



# Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Strip Searches Secure Mental Health Facility Direction 2021

Notifiable instrument NI2021–312

made under the

**Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016, s9 (Directions—secure mental health facilities)  
and s44 (Strip searches—when may be conducted)**

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## **1 Name of instrument**

This instrument is the *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Strip Searches Secure Mental Health Facility Direction 2021*.

## **2 Commencement**

This instrument commences on the day after notification.

## **3 Direction**

I make the attached Canberra Health Services Operational Policy in relation to Searching at Dhulwa Mental Health Unit as a SMHF direction.

## **4 Revocation**

I revoke the NI2016-624 *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Strip Searches Secure Mental Health Facility Direction 2016*.

Bernadette McDonald  
Chief Executive Officer  
Canberra Health Services

5 May 2021

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# Canberra Health Services

## Policy

### Dhulwa Mental Health Unit – Searching

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## Policy Statement

Authority to conduct searches in accordance with this Policy is made under provisions s. 39-59 (consumers) and s. 36-38 (visitors) of the *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*.

On admission to Dhulwa Mental Health Unit (Dhulwa), consumers must be informed about how and why they may be searched, and the processes will also be explained when a search is conducted.

Similarly, the search process upon entry will be explained to visitors to Dhulwa when visits are planned, on entry to the reception area, and when a search is conducted.

Processes regarding searches of Dhulwa staff will be explained on appointment, during induction and when a search is required.

Searches should be conducted in a planned, systematic and safe manner and only if there are reasonable grounds to do so. Staff should ensure that searches are conducted in the least restrictive way with minimal disruption to the person being searched, the general routine and operation of Dhulwa. Searches conducted will facilitate the detection of prohibited and unapproved restricted items, damaged property, and any item which may compromise the security of Dhulwa and its operation as a therapeutic environment.

As searches by their nature intrude on the privacy, rights and dignity of people and may be traumatic. Authorised Health Practitioners have a responsibility to ensure searches of consumers are carried out in a manner that is consistent with the principles of care, treatment and support set out in the *Mental Health (Secure Facilities Act) Act 2016*. That is, any interference with the consumer's rights, dignity, and privacy is kept to the minimum necessary in the circumstances. The therapeutic security of consumers within Dhulwa remains paramount. When conducting searches, religious and cultural beliefs should be respected. This policy is supported by the *Dhulwa Search Procedure* and other associated procedures.

As far as practicable, searches should be trauma-informed, including:

- balancing the potential trauma caused by the search with the need to ensure the safety and security of all consumers, staff and visitors to Dhulwa
- taking all precautions to prevent re-traumatisation
- providing additional support to consumers when a search is required without their consent.

Searches are never to be used as a punitive act. While advance warning of appropriate random searches should not be provided to consumers, consumers should be made aware of the types of searches that may be carried out and by whom. An explanation must be given before any search commences and consent must be sought for the search to proceed.

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## Alerts

The *Mental Health Act 2015* and *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016* refer to the Director-General as having specific functions, powers and reporting requirements. Canberra Health Services (CHS) uses the title of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) instead of Director-General. In accordance with the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, the position of CEO of CHS has the same functions and authority as a Director-General.

In this document, all references to the Director-General will be replaced with CEO, to reflect the language used by CHS as the person responsible.

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## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Authorised Health Practitioners (see definition of terms) and Security Officers (see definition of terms) working in Dhulwa meet their professional and legal obligations when conducting searches of:

- consumers,
- visitors,
- staff,
- personal property,
- mail, and
- Dhulwa premises, including consumers' rooms.

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## Scope

This policy pertains to all Authorised Health Practitioners and Security Officers authorised to conduct searches of consumers, visitors, staff and the premises of Dhulwa. This policy should be read in accordance with the *Dhulwa Searching Operational Procedure*.

In accordance with the requirements of section 60 of the *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*, the CEO is required to make a Direction outlining the use of strip searches within a secure mental health facility. As such, this policy has been notified as a Direction in the *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) (Strip Searches) Secure Mental Health Facility Direction 2016*.

