**Support for Decision Making consultation submission**

**Name:** Individual 8 (NSW)

**Date and time submitted:** 9/9/2021 7:23:00 PM

**How do you identify:**

* A NDIS participant: Yes
* 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: 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: 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?**

Mostly is about information and ways to differentiate the quality of services out there. So many new services crops up but quality and integrity is always the issues.

1. **How can they get better at helping?**

* Getting to know the participant well: Yes
* Doing some training on decision support: No
* By having resources and information about providing decision support: No
* Other: Yes

Have the right to create your own checklist of quality of your support services.

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: No
* Other: No

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

* Guidelines for decision supporters: No
* Scenarios or Examples: No
* Information Sessions: No
* 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?**

Some of the information you get is from unlikely places. Therefore participants who have suggestions should have a voice in their needs to be heard.

**What could have been better?**

Listen. Listen and listen.

1. **What is the best way to support people with disability to make decisions about their NDIS plan?**

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

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

**An intellectual disability:** No

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

**A psychosocial disability:** Yes, In my experience, I was never taken seriously and therefore never quite been heard. They always use my condition as the reason for not listening to what I have to say. I believe that an advocates always needed for NDIS to take my needs seriously.

**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?**

Accountability is the keyword and no double standards. Constructive criticism should be welcome to improve the system, not received with hostility. Never give one entity of total control over a person/ participants well-being without regulators. There must always a watchers watching the entity whose working with the participants so that the participants are not being taken advantage of.

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

Like GPS, Co-Ordinators are the gatekeepers of services for the participants. When the a communication breakdown between coordinator and participants, services breakdown always ensues. For examples, OT always listens to CoOrdinator instead of the clients and only reports to them. OT works for the CoOrdinators, participants pays with their funding. So the participants will suffer and always in silence. This is why the watchers should exist for the participants well being. They should speak the same language as the participants. Theyre an independent body.

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

I know many of my peers who are participants like me who talked about how they suffered because they dont have a voice and too much noise if they cause a stir. Not one of my friends can make decisions of what they want. So they just go with the flow. We, participants are not idiots. They say we should be treated with respect, that really sounds good on the brochures.

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

They only way that the participants speaks up, when the people who are running their life is not there. There are so many participants lost their motivation plus they dont have energy to begin with. Let alone fighting for their voice. There need to an independent organisation or advocacy day event that can be held where service providers locations where participants social activities are held throughout the year. And make it fun and save for them to voice out their concerns.

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

Later