

ANNEXURE: 8	Intimate Care Policy		
CHAPTER: 4	Care Home Rules, Policies, Operations and Management		
MONTH CREATED	December 2024	NEXT REVIEW	December 2026
CHAPTER CODE	CHRP	VERSION	1
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Guiding Principle

There will be instances where residents will develop personal relationships and intimacy amongst themselves, since this is a sensitive topic hence it is important to have a clear set of guidelines for the staff, residents and their representatives.

Intimacy, is unique to each individual and is may not necessarily be physical interaction. An intimate relationship can be between two residents who feel affection, closeness or tenderness towards each other. Intimate expression may include holding hands, hugging, cuddling or kissing however it should not be considered as the same as physical interactions.

Measurable Outcomes

- 1) The Care Home is not a prison but a communal residential facility for adults having the mental capacity to make informed decisions for themselves, hence the staff or the management will not interfere in any personal decisions on behalf of the resident till the time they do not pose any threat to each other.
- 2) Till the time there is no objection from the staff, other residents or family members the Care Home Management will promote autonomy, privacy and independence of a resident.
- 3) At no point will any public intimate expressions between residents be allowed within the Care Home premises.
- 4) The residents will have to respect and abide by the other rules and regulations of the Care Home regarding Safety & Security of Staff and Residents, Infection Prevention & Control, Abuse Prevention and Control and other related policies which are to be read in conjunction with this policy.

- 5) Each resident will be made aware, to maintain and develop all mutually consensual relationships, including those which are intimate or physical in nature.
- 6) Concerned staff members will be trained on the Intimate Policy and also on how to use the tools needed to address situations appropriately and with sensitivity.
- 7) **Further Reading**
 - A) Sexuality and people in residential aged care facilities: A guide for partners and families, La Trobe University, as represented by the Dementia Collaborative Research Centre – Carers and Consumers (2016).
 - B) Sexuality Assessment Tool (SexAT) for residential aged care facilities. (Available from the Australian Centre for Evidence Based Aged Care, La Trobe University, Melbourne.