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Note:

- Division 4.3 of the *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016* refers to a 'strip search'. For the purpose of this policy and all associated procedures, such a search will be referred to as a 'personal search'.
- Section 39 of the *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016* refers to a 'frisk search', which is referred to as a 'pat down' search for the purpose of this policy and all associated procedures.

## COMPLIANCE WITH THIS POLICY IS MANDATORY

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### Roles & Responsibilities

The *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016* provides authority for various categories of people to exercise search functions within Dhulwa.

#### Delegates of the Canberra Health Services Chief Executive Officer

The *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016* gives the CEO of CHS the authority to conduct certain searches or to direct other people to conduct searches within Dhulwa. These powers are delegated to several clinical positions within Dhulwa, including, but not limited to:

- Clinical Director, Forensic Mental Health Services (FMHS),
- Operational Director, Justice Health Services (JHS),
- Consultant Psychiatrist,
- Assistant Director of Nursing (ADON),
- Psychiatrist on Call, and
- Nurse in Charge (NIC) (only in the absence of the person's listed above).

Refer to the *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Delegation 2020 (No 1)* NI2020-472 on the ACT Legislation Register for the full list of delegations.

#### Authorised Health Practitioner

An Authorised Health Practitioner for the purposes of this policy are only those to whom the CEO has delegated functions. This does not apply to all health practitioners working at Dhulwa.

The meaning of an 'Authorised Health Practitioner' is set out in the definition of terms at the end of this Policy. An Authorised Health Practitioner may conduct a search of a consumer, any part of Dhulwa and of a consumer's mail when directed by a delegate of the CEO.

Reasonable force, to the minimum extent necessary, may be used to carry out a search to prevent the loss, destruction or contamination of anything seized, or that may be seized,

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during the search (s. 52 *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*). A delegate of the CEO may only authorise the use of force in accordance with Division 4.8 of the *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*.

### Security Officers

The Operational Director, JHS and the Director, Client Services, Security and Emergency (as delegates of the CEO ) may appoint a person who holds a license under the *Security Industry Act 2013* as an Authorised Person (see definition of terms) (s. 69 of the *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*).

#### Note:

- Section 69 *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016* refers to an ‘authorised person’. For the purpose of clarity in this policy and all associated procedures, ‘authorised people’ will be referred to as a Security Officers.

Once appointed, an appropriate delegate of the CEO may direct a Security Officer to assist in a search of a consumer.

All Authorised Health Practitioners and Security Officers working at Dhulwa who conduct searches should be aware of the:

- principles of searching,
- considerations regarding privacy, dignity and the respect of religious and cultural beliefs, and
- legislative requirements pertaining to search procedures.

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## Section 1 – Searches of Consumers

### 1.1 Explanation of Searches and Obtaining Informed Consent

On induction to Dhulwa, the consumer’s allocated nurse will explain all procedures involved in a search and will give the consumer a *Dhulwa Mental Health Unit Welcome Handbook*.

On an ongoing basis, before commencing any type of search, the reason for the search must be explained and every effort should be made to obtain the consumer’s verbal consent and cooperation. Consent may be withdrawn at any stage, although the consumer should be informed that a search may proceed even without consent. (See *Dhulwa Search Procedure*).

### 2.2 Refusal of Consent

Where consent to a scanning, an ordinary search or a pat down is refused or withdrawn by a consumer, the delegate of the CEO can authorise the search to proceed. If all the other delegates are absent, the NIC can authorise the search to proceed.

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In making any decision to proceed, the NIC should consult with the consumer's allocated nurse and consider the safety of the consumer and the safety, security and good order of Dhulwa as a whole.

## **2.3 Types of Search**

### *2.3.1 Scanning Search*

A scanning search is a search of a person and their personal items by electronic or other means that does not require the person to remove their clothing or to be touched by someone else. This may include scanning by x-ray and/or Walk Through Metal Detector (WTMD) (s. 39 *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*).

### *2.3.2 Ordinary Search*

An Ordinary Search is defined as a search of a person, or of articles in the person's possession that may include:

- requiring the person to remove an overcoat, coat or jacket and any gloves, shoes or hat; and
- an examination of those items (s. 39 *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*).

