Supported Decision Making Project 2016/2017
Factsheet

The NSW Public Guardian is working with NSW Trustee and Guardian on a Supported Decision Making Project. The Project is funded by Family and Community Services (FACS) for 12 months.

What does the Project want to do?
The Supported Decision Making Project has two teams. One is dedicated to financial decision making, the other to providing education. The two teams aim to:

1. Build the skills of people who need help to make financial decisions.
2. Provide training to service providers to help promote and deliver supported decision making.

Through the Supported Decision Making Project we aim to learn more about ways to support people with disability to make their own decisions and how to build the ability of our community to help more people make their own decisions.

What is Supported Decision Making?
Everyone has the right to make their own decisions, but some people may need help to do this. Supported Decision Making is a way for people with disabilities to develop their skills in decision making and receive help to do this. This type of decision making promotes the person’s will and preference and allows them to have greater control and choice in their lives.

Why is it important?
In 2008, Australia ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) | Disability). This says that people with a disability should be able to get help for decision making, so that they can uphold their rights.

In 2014 the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) wrote a report (Equality, Capacity and Disability in Commonwealth Laws (ALRC Report 124) | ALRC) about equality before the law in Australia. They made a number of recommendations about Supported Decision Making, including National Decision-Making Principles and Guidelines.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) seeks to give more control to people with disability to choose their own services and supports. The NDIS may increase the range and complexity of decisions that people with disability need support with. This project aims to build decision making ability.

Want to contribute or find out more?
Visit the Public Guardian’s website for regular project updates and to access resources: www.publicguardian.justice.nsw.gov.au

Contact the Supported Decision Making team at: Informationsupport@opg.nsw.gov.au