



Supporting you to make your own decisions

We want to know what you think

June 2021

Easy Read paper



ndis

[ndis.gov.au](https://www.ndis.gov.au)

How to use this paper



The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) wrote this paper. When you see the word 'we', it means the NDIA.



We have written this paper in an easy to read way.
We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold
Not bold

We have written some words in **bold**.
This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.
There is a list of these words on page 30.



You can ask for help to read this paper.
A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

What's in this paper?

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What is this paper about?



This paper is about support for decision making.



All people with disability should be able to make their own decisions.



Having choices can give people with disability more options.

We don't want to:



- automatically make decisions for people with disability



- make decisions for people with disability without them.



We want people with disability to make more decisions on their own.



People with disability have the right to make their own decisions.



Rights are rules about how everyone should be treated fairly.

This could include decisions about:



- your life



- your NDIS plan.

We want to find out more about how:



- you can get support to make decisions



- we can make it better for you to make decisions about the NDIS



- we can make it better for you to make decisions about your day-to-day life



- we can help people to support you to make decisions on your own.

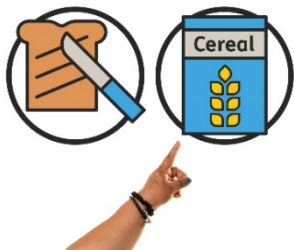
Why is decision making important?



Some people with disability don't get to make decisions on their own because other people think they can't do it.

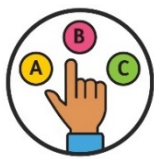


Having chances to make decisions can give you more choices.



This even includes making a small decision, like what to eat for breakfast.

When you get to make more decisions:



- your decision making skills get better



- you have more choices.



Making your own decisions can also help you take part in the community.



We want to support you to make the same life decisions as everyone else.

To reach your goals, you might get support from:



- your family and friends



- supports and services, such as a doctor.

Making decisions as part of the NDIS



Making decisions is a big part of the NDIS.



But some **participants** don't get many chances to make their own decisions at the moment.



Participants are people with disability who take part in the NDIS.



Many participants have other people who make their decisions for them.



But it's important for people with disability to make their own decisions.

Why did we write this paper?

We want to find better ways to support you to make decisions:



- on your own



- with support



- about things that affect you.



We want to find better ways for you to get support to make decisions.



But first we want to find out what the community thinks.

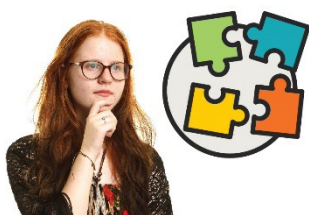
What to think about when you make decisions



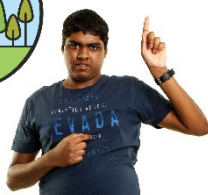
There are lots of things that can affect your decision making **capability**.

Your capability is how well you can do something.

These things can be:



- your skills to make decisions



- you and your life



- what support you have to make decisions



- the type of decisions you need to make.

We explain what you should think about on the following pages.

You and your life



When you make a decision, you should think about decisions you have made before.

When you make a decision you should think about how:



- easy it is for you to make decisions



- hard it is for you to make decisions.

You should think about what your life is like:



- at home



- at school



- at work



- in other places.

You should think about:



- what you need



- how to get what you need



- where to get what you need.

Your supports



When you make a decision, you should think about who can support you to make a good decision.



You might think about who you don't want to support you to make a good decision too.



You also might have to think about what you'll do if you don't have anyone to support you.

The type of decision



When you make a decision, you should work out if it's a:

- big decision
- small decision.



When you make a decision you should think about how important it is to you.

Our goals



We want you to support you to have the chance to make decisions.



We want to help you learn new skills so you can make decisions on your own.



We want to teach people who support you how to help you make your own decisions.



We want to help you choose a **nominee** if you need one.



Your nominee is someone you choose to make your NDIS decisions for you.



We want to give you more chances to make decisions about things that are important to you.

This could include:



- your NDIS plan, including what supports you use



- who you want to support you



- where you live



- what things you want to do.

We want support for decision making to be:



- easy to understand



- right for you



- there when you need it.

We want you to have the right support to make decisions based on:



- where you are in life



- supports you have already



- the type of decision you need to make.



We will create new information that will:

- help you learn how to make your own decisions
- explain how to support someone to make decisions.