### *2.3.3 Pat Down Search*

A pat down search is defined as a search conducted by quickly running the hands over the persons' outer garments and examining anything worn or carried by the person that is conveniently and voluntarily removed by the person (s. 39 *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*).

## **2.4 Suspicion that a consumer has ingested an item which may jeopardise health or wellbeing or conceal an item**

If there are reasonable grounds to believe that a consumer has ingested or inserted something in their body that may jeopardise their health or wellbeing or is a prohibited thing that may pose a risk to the security or good order of Dhulwa, the consumer must be examined by a doctor. Any treatment considered necessary and appropriate must be administered at the most appropriate health facility (s. 48(2) *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*). See *Dhulwa Search Procedure* for further details.

## **2.5 Documentation**

An Authorised Health Practitioner conducting the pat down or ordinary search, or requesting the scanning search of a consumer, must record details of the search in the consumer's ECR (s. 42 *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*) and the *Dhulwa Clinical Search Register* (s. 59 *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*).

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## Section 3 – Personal Search of Consumers

### 3.1 Authorisation

A personal search of a consumer can only be conducted if authorised by a delegate of the CEO.

A personal search by an Authorised Health Practitioner may only be authorised if there are compelling grounds to believe that a consumer has anything in their possession that may pose an immediate risk to their own safety or that of others and a less intrusive search will not detect the item.

### 3.2 Consent

An Authorised Health Practitioner who is authorised to conduct a personal search will always endeavour to gain a consumer's consent prior to conducting the search.

### 3.3 Refusal to consent

If a personal search is refused by a consumer or if the consumer does not have decision-making capacity to consent or refuse, the Authorised Health Practitioner conducting the search, mindful of their therapeutic and relational security role, may seek the advice of the Clinical Director, FMHS, Operational Director, JHS, Consultant Psychiatrist, ADON or On-Call Psychiatrist (after hours) before proceeding.

### 3.4 Conduct of Personal Search

A personal search may be conducted immediately after a scanning search, pat down search or ordinary search of the consumer (s. 44 (3) *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*) and will only ever be undertaken after less intrusive searches have failed to detect an item staff have reasonable grounds to believe has been concealed.

### 3.5 Documentation

All personal searches must be recorded in the *Clinical Search Register* (s. 59 *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*). A copy of the *Clinical Search Register* must be made available to the Public Advocate and Official Visitor (s.64(3) *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*).

If a personal search continues after being refused by a consumer, clear documentation regarding the ongoing authorisation and the reasons for the decision to proceed without consent, along with any risk factors that influenced the decision and the outcome of the search must be documented in the consumer's ECR. Any use of force used in conducting the personal search must be recorded in the *Use of Force Register* (s. 65 *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*).

When a personal search is conducted the staff member taking the lead in the search must complete a RiskMan incident report.

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## Section 4 - Premises and Personal Property Search

The delegate of the CEO may search any part of Dhulwa with the assistance of Authorised Health Practitioners or Security Officers if they have reasonable grounds to believe that it is prudent to conduct the search to protect the safety of anyone at Dhulwa or to maintain the security or good order of Dhulwa (s. 50 *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*).

A search of premises and personal property may include:

- the personal property or bedroom of a consumer,
- a vehicle used to transport a consumer,
- common areas of Dhulwa, and
- external area/grounds of Dhulwa.

Premises and personal property searches may be either:

- Routine (proactive)—these are planned and may be either random or regular. Routine searches are necessary to deter, prevent and detect any security breach. They are both regular (e.g. every instance—return from unescorted leave) and random, searching of individuals, property or areas.
- Targeted (reactive)—in response where there is reasonable concern that an item has been secreted. Targeted searches will be carried out in response to information received or following an incident where there are reasonable grounds for believing that a consumer has secreted or possesses an item (or items) that are prohibited or unapproved restricted or which might otherwise pose a threat to safety, security or the good order of Dhulwa.

### 4.1 Consumer personal property and bedroom search

#### 4.1.1 Consent

Authorised Health Practitioners will always endeavour to gain a consumer's consent prior to conducting a personal property and/or bedroom search.

