

This is a summary of a research article. It tells you about a policy review of everyday harm. A policy is a rule that the government or an organisation decides it must follow. A policy review is a summary of what different policies say about a topic. We read a lot of policies to see what the government and disability support organisations say about everyday harm.

What is everyday harm?

Everyday harm is the negative impact on a person when someone does or does not do something. Everyday harm can include things like ignoring another person, talking badly about them behind their back, or not acting on their choices. There are many other examples.

Everyone experiences everyday harm. People with disability experience everyday harm often. We wanted to find out more about what policies say about everyday harm, so we could use that knowledge to make people with disability safer.

How did we do the research?

We read 36 policies from the government and disability support organisations that discussed everyday harm. We summarised what they said.

What did we find?

We found that:

- Everyday harm between people with disability and support workers was discussed in some of the policies we read, but not in all of them.
- Policies said that everyday harm includes the things people do and don't do that cause harm. They can be on purpose or an accident.
- Policies said that the things people do or don't do can cause harm, but they didn't acknowledge that harm builds up when these things happen a lot.

- Policies said that people with disability can experience everyday harm from support workers, managers, family members, and people in the community. The ways disability support organisations are run can also affect if everyday harm happens.
- Many policies said that good practice, good support and protecting the rights of people with disability can prevent everyday harm.
- Policies said that disability support organisations need to make different ways for people to share if they have experienced everyday harm.

What is important to learn from this research?

The policy review told us that everyday harm is an important topic to keep learning about, so that policies about everyday harm can be improved. After we wrote the policy review, we did more research on everyday harm. You can read more about the research in other article summaries on this website.

Want to read more? You can find the full research article here [\[LINK\]](#)

Smyth, C., Fisher, K. R., Robinson, S., Ikäheimo, H., Hrenchir, N., Idle, J., & Yoon, J. (2024). Policy representation of everyday harm experienced by people with disability. *Social Policy & Administration*, 58(5), 691–707.