**Support for Decision Making consultation submission**

**Name:** Individual 7 (VIC)

**Date and time submitted:** 9/9/2021 10:38:00 PM

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

Use common terms and reduce the amount of NDIS jargon placed in plans and processes.

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

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

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

Advise on options then help to articulate wants and needs and keep thee PWD at the centre of decision making

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

Making sure PWD is present whenever discussing decisions they have made

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: No

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?**

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: No
* Peer Support Networks: No
* Information and Resources: Yes
* Guidance Tools: Yes
* Not Sure: No
* Other: Yes

When appropriate, rewritting the plan in an easy read format and expalining it to the participant in simple terms

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

**An intellectual disability:** Yes, How accessible is the information for the person with a disability?

Using easy reads, coverting money amounts to hours or objects purchasable. Having all information ready to go to answer any questions

**A disability that impacts how they think, a cognitive impairment:** Yes, Short blocks of information, reduced abstract concepts

**A psychosocial disability:** Yes, Respect capacity and ability to identify wants and needs. Know what may be stressful or triggering for the participant and how to approach it with them before commencing

**A disability that impacts their ability to communicate:** Yes, If someone communicates on their behalf, do they have authority to do so and is it in the participants best interest?

**From a CALD community:** Yes, How does culture influence the person or their families values and how is this different to our own? The person may not prioritise independence as we do in western society and this should be respected

**From an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Community:** Yes, Consider the 8 ways of learning.

Acknowledge generational trauma has caused a general distrust in health and government services. Emphasise rapport building, aim for long term connections and ask the person who is normally involved in decision making.

Allow the person to discuss decisions with family or elders before coming back to them to ask for an answer

**From the LGBTIQA community:** No

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

Stop support coordination providers from providing other services.

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

Enforce registered providers to pay for a 3rd party to complete random check ins for participants. Enforce minimum qualifications for support workers

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

People assuming that something is unobtainable without trying or allowing for dignity of risk.

NDIS documents, websites and plans being difficult to understand (for everyone not just people with an intellectual disability).

Lack of clear and specific guidance from NDIA

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

Make it compulsory for the person to be present at all NDIA meetings (and not a nominee) unless there is a guardian in place.

Increase representation of people with a disability within senior management of the NDIA (having a family member with a disability DOES NOT count as lived experience)

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

No response recorded