

Supported Decision Making Pilot

What is supported decision making?

Everyone has the right to make their own decisions. Supported decision making is a way of making sure people can exercise this right. It involves a person with disability and one or more trusted family members, friends or supporters. These people help the person with disability to make their own decisions about their life. The type of support could include providing information, helping the person to weigh up choices or assisting with communication. The person could be supported to make everyday decisions or bigger decisions like where to live or what services to have.

What is the Supported Decision Making Pilot?

The Supported Decision Making Pilot is a joint project of Ageing, Disability and Home Care, NSW Trustee and Guardian and the Public Guardian.

The goal of the pilot is to find new ways to support people with disability to make decisions and to have more choice and control in their lives. The pilot will try out new ways to help people with disability make decisions with support from people they trust.

Supported decision making is an important part of building the capacity of people with disability to have greater choice and control in the transition to the NDIS. Supporting people with disability to make their own decisions may also offer alternatives to guardianship and financial management in NSW.

The Supported Decision Making Pilot started in 2013 and will finish in mid 2014.

What happens in the pilot?

The pilot involves a number of people with disability, their family, carers and supporters in Western Sydney. Pilot participants receive direct or funded support from Ageing, Disability and Home Care and some also have NSW Trustee and Guardian as their financial manager. Participants will attend information sessions about supported decision making and try out a range of tools and resources when making decisions. The pilot is being independently evaluated.

Where can I get more information?

You can contact the Supported Decision Making Pilot team by email decisionmakingpilot@facns.nsw.gov.au, or by telephoning Emily Cottman on 9407 1912.