An Authorised Health Practitioner who searches a consumer's personal property or bedroom must tell the consumer that they believe that the consumer may be concealing a prohibited item and that their personal property and/or bedroom will be searched. The consumer may be offered the opportunity to be present, or to identify someone else that they wish to be present, when their personal property and/or bedroom is searched. The consumer's personal property and/or bedroom may be searched with an electronic device, other technology or physical means (s. 52 *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*).

If a search locates a seizable item, it may be seized in accordance with division 4.6 of the *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*.

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#### 4.1.2 Documentation of personal property or bedroom searches

All personal property searches of consumers' property must be documented in the *Clinical Search Register* (s. 59 *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*).

This register must be available for inspection by a Commissioner exercising functions under the *Human Rights Commission Act 2005* (s. 59(5) *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*).

Details of consumer personal property and bedroom searches will also be entered on each occasion into the consumers' ECR.

A Riskman incident report must be completed by the staff member taking the lead in the search when consent is refused or a prohibited or unapproved item that may affect the safety, security or good order of Dhulwa and those in it is found.

#### 4.2 Common areas searches

Authorised Health Practitioners have responsibility for searches of all common areas within Dhulwa, including therapy rooms, dining rooms, lounge room, socialisation spaces and internal courtyards.

All common areas of Dhulwa that consumers have access to will be searched weekly as a minimum.

##### 4.2.1 Documentation of common area searches

All common area searches will be documented in the *Clinical Search Register*.

#### 4.3 External grounds, perimeter fences and internal non-clinical area searches

Security Officers are responsible for searches of the external ground areas, perimeter fences and internal non-clinical areas searches.

External area, ground searches and internal non-clinical searches will be conducted on at least a daily basis (see *Dhulwa Perimeter Security Procedure* for more information).

##### 4.3.1 Documentation of external ground, perimeter fences and internal non-clinical areas searches

All external ground, perimeter fences and internal non-clinical areas searches will be documented in the *Security Search Register*.

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## Section 5 – Vehicle Search

Vehicles may be required to enter Dhulwa for the purposes of deliveries, trades repairs, waste collection, provision of services (such as the dental van) and consumer escorts/transfers.

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Security Officers are responsible for searches of all vehicles entering and exiting Dhulwa as specified in the *Dhulwa Perimeter Security Procedure*.

### 5.1 Documentation of vehicle searches

All external ground, perimeter fences and internal non-clinical areas searches will be documented in the *Security Search Register*.

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## Section 6 – Mail Search

The delegate of the CEO may search a consumer’s mail with assistance from an Authorised Health Practitioner where there are reasonable grounds for believing that the contents of the consumer’s mail includes a prohibited thing that may affect the safety of the consumer or another person, or the security or good order of Dhulwa (s. 25 *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*).

### 6.1 Exemptions

Any mail sent or received between consumers and accredited people (see definition of terms) cannot be searched (s. 25(2) *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*).

Consumers will be advised that mail raising concerns, excluding mail from an accredited person, **may** be opened, but not read, in the presence of an Authorised Health Practitioner to ensure that the safety and security of Dhulwa is maintained. The consumer, or a representative of the consumer, must be offered the option of being present while their mail is being searched.

If no prohibited items are found after a search of a consumer’s mail, the consumer’s mail must be delivered to the consumer as soon as practicable. Prohibited items detected will be documented, seized and documented in the register (see section 5.3 below).

If a search of a consumer’s mail reveals information about the commission of a serious offence, this information, including the mail itself, must be given to the Chief Police Officer (s. 26(3) *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*).

The consumer must be informed of that the mail has been provided to ACT Policing and of any subsequent outcomes, if appropriate.

### 6.2 Reviewable Decision Notice

A decision to search a consumer’s mail, or to seize an item from the consumer’s mail, is a reviewable decision. This means that the consumer, or other affected people, may apply to the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) for a review of the decision.

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If the consumer's mail is searched, the consumer must be given a copy of the *Reviewable Decision Notice Search of Consumer* and the *Mail the Reviewable Decision Notice Search Information for Consumers* brochure about reviewable decisions for consumers. The Public Advocate and the consumer's guardian and nominated person (if appointed) must also be given a copy of this documentation.

### 6.3 Documentation

All mail searched must be documented in the *Mail Search Register* (s. 25, *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*).

