

INDEPENDENCE & INFORMED CHOICE POLICY

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| Policy number | 19 | Version | 1 |
| Drafted by | Merryn Farnsworth | Approved by | 07.03.2021 manager |
| Responsible person | Merryn Farnsworth | Scheduled review date | 07.03.2022 |

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy promotes and protects individual rights including freedom of expression, self-determination and decision making. Life Independence promotes each participant accessing supports by upholding and respecting their legal and human rights and ensuring they are able to exercise informed choice and control. Supports provided to participants will promote, uphold and respect each individuals rights to freedom of expression, self determination and decision making.

Each participant will be supported by Life Independence to make informed choices, exercise control and maximise their independence relating to the supports provided by Life Independence.

Each participant will be supported to access supports that respect and protect their dignity and right to privacy. Supports will be free from violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation or discrimination.

SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy applies to all Life Independence staff or any person acting in a capacity whereby they are taken to be representing Life Independence and its interests. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action.

POLICY PRINCIPLES

Life Independence is committed to upholding the following principles:

- Supplying person centred supports to NDIS participants
- Protecting a person's rights to their individual values and beliefs
- Each participant is supported by the provider to make informed choices
- Each participant is supported by the provider to exercise control and maximise their independence in relation to the provided supports
- Protecting freedom from Violence, Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation and Discrimination

LIFE INDEPENDENCE

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- Active decisions by the participant are supported
- Dignity of Risk is supported through informed choice to uphold duty of care
- Each participants right to have an Advocate is supported, including having their advocate present
- Each participant's autonomy is respected, including their right to intimacy and sexual expression
- Each participant has sufficient time to consider and review their options and seek advice if required, at any stage of support provision, including assessment, planning, provision, review and exit

PROCEDURES

- Service policies & processes support informed choice. This is to include explaining all relevant forms to Participants in a manner that they are most likely to understand.
- Further processes include case notes evidencing instructions given and choices made by the Participant where applicable.
- Life Independence has a Code of Conduct, Delivery of Services Policy & Customer Service Charter. These policies further outline how independence and informed choice is supported and are available on the provider website or by request.
- This policy and those and the supporting policies listed above will guide processes in the services Guidelines Manual.
- During assessment and planning processes or at any point after the Participant is offered the choice to nominate the services they want in writing or as a verbal instruction.
- The Participant is supported to make active decisions by processes such as the opportunity to use an interpreter to discuss choices and assess opinions.
- Dignity of risk is supported through processes such as risk assessments for activities that the Participant can contribute to, including accepting any risk involved with a specific activity.
- Autonomy is supported in the services Code of Conduct and through processes such as providing information on the service website for clients on various mainstream services so people are able to choose who and what they wish to engage with.
- The right to have an advocate is supported in the policies and guidelines of Life Independence as well through providing contact information for advocacy services on the service website.
- Each Participant is given time to consider all of their options
- Participants can suspend the assessment process without agreeing to service if required.



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- The Life Independence website has contact details for advocacy groups and other groups for the Participant to seek external advice if they choose.

DEFINITIONS

Informed Choice – participants and stakeholders are given options to choose from relating to service in keeping with their goals.

Dignity of Risk – is allowing an individual the freedom to make decisions and choices that may expose them to a level of risk with subsequent enhancement of personal growth and quality of life.

Duty of Care – a moral or legal obligation to ensure the safety and wellbeing of others.

SUPPORTING POLICIES:

Life Independence Code of Conduct

Life Independence Delivery of Service Policy

Life Independence Customer Service Charter

GUIDING LEGISLATION:

The National Disability Insurance Scheme Act, 2013