



NDIS Review Background Paper

Supported decision making



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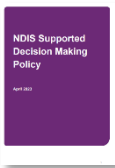
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About this paper



This paper is about **supported decision making** in the NDIS.



Supported decision making means making your own decisions with the right support.



**Inclusion
Australia**

This paper was written by Inclusion Australia.

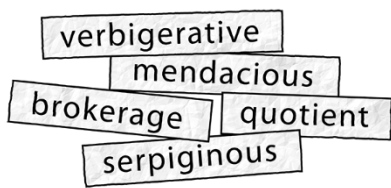
Where it says 'we' it means Inclusion Australia.



This paper is written in Easy Read.



It is a good idea to read this paper with support.



Hard words are in **bold**.

We have written what they mean.



You can read the big version of this paper [here](#).

About the NDIS Review

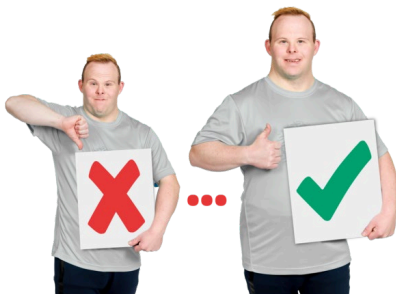


This paper was written as part of the **NDIS Review**.



The NDIS Review is looking at

- What works well in the NDIS
- What could be better in the NDIS
- What needs to change in the NDIS
- How to make the NDIS last a long time.

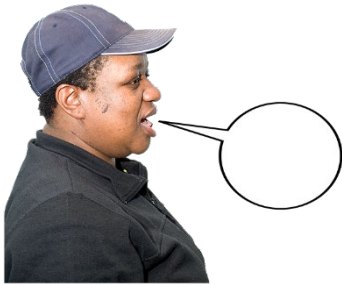


The NDIS Review asked us to speak to people with intellectual disability and their families about their experiences with the NDIS.

What is supported decision making?



Supported decision making means making your own decisions with support from people you trust.



Supported decision making helps people with intellectual disability

- have more say in their lives
- be more independent
- become more confident at making their own decisions.



People with intellectual disability have the right to make their own decisions just like everyone else.



The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability** is an agreement between countries that protects the rights of people with disability.

We call it the **UNCRPD** for short.



The UNCRPD says people with disability have the right to good support when making decisions.

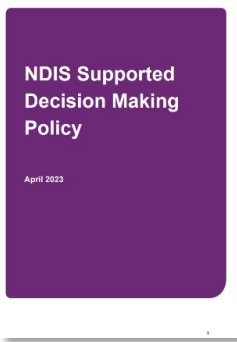


Access to supported decision making in the NDIS helps participants to

- have their voice heard
- have more choice and control over their NDIS plan
- get what they want in their plan.



NDIS Supported decision making policy



NDIS released their **Supported decision making policy** in April 2023.

We call it the Policy for short.



The Policy has the rules about supported decision making in the NDIS.



We think the Policy is a good start but it could be better.



Participants, their families and carers are confused about how the Policy will help them.



There needs to be more information for participants and their families about how the Policy will work.



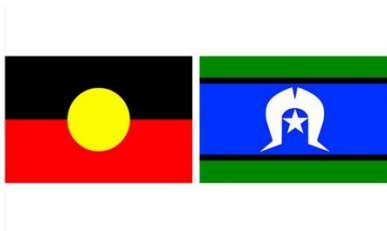
Information about the Policy needs to be accessible.

For example in Easy Read.



The Policy does not think about how different NDIS participants can be.

For example some NDIS participants are



- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

- From different countries or backgrounds



- Speak a language other than English at home

- Follow different religions and customs.



We call these people **culturally diverse**.



Supported decision making may look different for culturally diverse people.



The NDIS should talk to people from culturally diverse backgrounds to make sure the Policy works for them.



The Policy should be checked regularly to make sure it is still working for everyone.

Doing supported decision making properly



Many people do not know how to do supported decision making properly.



This means NDIS participants

- Feel unheard
- Find it hard to get what they want and need in their NDIS plan.

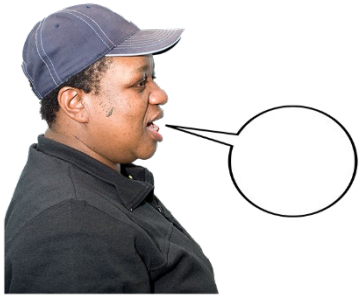


There needs to be support for people to learn about supported decision making.

Things like

- Training and workshops
- Resources





Some people have a harder time communicating than most people.

For example if they are

- non verbal
- Use a communication device.



This is called having **complex communication needs**.



People with complex communication needs should get extra support to learn about supported decision making.



The NDIS needs to work out how to help participants who do not have people in their lives who can support them to make decisions.



The NDIS need to train their planners and LACs on how to do supported decision making properly.

These changes will help make sure participants are



- listened to
- get to make their own decisions
- get what they want in their NDIS plans.

Laws and rules about supported decision making



Australia does not have any **laws** about supported decision making.

Laws are legal rules people must follow.



Australia needs to make laws about supported decision making to

- make sure people get to make their own decisions
- make sure people have the right support to make decisions
- protect people from being treated badly when they make decisions
- make sure people who treat others badly are held responsible for what they did wrong.



What happens next?



The Review will look closely at what everyone has said about the NDIS.



The Review will give their Final Report to the Government with ideas about how the NDIS could be better.



The Final Report is due in October 2023.



Australian Government

The Government will decide what to do about the NDIS Review's ideas.