This register must be available for inspection by a Commissioner exercising functions under the *Human Rights Commission Act 2005* (s. 27(5) *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*).

In addition, any search of a consumer's mail must be documented in the consumer's ECR.

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## Section 7 - Search of Visitors

Security Officers are authorised to conduct a scanning search, pat down search or ordinary search of visitors and any belongings that they wish to bring into Dhulwa, upon entry to or while in Dhulwa, if there are reasonable grounds to conduct the search to protect the safety of anyone in Dhulwa or the security or good order of Dhulwa (s. 36 *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*).

A list of prohibited and unapproved restricted items will be included in the *Dhulwa Welcome Handbook* and displayed in the foyer. Visitors will be advised that these items, e.g. mobile phones, cigarettes, etc, should be left in their vehicle or stored in the lockers available. Security Officers are not permitted to search lockers or items stored in lockers.

Note: Visitors include a person working at Dhulwa, staff and tradespeople (s. 36(7) of the Act).

### 7.1 Consent

A scanning search, pat down search or ordinary search of visitors will only ever be done with the active and ongoing consent of the visitor (s. 36(3) *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*).

### 7.2 Refusal or Withdrawal of Consent

A visitor may refuse a scanning search, pat down search or ordinary search, or withdraw consent for the same search at any time during the search (s. 36(4) *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*).

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If the visitor refuses to allow a Security Officer to conduct a scanning search, pat down search or ordinary search, or withdraws consent during the search, the Security Officer may refuse to allow the visitor to enter Dhulwa or if the visitor is in Dhulwa, direct the visit to leave (s. 36(5) *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*).

### **7.3 Conduct of Search**

A scanning search, pat down search or ordinary search can only be conducted by a Security Officer of the same sex as the visitor or, if this is not practicable, another person of the same sex, or sex nominate by the visitor, must be present while the search is conducted (s. 37(1) *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*).

The search must be conducted in a way that provides reasonable privacy to the visitor, as quickly as possible, in the least invasive way.

### **7.4 Search of a visitor who is a child**

If the visitor is a child (see Definition of Terms), the Security Officer may only conduct a scanning search of the child and must not conduct any other search (s. 38(1) *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*).

If the Security Officer suspects, on reasonable grounds, that the child may be carrying a prohibited thing or anything else that creates, or is likely to create, a risk to the personal safety of a person or the security or good order of Dhulwa, the Security Officer may advise the person with parental responsibility for the child that the child cannot enter Dhulwa or must leave. The Security Officer must tell the person with parental responsibility for the child the reasons for this direction.

### **7.5 Reviewable Decisions**

The decision to direct a visitor to leave or to deny entry into Dhulwa after refusing to be searched is a reviewable decision. This means that the visitor may apply to ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) for a review of the decision.

If these decisions are made, the visitor must be given a copy of the *Dhulwa Mental Health Unit Reviewable Decision Notice: Visitors and Dhulwa Reviewable Decisions - Information for Guardian, Nominated Person and Visitors brochure* about reviewable decisions for visitors. The Public Advocate must also be given a copy of this documentation.

### **7.6 Documentation**

If a Security Officer directs an adult visitor not to enter or to leave Dhulwa, a record must be kept of this direction (s. 34(4) *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*).

If a Security Officer directs a visitor who is a child not to enter or to leave Dhulwa, the Security Officer must advise the CEO, in writing, of the direction and the reasons for it (s. 38(2) *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*) (see *Dhulwa Visitor Procedure* for more detail).

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## Evaluation

### Outcome Measures

- All persons entering Dhulwa have been appropriately informed about the search process and searched
- All persons entering Dhulwa have satisfied the searching security checkpoint
- No restricted items to be brought into Dhulwa
- Search process requiring approval will only be undertaken by those authorised and all documentation completed

### Method

- No persons can enter Dhulwa without passing through the security checkpoint and being searched
- No persons can enter Dhulwa without passing through the security checkpoint
- Search registers will be audited noting restricted items found and reported
- Registers reviewed at governance meetings

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## Related Policies, Procedures, Guidelines and Legislation