We will make our information easy for everyone to:

- use
- understand.



We will make sure everyone who works for the NDIS understands how to support participants to make their own decisions.

People who help you make decisions



People who help you make decisions are called **decision supporters**.



Decision supporters can help you:

- understand what choices you have
- try new things
- make decisions
- learn how to make decisions on your own.



The important people in your life can be your decision supporters.

This could be your:



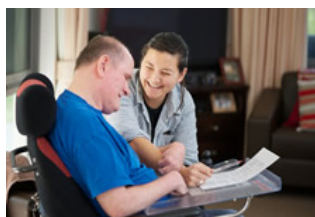
- family



- friends.



People who work for the NDIA can be your decision supporters for your NDIS decisions.



Your carers can be your decision supporters for:

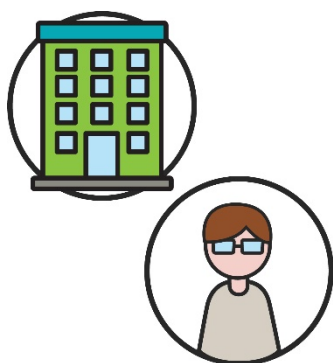
- NDIS decisions
- other decisions.



Your **service providers** can also be your decision supporters.



Service providers support people with disability.



They can be an:

- organisation
- individual.



We want you to feel comfortable making decisions with a decision supporter.



We will help decision supporters understand:

- when you want to make a decision on your own
- how to support you to make a decision on your own.

If a decision supporter needs to help you, we will make sure they understand:



- if the decision is big or small



- how the decision will affect your life



- if someone is controlling your decisions, such as a service provider or decision supporter.

People who make decisions for you



Sometimes, there are people who make decisions for you, such as a:

- nominee
- **guardian.**



A guardian is a person who acts and makes decisions for you.

Your guardian might be:



- a member of your family



- a friend



- chosen for you by the government.



We want people who make decisions for you to understand what's important to you.

How to tell us what you think



We want to know what you think about support for decision making.



This Easy Read paper is a summary of another paper.



The other paper has a list of questions we want to ask you.



You can find the other paper on our website at www.ndis.gov.au/community/have-your-say



You can also answer these questions on our website at

www.ndis.gov.au/community/have-your-say

Please tell us what you think by 5 pm
AEST on Friday 10 September 2021.

Other ways the NDIS will change



We want to change how other parts of the NDIS work as well.



We wrote Easy Read papers about other things we want to change.



You can find a paper about the Home and Living Policy on **our website**.



You can find more information about independent assessments on **our website**.



You can find information about changing early intervention for young children on **our website**.



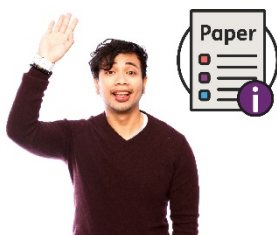
You can find information about changing NDIS plans and funding on **our website**.

More information



You can find out more about support for decision making on our website.

www.ndis.gov.au/community/have-your-say



If you would like more information about what is in this paper, you can contact us.



www.ndis.gov.au



1800 800 110



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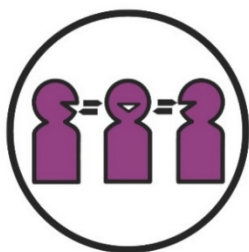
Support to talk to us



You can use our webchat feature to talk to us online.

www.ndis.gov.au/webchat/start

If you speak a language other than English, you can call:



Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)

131 450

If you have a speech or hearing impairment, you can call:



TTY

1800 555 677



Speak and Listen

1800 555 727



National Relay Service

133 677

www.relayservice.gov.au

Word list



Advocates

An advocate is someone who speaks up for you if you can't speak up for yourself.



Capability

Your capability is how well you can do something.



Decision supporters

Decision supporters can help you:

- understand what choices you have
- try new things
- make decisions
- learn how to make decisions on your own.

Guardian

A guardian is a person who acts and makes decisions for you.

Your guardian might be:



- a member of your family
- a friend
- chosen for you by the government.



Nominee

Your nominee is someone you choose to make your decisions for you.



Participants

Participants are people with disability who take part in the NDIS.



Rights

Rights are rules about how everyone should be treated fairly.



Service providers

Service providers support people with disability.

They can be an:

- organisation
- individual.



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