

Choice and Control



Equity for deaf people

Choice and Control

The NDIS is a system founded on human rights. One important human right is the right to make one's own decisions. This is behind the emphasis on "choice and control" under the NDIS.

We often find that deaf people are not used to exercising their right to choice and control. They may be used to other people making decisions for them. Their family members may be used to this as well. This is very normal.

However, the NDIS requires us to do everything we can to maximise each customer's choice and control. This can be a big change for deaf people and their families, and one that takes time.



How does the Deaf Society support choice and control?

We:

- Assume that each customer is a capable adult,
- Respect the decisions of customers,
- Communicate directly with customers in language they understand,
- Discuss decisions with customers and explain the risks and benefits of different options,
- Work with customers to develop their communication, understanding of the world, skills and confidence, and
- Work with family and friends of customers as appropriate.

My adult deaf family member cannot make their own decisions.

No one can make their own decisions until they have practiced. This goes for everyone, hearing or deaf. Our experience is that customers get better at making their own decisions the more they are enabled to practice, make mistakes, and learn from experience.

My adult deaf family member needs support to make their own decisions.

Customers can choose to involve support people such as family and friends in making decisions at any time. Our staff are very experienced in supporting deaf people to make their own decisions too. We take time to explain and discuss decisions with customers in language they understand and to develop their skills and confidence. We understand that learning to make independent decisions takes time and that some ongoing support may be needed.

My adult deaf family member doesn't want to make their own decisions.

Not everyone likes making their own decisions at first, whether they are hearing or deaf. However, in the long term it is important for everyone to make their own decisions as far as they can so that they do not remain unnecessarily dependent on others. As part of the transition to greater independence, customers can give permission for communication and/or decision-making to additional people by filling out the Communication and Decision-Making Permission Form. This form does not take away their rights - they can still make their own decisions at any time. If there is a conflict between their decision and the decision of someone they have authorised, our staff may seek clarification first, but are bound to follow the decision of the customer.

My adult deaf family member has an additional incapacity and I'm their legal guardian. Will the Deaf Society respect this?

Yes, of course. Please bring the original paperwork to your first meeting with us so that we can sight it and place a copy on file. As far as possible, we will continue to support the customer to develop their capacity for decision-making.



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