# WE CAN'T POUR FROM AN EMPTY CUP

Fostering a Thriving Workforce to Support Individual's with Complex Needs



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The why



Burnout & Compassion Fatigue



Fluid boundaries between home and work

Vicarious Trauma & Secondary Stress



Clients's increased dependence on staff and teams



Compliance culture in NDIS

### **Embodying Practice Leadership**

The How - Practice Level

A practice leader is someone who can guide, mentor and support staff to uphold best practices in their daily work. Practice leadership ensures individuals with complex needs receive high-quality, consistent and compassionate care.

**Leading by example** 

Enhances staff confidence, **Providing ongoing** 

Improves the quality and consistency of care **Encouraging** 

reflective practice

Promotes individualised, person-centered support

Fostering trust, teamwork and open communication

Encourages a positive and

skills and job satisfaction

support & coaching

Reduces burnout and turnover by providing better support

> **Ensuring consistency** in best practices

Creates a culture of learning and continuous improvement

**Support staff in managing** supportive workplace challenging situations



## Individual Wellbeing Action Plans

The How - Individual Level

Personalised wellbeing plans acknowledge that wellbeing may look different for us all. An individualised plan ensures that staff receive tailored support that meets their unique needs.

#### **Identifying your** Strengths

What lights you up?

How can you build on your strengths?

How can your organisation support your strengths and interests?

What might indicate to others that you are stressed or overwhelmed?

What are your early signs

of burnout?

What can you, and those around you, do when these signs are present?

**Warning Signs** 

#### **Recognising the** Challenges

What situations are likely to cause you stress?

> What support may help to alleviate these stresses?

What are your preferred

coping strategies?

What can you do, both at work and outside of work, to improve you wellbeing?

> How can your organisation support your wellbeing?

What are my work-life balance goals?

**Action Plan** 



#### **Staff Wellbeing & Quality Support**

Assumptions

The mental health and wellbeing of the professionals working in this space is essential to providing high-quality, compassionate support.

#### **Staff Wellbeing Promoted**

Staff are more **empathetic and patient**, allowing trusting relationships to develop with clients. The people we support feel valued, heard and respected.

Staff retention is higher, allowing clients to experience **stable**, **consistent support**. The people we support feel safe and secure with familiar, reliable connections.

Staff are able to think clearly under pressure, and *make better decisions* during a crisis. The people we support receive calm and proactive responses to their needs.

#### Staff Wellbeing Hindered

Staff may become *irritable* and emotionally detached, reducing their ability to offer compassionate, person-centred care. The people we support may feel dismissed or neglected.

Staff turnover and absenteeism is higher, leading to *inconsistent support*. The disruption in care for the people we support can lead to increased anxiety and behavioural challenges.

Staff may feel **overwhelmed** and **react** impulsively or negatively in challenging situations. The people we support may feel unsafe, distressed or frustrated.

## **Recognising & Preventing Burnout**

Taking more

personal leave

Increase points of contact with

staff at all levels to ensure

early indicators are noticed

The context

Reduced sense of accomplishment or self-worth

Encourage open conversations

about mental health and stress

overwhelmed

or frustration Ensure staff are aware of the signs of burnout - offer training

Difficulty concentrating

**Increased irritability** 

Encourage personalised self-

**Negative or cynical** 

and education

care and a work-life balance that is meaningful to staff

thinking

Implement effective workload management including reasonable case

loads, flexibility in scheduling and clear roles and expectations Feeling

**Avoiding tasks or** procrastinating

Train leaders and staff to

Promote opportunities for

reflective practice and

debriefing

recognise signs of burnout and stress in others

Reduced job

satisfaction or

motivation

Feeling

undervalued

Withdrawal from social interactions & isolation

# **Building a Culture of Wellbeing at Elements**

The How - Organisational Level

Creating a proactive approach to staff wellbeing is essential for the safe and consistent delivery of support to our society's most vulnerable and marginalised individual's.



We have fun We are authentic

We inspire each other We learn, grow, and aspire We foster new ideas & innovation

You are important and valued

You are in

the right

place

We value collective success We take responsibility for our actions We know that wellbeing looks different for everyone

belong

You

You are

safe and

secure

We listen to each others voice and we all feel listened to We value diversity in our strengths and experiences We ensure the journey is just as positive as the outcomes achieved

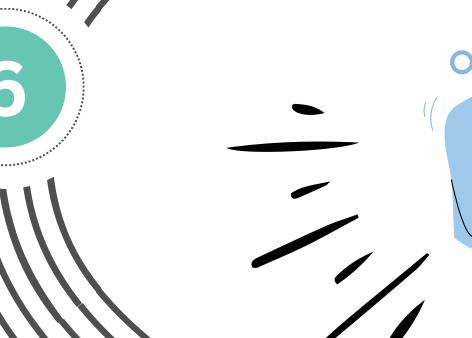
We nurture trust, openness, and compassion in all relationships We understand our roles and responsibilities, and act fair and ethical We look after the mental and physical wellbeing of our team members and our clients

By creating a culture of health and wellbeing within an organisation, we are thriving for positive outcomes for our clients, our staff and the organisation as a whole..

**EVERYONE WINS!** 

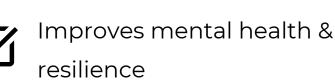












Enhances engagement & job satisfaction



