**Support for Decision Making consultation submission**

**Name:** Individual 46 (NSW)

**Date and time submitted:** 7/21/2021 7:34:00 AM

**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: 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: Yes, Local Area Coordinator

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

The NDIS can have clear guidelines in place to prevent individuals or providers with a conflict of interest making decisions for participants, which are not necessarily in their best interests.

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

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

Provide factual information in an easy to understand and simple format which meets with the participant's needs.

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

Avoiding 'influencing' language

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 do not have a conflict of interest with the participant i.e providers who stand to gain financially or otherwise from the participant's decision.

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: No
* Information Sessions: No
* Support Networks: No
* 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?**

Being provided options and factual information

**What could have been better?**

Having more information about the consequences of one decision over the other

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

Clear information about different options available and the pros and cons of each option

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

**An intellectual disability:** Yes, Present information in a clear, easy to understand format. Consider also the person's learning style; visual, auditory or experiential. Provide opportunities to rephrase and repeat information to check understanding.

**A disability that impacts how they think, a cognitive impairment:** Yes, Present information in a clear, easy to understand format. Consider also the person's learning style; visual, auditory or experiential. Provide opportunities to rephrase and repeat information to check understanding.

**A psychosocial disability:** Yes, Information should be provided in written format wherever this is possible to avoid misunderstandings and allow time to absorb and consider the information and build trust with decision supporters.

**A disability that impacts their ability to communicate:** Yes, Provide adequate time to consider the decision and offer responses using their preferred method of communication.

**From a CALD community:** Yes, Providing in-language support. Providing extra resources for parents to understand the importance of supporting their children with decision making and providing them with the tools to do it.

**From an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Community:** Yes, Not qualified to comment on this, but would generally say that elder's influence in their local community should be considered.

**From the LGBTIQA community:** Yes, Using inclusive language in the resources being developed. Training decision supporters to use inclusive language and have an understanding of the challenges faced by this community.

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

Have clear policies and procedures in place to prevent persons or organizations with conflict of interest making decisions for participants. Educate our participants about their rights and responsibilities.

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

Have clear policies and procedures in place. Educate our participants about their rights and responsibilities.

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

None. I look forward to playing a role in supported decision making and encourage more of our participants to make informed decisions on their own.

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

Run a campaign to educate and encourage the general public, including carers, educators and other relevant parties to actively get involved in supported decision making, break down stereo types around people with disability not being able to make decisions.

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

Great actions. Good luck with monitoring the outcomes/impacts and adjusting, tweaking as we go along.