**Support for Decision Making consultation submission**

**Name:** Individual 25 (ACT)

**Date and time submitted:** 8/25/2021 4:51:00 AM

**How do you identify:**

* A NDIS participant: Yes
* A family member, friend or carer of a NDIS participant: Yes
* A NDIS nominee: Yes
* 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: Yes
* A person with a cognitive impairment: Yes
* A person with a communication disability: Yes
* A person with a psychosocial disability: No
* Other: Yes, A dedicated loving parent

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

Improve processes, procedures and application of relevant NDIS Act provisions focussed on independence, choice and control, etc.

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: No
* LAC: No
* NDIA Partners: No
* Advocates: Yes
* Service Providers: No
* Other: Yes

...and colleagues, work friends, etc.

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

Form inclusive circle of support with participant at centre. The more views, angles, perspectives the better.

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

Including all of the participants loved ones. Again, the more perspectives and views the better.

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

They are driven by increasing independence, choice and control, etc, facilitating dignity of risk, rigorous, outcome-focussed planning and achievements for participant, thus reducing R&N supports.

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

CRPD, insistence on high expectations, elimination of stereotypes, etc.

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?**

Collaboration, person centred, strengths based. Unapologetic insistence on facilitating the good life.

**What could have been better?**

Everything!! Work in progress.

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

Inclusive circle of support. More perspectives, oversights, safeguardsthe better.

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

**An intellectual disability:** Yes, Usually disempowered by life of complying with others' rules, wishes, expectations and robbed of decision making opportunities. Easily taken advantage of and tendency to co.plt with the needs of others. Need program of targetted opportunities to make decisions, increasing in complexity over time.

**A disability that impacts how they think, a cognitive impairment:** Yes, Similar to ID.

**A psychosocial disability:** No

**A disability that impacts their ability to communicate:** Yes, Similar to ID. Special focus on ensuring comms are appropriate, tailored, to each individual.

**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?**

Inclusive circles of support with many perspectives. Do not isolate participants. Minimise those with monetary, business, or other interests. Maximise those with freely given, loving/caring and purely personal interests.

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

As above. Inclusive circles of support with many perspectives. Do not isolate participants. Minimise those with monetary, business, or other interests. Maximise those with freely given, loving/caring and purely personal interests. Long term, structured and tailored decision-making support, increasing in complexity with time.

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

Serious risks being overlooked. Participants have the right to make decisions, to make mistakes and errors, to take risks, but rigorous consideration and application of safeguards is important. Risk must be measured and reasonable in the circumstances.

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

Unapologetic and almost rigid focus on the objects of the NDIS Act. Too much power being given to those around participants and little accountability to the objects of the Act.

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

Haven't read yet, but will email a more ethorough submission.