

Lifetime Care and Support (Catastrophic Injuries) Rehabilitation Guidelines 2025

Disallowable instrument DI2025 – 322

made under the

Lifetime Care and Support (Catastrophic Injuries) Act 2014, section 93 (LTCS guidelines)

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

These guidelines update and remake the LTCS Guidelines (Part 7) made under the *Lifetime Care and Support (Catastrophic Injuries) Act 2014* (LTCS Act) from when the LTCS Scheme commenced on 1 July 2014.

Section 93 of the LTCS Act provides that the Lifetime Care and Support Commissioner of the Australian Capital Territory (LTCS Commissioner) may make Guidelines to give effect to the operation of the LTCS Scheme.

The LTCS Act was modelled on the NSW *Motor Accidents (Lifetime Care and Support) Act 2006*. This was to assist the ACT to enter into an arrangement with NSW to provide administration services and so provide consistent treatment and care for persons catastrophically injured in motor accidents and work injuries in the Capital Region. The LTCS Guidelines largely adopt the NSW guidelines, with minor changes made as necessary to reflect matters contained in the LTCS Act. As part of the adoption of the NSW guidelines, the ACT's guidelines are divided into parts that were numbered to match the NSW guidelines at the time. The updated guidelines now include within their heading the subject matter of the guidelines to assist identification.

The LTCS Scheme is part of the National Injury Insurance Scheme (NIIS), which is a federated model of state and territory based no-fault schemes providing lifetime care and support for people who have sustained a catastrophic motor accident or work injury. Under NIIS eligible persons suffering catastrophic injuries have a minimum level of entitlement to receive reasonable and necessary treatment and care. The support and levels of treatment and care to be provided are specified by the LTCS Act and Guidelines.

This Part provides practical guidance on rehabilitation services that the LTCS Commissioner will fund as reasonable and necessary and sets out the methods and criteria the LTCS Commissioner applies when assessing treatment and care needs

relating to rehabilitation services required by any participant in the LTCS Scheme whether interim or lifetime.

The Guidelines also update the rehabilitation definition to a more contemporary version, providing clearer details on what constitutes reasonable and necessary rehabilitation services. It now includes a clarified method of assessment and specific criteria to determine these services which ensures the transparency. Additionally, the scheme outlines funding for concurrent treatments, allowing support for multiple physical or psychological therapies simultaneously. It also includes a clarification that reimbursement policies for participants' gym or exercise programs.

Consistency with Human Rights

The guidelines are considered to promote human rights, by providing guidance on the reasonable and necessary rehabilitation needs available to a participant in the LTCS Scheme. It is to be noted the Scheme provides universal cover for a person's lifetime care needs, while also allowing the Commissioner to assess needs against the individual circumstances of a participant. It is considered these guidelines positively engage with section 8, Recognition and equality before the law, and section 11, Protection of the family and children, of the *Human Rights Act 2004*. Rehabilitation can be an important part of helping the injured person and their families, especially where rehabilitation will enhance the functioning of the injured person.