressive behaviour, seeking comfort and security).</li> <li>• Sleep disturbances, refusing to go to bed, and/or going to bed fully clothed.</li> <li>• Refusing to shower.</li> </ul>
Psychological, emotional or verbal abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depression, withdrawal, crying or emotional behaviour</li> <li>• Being secretive, and trying to hide information and personal belongings.</li> <li>• Speech disorders.</li> <li>• Weight gain or loss.</li> <li>• Feelings of worthlessness about life and themselves; extremely low self-esteem, self-abuse, or self-destructive behaviour.</li> <li>• Extreme attention-seeking behaviour and other behavioural disorders (e.g.: disruptiveness, aggressiveness, bullying).</li> <li>• Being overly compliant.</li> </ul>
Domestic violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depression, withdrawal, crying or violence.</li> <li>• Feelings of worthlessness about life and themselves; extremely low self-esteem, self-abuse, or self-destructive behaviour.</li> <li>• Extreme attention-seeking behaviour and other behavioural disorders (e.g.: disruptiveness, aggressiveness, bullying).</li> <li>• Being overly compliant.</li> </ul>
Neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inappropriate or inadequate shelter or accommodation, including unclean and unsanitary living conditions.</li> <li>• Weight loss.</li> <li>• Requesting, begging, scavenging, or stealing food.</li> <li>• Being very hungry or thirsty.</li> </ul>

Incident types	Behavioural indicators and physical signs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate supply of fresh food.</li> <li>• Constant fatigue, listlessness or falling asleep.</li> <li>• Dropping hints that appear to be about neglect.</li> <li>• Extreme longing for company.</li> <li>• Poor hygiene or poor grooming – overgrown fingernails and toenails, unclean hair, unshaven, unbathed, wearing dirty or damaged clothing.</li> <li>• Inappropriate or inadequate clothing for the weather.</li> <li>• Unattended physical problems, dental, and/or medical needs.</li> <li>• Social isolation.</li> <li>• Loss of social and communication skills.</li> <li>• Removal of means of communication.</li> <li>• Displaying inappropriate or excessive self-comforting behaviours.</li> </ul>
Financial abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sudden decrease in bank balances.</li> <li>• No financial records or incomplete records of payments and purchases.</li> <li>• Person controlling the finances does not have legal authority.</li> <li>• Sudden changes in banking practices.</li> <li>• Sudden changes in wills or other financial documents.</li> <li>• Unexplained disappearance of money or valuables.</li> <li>• Person does not have enough money to meet their budget.</li> <li>• Person is denied outings and activities due to lack of funds.</li> <li>• Borrowing, begging, stealing money or food.</li> </ul>