Support for Decision Making consultation submission

**Name:** Consumers of Mental Health WA (WA)

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# 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

Support that is individualized to the personâ€™s competencies and the demands of the decisions faced (peers).

# Who are the best people to help you (or a person with a disability) to make decisions?

* Family: No
* Friends: No
* Peer Support Networks: No
* Mentors: No
* Coordinators: No
* LAC: No
* NDIA Partners: No
* Advocates: No
* Service Providers: No
* Other: Yes

A person may appoint whoever they want as their Supporter and may appoint more than one. A person may also appoint, or revoke their appointment of, a Supporter at any time.

# What should they do to help with decision-making?

Two-way Information Sharing, Deliberation on Information, Decision and Communication

# How can they get better at helping?

* Getting to know the participant well: No
* Doing some training on decision support: No
* By having resources and information about providing decision support: No
* Other: Yes

Recruitment processes, training and Peer Supporter Supervision should be provided to help reduce the risk of undue influence.

# 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: No
* They are a registered provider: No
* They enable the participant to take risks: No
* Other: Yes

Supported Decision Making requires funded Supporters to have high level interpersonal skills and attributes to achieve their role.

# 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: No
* Other: Yes

Supporting and strengthening self-determination, viewing decision-making as relational, interdependent and changeable, understanding capacity as context related and decision-specific, respecting the â€˜dignity of riskâ€™ such that consumers have the right

# 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?

Discussing decisions and issues with people who are going through it or have been through it before (peers).

## What could have been better?

Knowing where peers/peer groups are, and how to access them earlier.

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

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

CoMHWA has received feedback from people with psychosocial disabilities, including direct requests, demonstrating a need for Peer Support to assist the consumer to make their own decisions in regards the selection of services they require and the provider

# Are there different things to consider for people with different disabilities or cultural backgrounds?

**An intellectual disability:** Yes, A selection of genders, cultures and lived experience can help build trust and support a successful outcome for the individual to increase their decision making skills.

**A disability that impacts how they think, a cognitive impairment:** Yes, A selection of genders, cultures and lived experience can help build trust and support a successful outcome for the individual to increase their decision making skills.

**A psychosocial disability:** Yes, A selection of genders, cultures and lived experience can help build trust and support a successful outcome for the individual to increase their decision making skills.

**A disability that impacts their ability to communicate:** Yes, A selection of genders, cultures and lived experience can help build trust and support a successful outcome for the individual to increase their decision making skills.

**From a CALD community:** Yes, A selection of genders, cultures and lived experience can help build trust and support a successful outcome for the individual to increase their decision making skills.

**From an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Community:** Yes, A selection of genders, cultures and lived experience can help build trust and support a successful outcome for the individual to increase their decision making skills.

**From the LGBTIQA community:** Yes, A selection of genders, cultures and lived experience can help build trust and support a successful outcome for the individual to increase their decision making skills.

# How can we help reduce conflict of interest?

Conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest can be raised when Supported Decision Making is provided by someone with a vested interest in the outcome of a decision, including staff or consultants of NDIS or other service providers.

Conflict of interest can be difficult to identify and counteract. It is critical that NDIS has appropriate safeguards to reduce the risk of the decisions of individuals being adversely influenced.

# How can we help reduce undue influence?

Supported Decision Making requires Supporters to have high level interpersonal skills and attributes to achieve their role. Recruitment processes, training and Peer Supporter Supervision should be provided to help reduce the risk of undue influence.

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

No response recorded

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

No response recorded

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

No response recorded