**Support for Decision Making consultation submission**

**Name:** Individual 84 (WA)

**Date and time submitted:** 6/21/2021 7:24:00 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: No
* Information: No
* Decision Guides: No
* Having a person help: No
* Other: Yes

Availability of trained smart communication partner to support my decision making. Adequate supports from trained advocates working outside of the NDIS

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: 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?**

Know me very well. Know my vision of what I want to achieve in my life and lifestyle. Be skilled at being a smart communication partner and using and modeling my AAC

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: 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: 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?**

Giving me time to consider and reflect, supporting me to speak up, having private conversations with people I trusted and who were not paid staff

**What could have been better?**

More self determination and less rules to be followed by agency providing direct support workers

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

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

As answered for previous question

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

**An intellectual disability:** Yes, Don't treat me like I have less or no value

**A disability that impacts how they think, a cognitive impairment:** Yes, Give me time to process and don't hurry me up

**A psychosocial disability:** Yes, Don't judge me. Understand that just because i have a pyscho- social disability doesn't mean I don't know what I want or need. Really listen to me.

**A disability that impacts their ability to communicate:** Yes, They need highly skilled smart communication partners who support their rights to communicate autonomously. They may need more time to make decisions. They need opportunities to change their minds.

**From a CALD community:** Yes, They need respect for their culture and traditions

**From an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Community:** Yes, Respect for country and language. Understanding that these people experience systemic racism, but that it also intersects with class, gender etc

**From the LGBTIQA community:** Yes, Acceptance for who they are. Not trying to put them in a neat little box.

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

SIL - if the agency who receives the SIL funding charges for support at NDIS maximum rates but is unable to provide in full the number of hours funded, the agency is still paid the full SIL rate. So when my family have provided me with direct support for the sole reason that the SIL provider has been unable to supply suitably qualified and experienced direct support the organisation benefits by receiving payment for services not provided to me. This loophole should be fixed. The more say I have in my life and the more people who know me well helps reduce the potential of conflict of interest. E.g. If it is well known that I hate shopping and a support worker takes me to the shops to do some of their own shopping this is the support worker doing what they want, not what I want. If people around me know my preferences it is easier for a support worker to be called out for using my time to do stuff they want.

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

Again by having people who know me well in my life. People like family and friends who love me and who visit me often and unexpectedly. I also need a cctv system to monitor behaviours of paid staff when I am alone with them. When people know there's a chance they'll be caught out I feel safer and less prone to undue influence. I need people to give me the time and space to speak up rather than having others jumping in and speaking on my behalf. I need to not be bombarded with question after question because I fatigue and am unable to give the answer I want to give, or I get overwhelmed by too many decisions in a short space of time.

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

That disabled people are pressured or rushed into decision making, that they aren't given access to a wide variety of resources and information from a wide range of sources. That they are listened to and their requests acted upon. After a while I might give up in frustration. Pwd are so often "over ruled" or decisions made for them. I hate it.

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

Opportunities for peer led support to develop our abilities to make our own decisions

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

No response recorded