**Support for Decision Making consultation submission**

**Name:** Individual 42 (NSW)

**Date and time submitted:** 7/29/2021 5:48:00 AM

**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: Yes

Involve people with disabilities in the decision making process using a supported decision making process in the planning process including when approving the plan, asks participants if they are happy with their plan, if participants say yes the planner to ask the participant do you approve the plan? Participants reply yes the planner responds and says I approve the plan too. Come to a middle ground with participants in making decisions do not just say to participants NDIS does not fund conferences. There needs to be less people going to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal to get decisions overturned this is costing a lot of money and people with disabilities are having to seek legal advice all the time every time their scheduled plan review is due all because of the way the staff at the NDIA make decisions. Planners are not on the same page and same level as participants. Planners do not know what it is like to live with a disability, the barriers and challenges face and what it is like when a plan is not person centred focusing on what is important to participants not what is important to planners 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: No

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

Get participants input and then come to an outcome/agreement by consulting with the person with a disability asking them if they are happy about that or have any concerns.

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: No

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: Yes
* 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?**

Yes

**What worked well?**

Lawyer was on the same page, agreed the importance of the conference is community participation and agreed the importance of being funded on an ongoing continuous basis.

**What could have been better?**

All went well no concerns.

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: No
* Not Sure: No
* Other: No

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

**An intellectual disability:** Yes, People with an intellectual disability are experts in their own field and know what they want if planners, NDIA staff etc do not support people with an intellectual disability with what they want to do and ensure everything in the plan is funded that people with an intellectual disability have asked for people with an intellectual disability will develop their own plan themselves that is person centred with everything they want in their plan and will use that plan to access services and supports. When providers ask people with an intellectual disability for their NDIS plan people with an intellectual disability will say this is my NDIS plan do not have an NDIS plan from the NDIA. People with an intellectual disability do not know what terminology to use when at their scheduled plan review meetings to ask for items to be funded in their NDIS plan and dont know how to word it to planners etc.

**A disability that impacts how they think, a cognitive impairment:** Yes, Understand what the person is thinking and the way they interpret items and categories instead of planners etc advising the person what is funded under the NDIS. For example instead of saying to the person do you attend day programmes, social or recreational activities? The person says no I attend conferences. The planners etc should instead be saying the NDIS does not normally fund conferences for people with disabilities however for you it is reasonable and necessary the NDIS will fund your conferences. If planners etc are unsure ask the person with the disability questions like what are the benefits for you in attending conferences? How long have you been attending conferences for and what do you do at the conference? Why are conferences so important to you?

**A psychosocial disability:** Yes, The way information is interpreted.

**A disability that impacts their ability to communicate:** Yes, Assistive Technology communication devices.

**From a CALD community:** Yes, Interpreters.

**From an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Community:** Yes, Not sure

**From the LGBTIQA community:** Yes, Not sure

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

Have someone who knows the person with a disability well.

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

Listen and fund what the person with a disability is interested in and what the person with a disability wants to do.

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

Planners etc making the decisions for people with a disability instead of the person with a disability providing input and a middle ground is reached where both sides come to an agreement or outcome that both the person with a disability and the other person is happy with and agrees to. Planners etc to give a definition/explanation on why that decision was made and why it was decided.

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

All planners, NDIA staff listening and respecting people with disabilities on what is important to them and developing a plan that is opened, holistic and person centred to meet the persons goals, passions, interests and aspirations. Allowing people with disabilities to utilise their plan flexibility without putting limits on what they can and cant use their NDIS funding for.

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

No