



## **Independence and Informed Choice Decision Making**

MAVERICK SUPPORTS

(ABN 65 674 503 274)

# Independence and Informed Choice Decision Making

**Maverick Supports** policy is underpinned by international, national and state obligations, in relation to the human rights of people with disabilities; Article 12 of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* is the critical driver behind supported decision-making.

We wish to support all participants to make informed choices, exercise control and maximise their independence relating to the supports provided.

Quality decision-making will underpin the long-term effectiveness of participant supports and agreements. It facilitates the achievement of strategic goals, maximises participant involvement, enhances participant outcomes and encourages wellbeing and productivity of our staff.

## 1. Scope

This policy applies to all **Maverick Supports** and participants accessing our services.

## 2. Policy

This policy assumes that each participant has decision-making capacity, unless proven otherwise, and acknowledges that each participant's capacity varies for each decision and situation. All participants have the dignity of risk to make their own decisions.

In instances where a participant's decision-making capacity is in doubt, this policy provides direction regarding the determination of capacity and consent, supporting and facilitating decision-making, and deciding on behalf of the participant, where required.

This policy will eliminate the risk of decisions being made about a participant's life without their involvement or against their actual or anticipated wishes. Decisions are only to be made with the consent of the participant.

**Maverick Supports** puts choice and control squarely in the hands of people with disabilities, their families and carers.

**Maverick Supports** will provide information in an Easy Read format for participants who require this communication style

## 3. Definitions

Terms	Definition
<b>Decision-making</b>	Process of identifying and choosing alternatives based on the values, preferences and beliefs of the decision- maker.
<b>Informed choice</b>	A person chooses services based on knowledge of diagnostic tests or treatments, knowing the details, benefits, risks and expected outcomes of their choice.
<b>Dignity of Risk</b>	The right to take risks when engaging in life experiences and the right to fail in taking these.
<b>Advocate</b>	A person who puts a case on someone else's behalf.

<b>Autonomy</b>	The capacity to decide for oneself and pursue a course of action in one's life, often regardless of any moral content.
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