**Support for Decision Making consultation submission**

**Name:** Individual 16 (ACT)

**Date and time submitted:** 9/7/2021 1:35:00 AM

**How do you identify:**

* A NDIS participant: Yes
* A family member, friend or carer of a NDIS participant: Yes
* A NDIS nominee: No
* A legally appointed guardian: No
* A disability support worker: Yes
* A health or allied health worker: No
* A community member: Yes
* 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: Yes
* A person with a psychosocial disability: Yes
* Other: Yes, A person with a physical disability and multiple interplaying complex disabilities

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: Yes

Genuinely listening to them, respecting their right to make decisions, respecting that they understand their circumstances better than staff administering the NDIS etc

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

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

The people who know the person and their needs best, and the people the person trusts to assist them in making decisions

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

Ensure they know the person with disabilities, what is important to that person, the possible options for the person, how those options can be explained to the individual (if explanation is required), how to help communicate the person's decision and reasons for those decisions, how to help the individual with disabilities advocate for their right to make their own decision regardless of disabilities and perceptions of others, genuinely listening, allowing the person to change their mind about decisions as they develop increased understanding or as their circumstances change...

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: Yes

Being taught about the tactics the staff at NDIA (and other organisations use) to block people with disabilities from effectively making their own decisions.

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: No
* They enable the participant to take risks: Yes
* Other: Yes

They are someone the person with a disability wants to help them with decision making!

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: Yes

Key information relevant to each decision

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?**

They knew what was important to me and respected my values, my desired outcomes, and my right to make decisions.

**What could have been better?**

The people they helped me communicate my decision to should have listened more!

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: Yes

The NDIA being genuinely honest about how it uses information to inform NDIS Plan funding decisions and transparency about "behind the scenes frameworks/guidelines" for developing NDIS Plans in operation at NDIA.

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

**An intellectual disability:** Yes, Whatever is relevant to their individual circumstances, their goals, the relevant decision, their other relevant disabilities and the formal/informal supports available to them, the potential services available in their area. The fact NDIA is asking this question demonstrates that the Commonwealth does not understand that every individual (even with a disability of a specific nature) is and INDIVIDUAL, and every decision is UNIQUE. The nature of their disability does not negate their right to be supported in making their own decisions. The perceived impact of their disability (past/present/future) also doesn't negate their right to be supported in making their own decision. The nature of their disability does not impact on the fact NDIA (and others) should respect their decision made by the person with the disability.

**A disability that impacts how they think, a cognitive impairment:** Yes, Whatever is relevant to their individual circumstances, their goals, the relevant decision, their other relevant disabilities and the formal/informal supports available to them, the potential services available in their area. The fact NDIA is asking this question demonstrates that the Commonwealth does not understand that every individual (even with a disability of a specific nature) is and INDIVIDUAL, and every decision is UNIQUE. The nature of their disability does not negate their right to be supported in making their own decisions. The perceived impact of their disability (past/present/future) also doesn't negate their right to be supported in making their own decision. The nature of their disability does not impact on the fact NDIA (and others) should respect their decision made by the person with the disability.

**A psychosocial disability:** Yes, Whatever is relevant to their individual circumstances, their goals, the relevant decision, their other relevant disabilities and the formal/informal supports available to them, the potential services available in their area. The fact NDIA is asking this question demonstrates that the Commonwealth does not understand that every individual (even with a disability of a specific nature) is and INDIVIDUAL, and every decision is UNIQUE. The nature of their disability does not negate their right to be supported in making their own decisions. The perceived impact of their disability (past/present/future) also doesn't negate their right to be supported in making their own decision. The nature of their disability does not impact on the fact NDIA (and others) should respect their decision made by the person with the disability. Even individuals with psychosocial disabilities who are under treatment/guardianship orders should be respected in their right to make decisions! NDIA should be educating relevant bodies and organisations about these rights and how to support those with psychosocial disabilities to be empowered to make decisions.

