

PRIVACY POLICY



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Introduction

This privacy policy is to provide information to you on how your personal information (which includes your health information) is collected and used within our practice, and the circumstances in which we may share with third parties. Home and Beyond Occupational Therapy will abide by Australian Privacy Principles outlined in the Privacy Act 1988.

Why and when your consent is necessary

When you register as a client of our practice, you or your authorised representative will be asked to provide consent for our therapist(s) and practice staff to access and use your personal information so they can provide you with the best possible service. Only staff who need to see your personal information will have access to it. If we need to use your information for anything else, we will seek additional consent from you to do this.

Why do we collect, use, hold and share your personal information?

Home and Beyond Occupational Therapy collects your personal information to provide therapy services to you. Our main purpose for collecting, using, holding and sharing your personal information is to assist you in achieving your therapy related goals. We also use it for directly related business activities, such as financial claims and payments, improving our services through practice audits, or training provided by our service to employees.

Types of Information Collected and Held

The information we will collect about you includes (but is not limited to):

- Name, date of birth, address, contact details, next of kin
- Health information including medical history, social history, and information about how you manage day to day activities
- Referral information from other agencies
- NDIS participant number for purposes of identification, communicating with the National Disability Insurance Agency, and billing purposes

Dealing with us anonymously

You have the right to deal with us anonymously or under a pseudonym unless it is impracticable for us to do so or unless we are required or authorised by law to only deal with identified individuals.

How Information is Collected and Held

Our practice may collect your personal information in several different ways.

1. When you wish to make your first appointment, Home and Beyond Occupational Therapy will collect your personal and demographic information via a referral form. The referral form may be completed by yourself, a representative, or another service provider.
2. During the course of providing therapy services, we will collect further personal information.
3. We may also collect your personal information when you visit our website, send us an email or SMS, or telephone us. We collect data from our website using various technologies, including cookies. A cookie is a text file that our website sends to your browser which is stored on your computer as a tag identifying your computer to us. You can set your browser to disable cookies. However, some parts of our website may not function properly (or at all) if cookies are disabled. Some of the information you may enter on our website may be transmitted securely via a secure medium known as Secure Sockets Layer (SSL).
4. In some circumstances personal information may also be collected from other sources. Often this is because it is not practical or reasonable to collect it from you directly. This may include information from:
 - your guardian or authorised representative
 - other involved healthcare providers such as GPs, specialists, support coordinators, case managers, and other allied health professionals

When, why and with whom do we share your personal information?

We sometimes share your personal information:

- with third parties who work with our practice for business purposes, such as auditing agencies or information technology providers – these third parties are required to comply with Australian Privacy Principles and this policy
- with other healthcare providers and suppliers of assistive technology and home modifications
- when it is required or authorised by law (e.g. court subpoenas)
- when it is necessary to lessen or prevent a serious threat to a client's life, health or safety or public health or safety, or it is impractical to obtain the client's consent
- to establish, exercise or defend an equitable claim
- for the purpose of confidential dispute resolution process

Only people who need to access your information will be able to do so. Other than in the course of providing therapy services or as otherwise described in this policy, our practice will not share personal information with any third party without your consent. We will not share your personal information with anyone outside Australia (unless under exceptional circumstances that are permitted by law) without your consent.

Our practice will not use your personal information for marketing any of our goods or services directly to you without your express consent. If you do consent, you may opt out of direct marketing at any time by notifying our practice in writing.

How we Store and Protect Your Personal Information

Your personal information may be stored at our practice in various forms such as electronic records, paper records, and photos. Home and Beyond Occupational Therapy secures your personal information from unauthorised access, use or disclosure. We secure personally identifiable electronic information you provide on computer servers in a controlled, secure environment, protected from unauthorised access, use or disclosure. Paper records are stored in secure cabinets.

Access to and Correction of Held Information

You may request details of personal information that we hold about you, in certain circumstances set out in the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth). We require you to put this request in writing, either by email or hard copy, and we will respond within 30 days. An administrative fee may be payable for the provision of information. We may refuse to provide you with information that we hold about you, in certain circumstances set out in the Privacy Act.

If you believe that any information we hold about you is inaccurate, out of date, incomplete, irrelevant or misleading, please contact us by email. We rely in part upon clients advising us when their personal information changes. We will respond to any request within a reasonable time. We will endeavour to promptly correct any information found to be inaccurate, incomplete or out of date.

Breach of Information

We take complaints and concerns regarding privacy seriously. You should express any privacy concerns you may have via email (see below). Home and Beyond Occupational Therapy will make good faith efforts to rectify the issue and respond within a reasonable period after the complaint is made.

Policy Changes

This Privacy Policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it is in accordance with any changes that may occur. Home and Beyond Occupational Therapy encourages you to periodically review this statement to be informed of how Home and Beyond Occupational Therapy is protecting your information.

Contact Us

If you have questions regarding this policy please contact Eliza Innes on **0409 941 428** or via email eliza@homeandbeyond.com.au.