

How can people with intellectual disability best get help to make important decisions about money?



What is the report about?

This report is about what might help people with a disability to make decisions about money.

It is about:



Decision making

This is when people make important choices about how they live. This report is about making decisions about money.

Supported decision making

This is making decisions with help from other people.

The person who helps is called a supporter.



Financial Management Orders

This is when the government helps someone make decisions about money.



Training programs

These are courses that teach people how to make decisions.



Who did the research?



The NSW Public Guardian asked for the research to be done. They are part of the government.



The Social Policy Research Centre did the research.



Who took part?

33 people with disability were part of the research.

People who took part had a Financial Management Order.

Many people got help from a supporter to make decisions about money.

Some people went to a training course about making decisions about money.

Staff from services that help people with disability also took part.



How did people and services take part in the research?

There were three ways people and staff from services could take part:



- talking with a researcher by themselves



- talking with a researcher in a small group of people

Name
Address
Phone Number

- letting the researcher have some information about them.

What the research found

What people liked and did not like about making decisions about money



Some people wanted to make decisions about money on their own.

They did not want anyone else to make decisions for them.



Some people liked having someone to help them make decisions – a supporter.

Sometimes they said they wanted their supporter to listen to them more.



Some people did not want a Financial Management Order.

They thought they were ready to make important decisions about money on their own.

What stops people from making decisions about money on their own



Some people could not make important decisions about money.

This was because:



- the information they needed was not clear



- services and staff were hard to get in touch with, so it was hard to get help



- they did not feel they were ready to make an important decision.

What people thought about training to make decisions about money



People took part in a training program to help them make decisions about money.

This was a course to teach them how to make decisions.

People found the training program helpful in learning about:



- how to understand information about money



- how to plan using their money



- how to not spend all their money at one time



- how to decide what is important to them.

What made a good relationship with a supporter



Some people got on well with their supporter.

They got on well where:



- They trusted the supporter.

Sometimes it took time for people to trust their supporter.



- The decisions they got help with made their life better.



- It was easy to ask for and find information they needed.



- The supporter really listened to them.

What was important about having a supporter



Most people got help with decisions about money from their family or support workers.



Help from family and support workers could be good.



Help from family and support workers could also sometimes be difficult.



It was difficult when family and support workers found it hard to tell the difference between what the person wanted and what they wanted themselves.



One good way of getting help is to have a group of people who know how to help.

What the services thought about the project



Staff from services that help people with disability also took part. These were not the supporters in the project.



The staff did training to learn how to help people make decisions about money and other things.



The staff liked the training.

They said it helped them know how to help people make decisions.

What happens now?

The information in this report can help supporters, staff from services, the government and others to know how to help people make decisions about money.

It shows that:

- People need help to understand information about important decisions.

Things that help are:

- helping people learn to count and save money
- helping people learn difficult words about money
- making sure everyone can get the information they need
- helping people talk with the government.



- People can make decisions on their own.

Things that help are:

- listening to their questions
- talking with them about what they want.



- It might be easier for people to make decisions when they feel connected to other people.

Something that helps is:

- helping people get to know other people in the community, not only their supporter.



- Services want to learn how to help people make decisions.

Things that help services are:

- having training in the town where the service is
- talking with other services about how they help people make decisions.

This is an Easy Read version of the following main report:

Christiane Purcal, Trish Hill, Kelley Johnson and Rosemary Kayess (2017). *Evaluation of the Supported Decision Making Phase 2 (SDM2) project: Final report (SPRC Report 14/17)*. Sydney: Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW Sydney.

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