**A disability that impacts their ability to communicate:** Yes, Whatever is relevant to their individual circumstances, their goals, the relevant decision, their other relevant disabilities, and the formal/informal supports available to them, the potential services available in their area. The fact NDIA is asking this question demonstrates that the Commonwealth does not understand that every individual (even with a disability of a specific nature) is and INDIVIDUAL, and every decision is UNIQUE. The nature of their disability does not negate their right to be supported in making their own decisions. The perceived impact of their disability (past/present/future) also doesn't negate their right to be supported in making their own decision. The nature of their disability does not impact on the fact NDIA (and others) should respect their decision made by the person with the disability. Communication assistance should be provided and even if communication is different or not in a format that is considered typical.

**From a CALD community:** Yes, Whatever is relevant to their individual circumstances, their goals, the relevant decision, their other relevant disabilities, and the formal/informal supports available to them, the potential services available in their area. The fact NDIA is asking this question demonstrates that the Commonwealth does not understand that every individual (even with a disability of a specific nature) is and INDIVIDUAL, and every decision is UNIQUE. The nature of their disability does not negate their right to be supported in making their own decisions. The perceived impact of their disability (past/present/future) also doesn't negate their right to be supported in making their own decision. The nature of their disability does not impact on the fact NDIA (and others) should respect their decision made by the person with the disability. All efforts should be made to connect people from CALD backgrounds with people who are aware of how their CALD backgrounds may impact their decisions, values, and desired outcomes, with them when attempting to help support them with decision making.

**From an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Community:** Yes, Whatever is relevant to their individual circumstances, their goals, the relevant decision, their other relevant disabilities, and the formal/informal supports available to them, the potential services available in their area. The fact NDIA is asking this question demonstrates that the Commonwealth does not understand that every individual (even with a disability of a specific nature) is and INDIVIDUAL, and every decision is UNIQUE. The nature of their disability does not negate their right to be supported in making their own decisions. The perceived impact of their disability (past/present/future) also doesn't negate their right to be supported in making their own decision. The nature of their disability does not impact on the fact NDIA (and others) should respect their decision made by the person with the disability. All efforts should be made to connect people from ATSI backgrounds with people who are aware of how their ATSI backgrounds may impact their decisions, values, and desired outcomes, with them when attempting to help support them with decision making.

**From the LGBTIQA community:** Yes, Whatever is relevant to their individual circumstances, their goals, the relevant decision, their other relevant disabilities, and the formal/informal supports available to them, the potential services available in their area. The fact NDIA is asking thi this question demonstrates that the Commonwealth does not understand that every individual (even with a disability of a specific nature) is and INDIVIDUAL, and every decision is UNIQUE. The nature of their disability does not negate their right to be supported in making their own decisions. The perceived impact of their disability (past/present/future) also doesn't negate their right to be supported in making their own decision. The nature of their disability does not impact on the fact NDIA (and others) should respect their decision made by the person with the disability. All efforts should be made to connect people from the LGBTIQA+ community

with people who are aware of how their LGBTIQA+ status may impact their decisions, values, and desired outcomes, with them when attempting to help support them with decision making.

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

Ensure NDIA does not directly or indirectly apply pressure to individuals, or those supporting them in making decisions, through the way NDIA operates or administers the NDIS.

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

Ensure NDIA sets the example with full, open, honest, transparency about matters. Ensure NDIA sets the example by not threatening or lying to participants (or the broader community), provide safety frameworks that are external to NDIA to ensure people with disabilities who are concerned about this have support.

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

The fact the Government, NDIA in particular, demonstrates it is not genuine when it says it wants to support people with disabilities in making decisions for themselves. The entire approach from NDIA is ableist, based on assumptions, attempts to put people with disabilities into boxes and therefore promotes a culture where others don't respect the rights of people with disabilities to make decisions!

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

NDIA and the Government desisting in projecting material into the broader community that people with disabilities are a burden on society and not capable of truly appreciating what their needs are, what is good for them, or that people with disabilities have fewer/lesser rights than the general population.

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

No.