

# NDIS Supports for Independence

- *Independence is critical for positive participant outcomes and for Scheme sustainability.*
- *It has been reported that participants with intellectual disability in Tasmania are losing skills and becoming more dependent as a result of receiving 'too much support'.*
- *What must the NDIS do to change this trajectory and maximise participant independence?*

**The NDIS must promote independence so that participants value it, families believe in it, services support it and NDIS processes facilitate it.**

## How did we get to this situation?

- Participants and their families lack a vision of an ordinary life.
- Participants lack skills for independence.
- Families have little idea how to use paid staff to complement informal support and assist the person to experience positive risk safely.
- Early childhood intervention teaches families that children develop independence through the skilled work of professionals.
- Schools attach support to the child rather than the system, often building dependence and thwarting friendships.
- Most services do not know how to build independence and facilitate relationships.

### Factors in the NDIS

- Demands of surge challenge real engagement with participants.
- Planning does not focus on how to be more independent.
- There are unrealistic expectations on Support Coordination given its role, duration and registration requirements.

## What is required?

- Participants need a vision that increased independence is possible, a pathway to achieve it and empowering peer networks to provide role models.
- Families need a vision, a pathway to support their family member in safeguarded ways and mentoring support.
- Providers need participants demanding increased independence and the skills to assist participants in skill enhancing ways.
- Workforce planning must identify, recruit and train staff to enhance participant independence.
- ILC resources, planning process and plan implementation must focus on and support increased independence.

So, the NDIA should take steps to ensure participants value independence, families believe in it, services support it and NDIA processes facilitate it

The NDIA needs to prioritise and support participant independence (in line with the detailed recommendations of the paper) in its

1. Information provision
2. Planning
3. Reasonable and necessary support
4. Plan implementation
5. Market development.

