**Support for Decision Making consultation submission**

**Name:** Individual 66 (QLD)

**Date and time submitted:** 6/28/2021 12:59:00 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

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

Support worker

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

Provide firm clear advice & not be afraid to be blunt if needed

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 the effects of the disability - especially important with Autism

1. **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: Yes

They have a clear sense of the boundary between personal & professional, thinking about what is right for the person, not them.

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?**

The capacity of the person to fully listen to what was being said.

**What could have been better?**

See above

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, Use of language and ability to grasp situation.

**A disability that impacts how they think, a cognitive impairment:** Yes, Different thinking styles - spectrum folk tend to think associativity, not linear. Also the affects of synaesthesia (where sensory info gets jumbled around in the brain)

**A psychosocial disability:** Yes, Similar to above. Also the effects of any medication.

**A disability that impacts their ability to communicate:** Yes, Do they possess the receptive communication? Can they understand what's being said.

**From a CALD community:** Yes, Different social values & structured.

**From an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Community:** Yes, See above. Also the effects of colonisation.

**From the LGBTIQA community:** Yes, Many may also be cognitively impaired. High levels of crossover - if on 1 diversity spectrum, anecdotal evidence says you're more likely to be on another.

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

Regular, ongoing, professional supervision aimed at assisting to develop clear understanding of boundaries. Multiple people keeping watch.

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

Having multiple people involved to act as checks & balances.

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

I have a son with ASD. He STILL thinks that $385 is a good price for a 30 year old turntable that has been completely redone being sold by a random on EBAY. He didn't get it. He STILL can't understand that somebody from Michigan USA wanting to buy his bike is not a scam - that didn't happen. It's taken him 3 years to face up to the fact he has an issue with food - hesalso a type 2 diabetic who binge eats. In 2018 he was engaging in magical thinking re finding a girlfriend.

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

Someone prepared to say no occasionally.

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

No response recorded