**Support for Decision Making consultation submission**

**Name:** Individual 47 (NSW)

**Date and time submitted:** 7/19/2021 7:43:00 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: 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: Yes
* Information: No
* Decision Guides: No
* 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: No
* 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?**

Offer options, explain options in plain language terms, base decisions on what client has needed in past two years, add to decision based on new needs arising.

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: 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: Yes
* Scenarios or Examples: No
* 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?**

Asking the participant what they wanted. Gathering information about available options. Finding options based on the individual's need not money. Working through the practicalities.

**What could have been better?**

Better transparency/published protocols by service providers on their websites or as fact sheets to provide the client with fine print details. Plus, advise clients to take along a non-financially involved advocate to any meeting involving major decisions.

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

Personalise the support to the individual's needs. No two stories are alike, everyone deserves to have their own needs heard & respected.

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

**An intellectual disability:** Yes, 1. Who owns/can access the bank account for NDIS transactions when an individual has a moderate ID: family members or an advocate must included in transaction access.

2. Safety. You wouldn't leave a 6 year old at home alone. Why is it ok to leave an individual with a moderate or severe ID at home unsupervised? (Many care hours are being routinely knocked back when parents of ID adults work).

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

**A psychosocial disability:** No

**A disability that impacts their ability to communicate:** Yes, One size fits all planners & LACS can not interact successfully with an individual who signs or uses an augmentative setup without input from family, friends or a speech pathologist to interpret. AAC "interpreters" should always therefore be part of a pla ning meeting if client need arises.

**From a CALD community:** Yes, 1. Use of an interpreter for meetings depending on client need.

2. Translated resources available on websites.

3. Culturally sensitive support questions.

**From an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Community:** Yes, ATI support workers & service providers do put ATI families at ease when discussing needs.

**From the LGBTIQA community:** No

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

Be transparent about service provider brokerage fees.

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

No response recorded

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

I am not concerned if people with disability are more involved. Often the right direction stems from listening to the individual's needs.

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

Where is the Quality of life aspect in planning meetings?

The NDIS was initially setup to allow for higher socialisation into society for people with disability, but over the years the planning options have devolved to the now recently debunked ndis standardised assessment tool scenario.

Where are the planners writing qualitatively what people want in their plans and then working out how to incorporate those needs into everyday life?

Decision making over the phone with an adult in the room who can speak more clearly does not lead to better decision making.

Spending an hour face to face with an individual in their home will allow any planner a truer idea of decision making than hours by email or appeals.

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

No response recorded