

People with disability need to have the right to exercise choice and control over the services and activities we provide for them

At Everyday Champions, we are committed to promoting and protecting the individual rights of people with disability. This includes informed consent, dignity of risk, freedom of expression, self-determination and decision-making.

This policy outlines how we will support our clients to be able to exercise their rights and have choice and control over the services we provide and activities we do with them.

Our choice and control principles

- Everyday Champions respects the rights of people with disability to exercise choice and control about matters that affect them.
- The way we collaborate and consult with people with disability, their families, key people in their life and other stakeholders will show we are committed to promoting and ensuring active choice and control in relation to our services.
- We commit to the principle that all people with disability have capacity to make decisions, exercise choice, and provide informed consent regardless of their disability.
- We support people with disability to develop their capacity to make independent decisions.
- We provide timely information in appropriate formats to support informed decision making - including people's rights and responsibilities.
- We understand that choice ranges from small decisions about everyday living to more complex consultation on how we work together to design the services we deliver.
- We will support people with disability in a way that is appropriate to their circumstances and cultural needs so as to maximise their opportunities to make choices and have control over decisions that affect their lives.
- We recognise the role of family, carers and advocates in representing the interests of our clients and promoting choice and control in the planning and delivery of supports..

What our clients can expect from us

- We will make sure our clients are present when we are planning or discussing the services and activities we are going to do with them. We will also make sure they are actively engaged in the conversation and fully understand what we decide.
- We will ask our clients, their family and carers to give us feedback about how things are going.
- We will consult with our clients, their family and carers before we provide any services or do any activities with them.
- We will train and support our staff to make sure they have the right values, attitudes, goals and experience to meet your needs.
- We will make sure our clients have access to information and support they need to help them understand and exercise their rights.
- We will provide services in a way that gives our clients choices about their social and cultural involvement.
- We will always treat our clients with respect and dignity regardless of their race, sex, age, religious background, ability or any other personal attribute.
- Our clients personal records and details about their lives will be kept private.
- We will actively encourage our clients to make their own decisions about the supports they receive. We will also support and respect these decisions.

Our definitions of some of the key concepts related to choice and control

Freedom of expression is the right of every individual to express their opinion/s without censorship, restraint or legal penalty.

Self-determination is the freedom to live your life as you choose, or to decide how you want to live your life without having to consult other people.

Decision-making is about the ability of people with disability to engage as equal partners in decisions that will affect their lives, to the full extent of their capacity.

Dignity of risk is the idea that people with a disability have the right to take (reasonable) risks and that taking risks is essential for their dignity and self esteem. People with disability shouldn't be held back from taking (reasonable) risks by over-cautious caregivers who are worried about their duty of care.

Informed consent is the act of agreeing to or giving permission for certain actions affecting one or more aspects of a person's life (eg legal, financial, health, lifestyle and social). Before this is given, the person involved has to have made the decision with appropriate information and capacity to make the decision free of fear or influence