### Policies

- CHS Work Health and Safety Policy
- CHS Work Health and Safety Management System
- CHS Incident Management Policy
- Dhulwa Perimeter Security Policy
- Dhulwa Use of Force Policy

### Procedures

- CHS Incident Management Procedure
- CHS Significant Incident Procedure
- CHS Language Services – Interpreters Procedure
- CHS Clinical Handover Procedure
- CHS Mobile Electrical Equipment including Clinical Equipment
- MHJHADS Incidents Reportable to the Executive Director and Intervention Following the Death of Potential Death of a Person MHJHADS Assessment and Intervention for People Vulnerable to Suicide Procedure
- Dhulwa Search Procedure
- Dhulwa Visitor Procedure
- Dhulwa Perimeter Security Procedure
- Dhulwa Use of Force Procedure

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## Standards

- Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights
- National Standards for Mental Health Services 2010
- National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards 2017

## Legislation

- *Mental Health Act 2015*
- *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*
- *Children and Young People Act 2008*
- *Human Rights Commission Act 2005*
- *Human Rights Act 2004*
- *Health Records (Privacy & Access) Act 1997*
- *Guardianship and Management of Property Act 1991*
- *Crimes Act 1900*
- *Information Privacy Act 2014*
- *Discrimination Act 1991*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*
- *Official Visitor Act 2012*
- *Workplace Privacy Act 2011*
- *Security Industry Act 2003*

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## Definition of Terms

**Authorised Health Practitioner:** is an Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) registered medical practitioner, nurse, psychologist or occupational therapist (other than a provisionally registered or student practitioner) providing treatment, care or support for consumers at Dhulwa who is authorised by the Chief Executive Officer of CHS. See the *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) (Health Practitioners) Authorisation 2020 (No 1)* for the full definition and criteria.

**Accredited People:** in relation to a consumer at Dhulwa, means each of the following:

- has a guardian under the *Guardianship and Management of Property Act 1991*—the guardian,
- if has a nominated person—the nominated person,
- if is a child or young person—the Children and Young People director-general,
- a lawyer acting in a professional capacity,
- an Official Visitor,
- the Health Services Commissioner,
- the Human Rights Commissioner,
- the Public Advocate,
- a police officer acting in a professional capacity,
- a member of the Commonwealth Parliament,

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- a member of the Legislative Assembly,
- a person prescribed by regulation.

**Child** is a person who is under 12 years old (*Children and Young People Act 2008*).

**Security Officer:** is an Authorised Officer appointed by the CEO or appropriate delegate under s. 69 *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*.

**Items requiring approval**—means items that:

- a specific cohort of people may have approval to bring into Dhulwa, with limitations on the areas that they may be used, e.g. staff have approval to bring plastic bags into non-clinical areas or consumers have access to a Dhulwa modified laptop to complete a course of study.
- items that an individual consumer, contractor, staff member or accredited person, authorised person or visitor to a consumer has approval to access or bring into Dhulwa under certain conditions.

**Seizable Item**—means:

- a prohibited item,
- a restricted item where the person has not been given approval to have the item; or
- any item (whether prohibited or restricted) for which possession or use constitutes a criminal offence, which creates a risk to the personal safety of anyone else, which creates a risk to security or good order at the facility, or which may be used by a consumer to intimidate anyone else.

**Prohibited Item**—means items the CEO (or appointed delegate) has declared cannot be brought into a secure mental health facility. They include things that are hazardous or illegal to possess or have harmful properties or are things that may present an unacceptable safety threat in a secure mental health facility.

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## Search Terms

Search, Dhulwa, Dhulwa Mental Health Unit, Routine Searches, Reactive Searches, Targeted Unit Search, Scanning Search, Pat down Search, Personal Search, Room Search, Common Area Searches, Ingested, Inserted, Visitors.

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*Policy Team ONLY to complete the following:*

<i>Date Amended</i>	<i>Section Amended</i>	<i>Divisional Approval</i>	<i>Final Approval</i>
10/03/2021	Complete Review	Karen Grace, ED MHJHADS	CHS Policy Committee

*This document supersedes the following:*

<i>Document Number</i>	<i>Document Name</i>
CHHS16/198	Dhulwa Mental Health Unit (DMHU) – Searching Policy

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