Support for Decision Making consultation submission

**Name:** Individual 6 (QLD)

**Date and time submitted:** 9/10/2021 12:48:00 PM

**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

# How can we help people with disability make decisions for themselves?

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

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

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

# What should they do to help with decision-making?

Depending on the situation, a network of people who are involved in a person with a disability's life, knowing what they are going through.

# 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

# How can we make sure the right people are helping?

* They are chosen by the NDIS Participant as a decision supporter: No
* 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: No

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

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

# 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?

Moving into a SIL accommodation worked well for the first year, then things slowly started becoming a battle to live there.

## What could have been better?

Support and training for carers and for individuals in SIL.

# 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: No
* Guidance Tools: Yes
* Not Sure: No
* Other: No

# Are there different things to consider for people with different disabilities or cultural backgrounds?

**An intellectual disability:** Yes, Parents should be the ones who are taken more seriously in understanding how their child works and thinks. Children do not always have the capacity or enough regular stimulation sessions to help them understand.

**A disability that impacts how they think, a cognitive impairment:** Yes, Not enough help and understanding or support to help them think or understand what they need to know.

**A psychosocial disability:** Yes, A person with a psychosocial disability is someone who has had a life experience and when they are at their lowest, the person caring for them needs better understanding and not everyone is a councilor but provision should be made for them to have their say and to be listened to especially when they are in a struggle mentally.

**A disability that impacts their ability to communicate:** Yes, Person centered provision for the person by having trained staff in the caring role who is able to deal with someone to understand their communication and emotions and feelings.

**From a CALD community:** No

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

**From the LGBTIQA community:** No

# How can we help reduce conflict of interest?

Their has to be a mediator available at all times when this does happen. Someone who understands and can listen to both sides and then make a decision to reduce the conflict straight away and not let it get out of control.

# How can we help reduce undue influence?

There has to be a way that someone outside of a caring or supporting person's organization that can be available to check in from time to time and hear both sides of the story as one side is always listened to and it is not the person with the disability.

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

I do not have concerns around people with a disability having or being more involved in making their own decisions. It is choice and control and sometimes they are not the ones being listened to. Each person has a right to live the life they want with the help they need and not confined to or made to do or live with other people who they don't want to live with. It is all about choice and control. They did not ask to be disabled.

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

Yes, listening to the disabled person themselves. Giving them a fair go at making a life for themselves without being told what to do or how to do it but being given guidance and help along the way. Each individual is different with different needs and wants. Not saying no or chopping and changing the rules or choices all the time.

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

Please let a disabled person have their say and how they would like to live their lives with help and to listen to the parents too of these disabled children as they have lived with them and know their needs inside out and to give them the best possible go at life without barriers or red tape stopping them from achieving what they want to achieve in life. Listen more to them.