

Submission on Supported Decision Making

By the Down Syndrome Advisory Network



This submission was written by the **Down Syndrome Advisory Network**.

This submission tells the National Disability Insurance Agency about:

- what we want when we make decisions.
- how you can support us with making decisions.



The Down Syndrome Advisory Network is a group of leaders and advocates with Down syndrome.



We speak out for people with Down syndrome.

We work with Down Syndrome Australia to talk about things that are important to people with Down syndrome.

Our submission



Making decisions is important to people with Down syndrome.

It makes us feel independent, free and in control of our own life.



We want the right to make decisions for ourselves.



We like to make our own decisions but sometimes we need help.

Some people need more help than others.

Parents can sometimes help us with our decisions.



We make decisions at lots of different times.

We want to make decisions about:

- where we live
- who gives us support and
- how we spend money.

NDIS



We need help to understand the NDIS and get information about how the NDIS works.

We need this information to make sense and not to keep changing.



The NDIA and others can help us make decisions. They can:

- spend time with us
- listen
- respect our privacy
- talk to us about what our goals are
- be patient, listen and encourage us.



Give us information that we understand.

For some people that might be an Easy Read version or pictures.



The best people who can help us make decisions are people who know us very well and who we trust.



It might be our family, our friends, advocacy organisations or our support worker.

They need to know what we are good at and what we need more support with.



Some people do not have someone that they trust to help them.

They need an advocate to support them.

It is important they can get that support when they need it.



We need to be able to ask for help when we need it.

Remember that we can make our own decisions.

We might just need your help.

The [Down Syndrome Advisory Network](#) made this submission to NDIA in August 2021.