**Support for Decision Making consultation submission**

**Name:** Individual 21 (QLD)

**Date and time submitted:** 8/30/2021 5:04:00 AM

**How do you identify:**

* A NDIS participant: No
* A family member, friend or carer of a NDIS participant: No
* 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: Yes, none of the above

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

All of the above are needed as the situation will depend on individual circumstances. Most importantly information needs to be accessible for the person so that they can make a decision with support and making sure that decision making support is available.

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: Yes
* LAC: Yes
* NDIA Partners: Yes
* Advocates: Yes
* Service Providers: Yes
* Other: Yes

Again, all of the above are needed as the situation will depend on individual circumstance. Sometimes a person may not have any family or friends in which case they will rely on paid supports. Paid supports need to ensure minimum conflict of interest. There are not enough Independent Advocates to provide support for decision making as it is not an advocacy issue. Support for decision making for an NDIS participant in relation to NDIS supports should be covered by the NDIS.

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

They need to know the person and understand what their will and preference is. They need to declare any conflict of interest. They need to be aware of their own unconscious bias and fully support the idea that people can make decisions even if they need support to do so. They need to have a good understanding about different ways people communicate. They need to be able to accept that sometimes people may make bad decisions or decisions that the decision supporter would not make themselves.

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

Understanding human rights and legislation that underpins it. Understanding and awareness about the UNCRPD.

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

Ensure there is limited conflict of interest. Not assume that family knows best.

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

Understanding human rights and legislation that underpins it. Understanding and awareness about the UNCRPD. Concepts like Circles of Support. Understanding and awareness of dignity of risk.

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

Not applicable

**What worked well?**

No answer recorded

**What could have been better?**

No answer recorded

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

All of the above are needed as the situation will depend on individual circumstances. Most importantly information needs to be accessible for the person so that they can make a decision with support and making sure that decision making support is available.

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

**An intellectual disability:** Yes, Communication style and support needed, level of understanding, will and preference, access to informal supports, outside pressures such as family members making decisions for them, allowing for dignity of risk, history or trauma, when other comorbid disabilities are present always consider the impact of ID in this case.

**A disability that impacts how they think, a cognitive impairment:** No

**A psychosocial disability:** No

**A disability that impacts their ability to communicate:** No

**From a CALD community:** No

**From an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Community:** No

**From the LGBTIQA community:** No

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

Ensure all supports are not provided by same company or by one person. Ensure there are several people involved with the person, try and build a circle of supports.

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

Ensure the person has lots of different people around them. Ensure people are not isolated.

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

Absolutely none!!

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

There needs to be a way to make support for decision making a formal process for the most vulnerable people who have no one in their lives, and for people who have identified they would like this support. There needs to be funding for this so that someone can facilitate for decision supports.

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

It is really good to hear that the NDIA are considering plan nominees and the process for this. So many participants have family as a plan nominee by default when they would not have chosen for this to happen. This practice needs to stop. NDIA must ask the participant whom, if anyone, they'd like to have as their plan nominee.