



Choice & Decision Making v 1.0

EITR is committed to promoting and recognising an **individual's right** to make their own decisions and choices and believe that all clients have the capacity to make their own decisions and choices with support. EITR are committed to promoting **Supported Decision Making** (SDM). Family and Community Services have developed a handbook for decision makers "My Life My Decision" in an accessible format, this is available on our Website. EITR Consent form is also in an accessible format.

SDM is the process of assisting a person with disability to make their own decisions, so they can develop and pursue their own **goals**, make **choices** about their life and exercise some control over the things that are important to them.

SDM **empowers** a person with disability and affirms their right to be in charge of their own life.

Support for decision making is generally provided by those a person with disability trusts, and could involve assistance with communication, or providing information in accessible formats. We understand the importance of the person's **Circle of Support**.

Core Principles of Supported Decision Making

1. Every person can express their will and preference
2. A person with a disability has the right to make decisions
3. A person with disability can expect to have access to appropriate support to make decisions



The first general principle of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2006 is ‘respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one’s own choices, and independence of persons’.

The Disability Inclusion Act, 2014 Principle 5 states that people with a disability have the **‘same rights as other members of the community to make decisions** that affect their lives Principle 9 states: ‘People with a disability have the right to access information in a way that is appropriate for their disability and cultural background, and enables them to make informed choices’.

The National Standards for Disability Services, outline the obligations that services have to people with a disability. The standards relate to six areas of disability service delivery. The right to express choices and make decisions is reflected in all of the standards:

We have easy read versions of the National Standards for Disability Services and The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on our website under information for participants.

