



POLICY

3.0 - CHOICE, CONTROL & CONSENT

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that:

- Each individual who receives a service from Better Together Assoc Inc. has the opportunity to participate as fully as possible in making decisions about the services they need, want and receive, ensuring the participant's legal and human rights are comprehended fully and incorporated into everyday practice.
- Staff are to support people to exercise their rights and have choice and control over their services.
- Better Together gain consent from service users before sharing any information with family, advocates, other providers and government bodies.

Applicability

This policy applies to all of the organisation's staff, programs and activities.

Policy Statement

Better Together is committed to ensuring that individuals who receive a service from this organisation, retain maximum control over their own lives by having primary involvement in, and influence over, decisions that affect them. We are also committed to promoting and protecting individual rights including freedom of expression, self-determination, and decision-making. Better Together also is committed to ensuring the organisation and the people involved in its service delivery understand the principals of privacy and seek consent all areas of choice, noting that consent can be revoked or changed at any time.

Preamble

Principals

- Better Together recognises and respects the uniqueness of each individual and will assist them to express their wants and needs while working towards their own individual goals
- Better Together provides an individually tailored Support Plan incorporating the person-centred approach and valued role based planning at all times, which promotes, upholds and respects the individuals legal and human rights and is enabled



to exercise informed choice and control (see Policy 2.0 -Individual Needs, values and Planning

- Better Together acknowledges that all people need to take risks in life to grow and learn. Therefore, we believe that all individuals with a disability have the right to take risks, but they also have the right to be assisted to avoid danger.
- Better Together will respect the choices which an individual has made, whilst being guided by the individual, and where appropriate their family and/or carer.
- All people with disability are assumed and encouraged to have capacity to make independent decisions, exercise choice, and provide informed consent regardless of their disability.
- People are supported to develop their capacity to make independent decisions.
- Timely information is provided in appropriate formats to support informed decision-making including people's rights and responsibilities.
- Choice includes smaller decisions about everyday living through to more complex consultation on co-design of service.
- Better Together supports people with disability in a way that is appropriate to their circumstances and cultural needs, preferences .
- All staff, committee members and volunteers understand about seeking consent from service user for all decisions.
- Better Together recognises the role of family, carers and advocates in representing people's interests and promoting choice and control in the planning and delivery of supports
- Being committed to work with service users preferred providers for external services along with their preferred community.

Definitions

Dignity of risk - autonomy and self-determination used by a person when making decisions, including the choice to take some risks in life.

Informed consent - voluntary agreement and willing acceptance of a proposition and following action where the person making the decision has appropriate information and capacity to make the decision free of fear or influence.

Relevant legislation and policy

- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*
- *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*
- *Disability Services Act 2006*
- *United Nations Convention on The Rights of Persons with Disabilities*
- *National Standards for Disability Services*
- *National Disability Insurance Scheme 2013: Principles*
- *National Disability Insurance Scheme Quality and Safeguarding Framework*
- *Policy Individual Needs, Values and Planning*
- *Policy Human Rights*

