

# Serious Risk fact sheet



## Legislative requirements

The Quality Agency Principles 2013 require that, if the CEO of the Quality Agency identifies a failure by a service to meet the applicable Standards, the CEO must decide whether there is evidence that the failure has placed, or may place the safety, health or wellbeing of a care recipient of the service at serious risk.

## Quality Agency requirements

- ✓ The following definition of the term “**serious risk**” is adopted by the Quality Agency and is based on the ordinary meaning of the words when used individually and when used together.

### **Serious**

Important, significant

### **Risk**

Exposure to danger, injury or loss

- ✓ When there is a finding that a service has failed to meet one or more expected outcomes of the applicable standards the Quality Agency considers whether this failure has placed or may place the safety, health or wellbeing of a care recipient at serious risk.
- ✓ A finding of serious risk is in relation to a failure to meet an expected outcome of the standards

## Assessment Teams requirements

- ✓ The state office of the Quality Agency is to be **immediately advised in all instances where there is evidence that indicates a service may not meet an expected outcome** of the applicable standards.
- ✓ Reports about failures in care must have **relevant and sufficient information about the impact** of the failure on the safety, health and wellbeing of care recipient(s).
- ✓ Reports must have **specific and relevant information** about how a **particular failure** has placed or may place a care recipient at risk is required in order for the Quality Agency to make a finding of serious risk.

The Quality Agency may contact the Department of Health so they can make the earliest decision and determine appropriate actions for addressing the risk. The Department of Health also makes the decision on whether to impose sanctions on the service.



Australian Government

Australian Aged Care Quality Agency