**Support for Decision Making consultation submission**

**Name:** Individual 11 (QLD)

**Date and time submitted:** 9/9/2021 8:54:00 AM

**How do you identify:**

* A NDIS participant: No
* A family member, friend or carer of a NDIS participant: Yes
* A NDIS nominee: No
* A legally appointed guardian: No
* A disability support worker: No
* A health or allied health worker: No
* A community member: No
* Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander: No
* Culturally and linguistically diverse: No
* From a rural or remote area: No
* A person with an intellectual disability: No
* A person with a cognitive impairment: No
* A person with a communication disability: No
* A person with a psychosocial disability: No
* Other: No

1. **How can we help people with disability make decisions for themselves?**

* Resources: Yes
* Information: Yes
* Decision Guides: Yes
* Having a person help: Yes
* Other: No

1. **Who are the best people to help you (or a person with a disability) to make decisions?**

* Family: Yes
* Friends: No
* Peer Support Networks: Yes
* Mentors: Yes
* Coordinators: No
* LAC: No
* NDIA Partners: Yes
* Advocates: Yes
* Service Providers: Yes
* Other: No

1. **What should they do to help with decision-making?**

Information should be available without jargon or acronyms, use of charts would also be helpful as often visual displays make things easier. A flow chart with yes no ability would also be wonderful to help

1. **How can they get better at helping?**

* Getting to know the participant well: Yes
* Doing some training on decision support: Yes
* By having resources and information about providing decision support: Yes
* Other: No

1. **How can we make sure the right people are helping?**

* They are chosen by the NDIS Participant as a decision supporter: Yes
* They value the rights of people to make decisions with support: Yes
* They are a registered provider: Yes
* They enable the participant to take risks: Yes
* Other: No

1. **What should decision supporters know about so they can better help people with disability make decisions?**

* Guidelines for decision supporters: Yes
* Scenarios or Examples: Yes
* Information Sessions: Yes
* Support Networks: Yes
* Other: No

1. **Can you tell us about a time when someone helped you (or a person with disability) to make a big decision?**

Yes

**What worked well?**

I had help from the school, and also from friends and an NDIS member, all the information and help has allowed us to make a massive decision on moving house and school to provide the help needed

**What could have been better?**

If I could have found more information online without needing to rely on so many people i could have organised this at an earlier date

1. **What is the best way to support people with disability to make decisions about their NDIS plan?**

* Practice: Yes
* Peer Support Networks: Yes
* Information and Resources: Yes
* Guidance Tools: Yes
* Not Sure: No
* Other: No

1. **Are there different things to consider for people with different disabilities or cultural backgrounds?**

**An intellectual disability:** Yes, There seems to be a one size fits all but those with disabilities are all individual even if they have the same disability, while it is hard to help everyone it would be great if we had too much information than not enough - I know a lot of people find this would be overload but if the information was spilt into specific areas that you can pick and choose from rather than available all together in one document, a few small pamphlets or summaries on a home page would be great with information detailing where to go to find out more, on specific details

**A disability that impacts how they think, a cognitive impairment:** Yes, I have found that people would like to be given time and allowed to try things without being locked in before they have to choose. as people think differently it would be nice to be able to change their minds as much as they want and to have things writte

**A psychosocial disability:** Yes, I would love more groups to be available for weekend a lot of the groups are week days and straight after school, which for working parents doesn't work, while these are fantastic and really helpful those with working parents or low income families lose out unless they can get into these groups with NDIS paying the costs upfront

**A disability that impacts their ability to communicate:** Yes, Those with disabilities need the rest of society to have the knowledge to understand that while they may not be able to communicate as well as others it may be possible with patience. If those with disabilities could spend time amongst those that understa

**From a CALD community:** Yes, I'm not sure what this is

**From an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Community:** Yes, I think we need to learn about what they want and lean more to what they want rather than what we think they want. It is easy to say everyone needs the same thing but how they approach that and how they want help is really important. what are the risks wh

**From the LGBTIQA community:** Yes, I think giving all people knowledge and if necessary extra help to understand the community, I have been raised knowing people from this community all my life and I have always believed in knowing the person as they are regardless of anything specific. No

1. **How can we help reduce conflict of interest?**

I think the emphasis has to be on what will make any person with a disability have the best life they can and to use their disability as a positive rather than negative. We also need to ensure that people are getting every kind of help that they can possibly get and that it is given to them without someone having a personal gain from helping people, there needs to be very careful policies in place to prevent and conflict of interest occurring and where it does it needs to be stamped out immediately, people that have disabilities need all the help they can get and its so important that they get the help they need without someone selfishly doing this simply to help themselves

1. **How can we help reduce undue influence?**

This is a huge issue as in cases where the child is a minor or cannot make all their own decisions it is hard not to rely on a support system to do what is best for you, I think support people need to be vetted and anything given to a person with disability needs to be audited to ensure that it goes to that person

1. **What are your concerns (if any) around people with disability being more involved in making decisions for themselves?**

I worry that they may not always know what they need and also won't be able to communicate what they need. While we need them to be a part of the process we also need people that can help to act as an ambassador for the disabled person and not just act on what the support people think they may need, this is so hard to manage as a person cannot be with a disabled person 24/7 apart from the support person and the views of the disable person may not always be possible to know

1. **What else could we do to help people with disability to make decisions for themselves? Is there anything missing?**

I think simplifying things and making them easily accessible would be the best way, diagrams and easy to understand is the main part, also if possible a connection with the disabled person separate to support people would be amazing as they wouldn't have to worry about what their support network thinks they need

1. **Do you have any feedback on our proposed actions in Appendix C of the paper?**

No response recorded