



# Meaningful Participation in Positive Behaviour Support

Positive Behaviour Support is designed to improve a person's life. This requires understanding what a good life looks like for the person, and ensuring they are involved in making decisions about how they live, what's important to them and how they are supported.

The person has the right to make decisions about their PBS process - about what happens, how and when – and how they want to be involved.



To make informed decisions, people need to understand what choices they have, and what the outcomes might be. They also need others to respect their choices and act in accordance with them.

Everybody communicates in a way that is unique. We all have ways of learning information, using the information to make decisions, and then sharing those decisions with others.

## Supported decision making

It is the responsibility of supporters and service providers, including the PBS practitioner, to facilitate supported decision-making. This includes understanding the person's right to decision-making support, and their roles and responsibilities in facilitating this process.

Supported decision making (SDM) promotes the recognition of the 'rights, will and preferences' of a person requiring decision-making support. SDM refers to the practical process of supported decision-making – but it also refers to legal and policy structures underpinning support for decision-making and recognises the role of others in supporting decision-making.

The [Deciding with Support website](#) provides information about facilitating supported decision-making for people with disability during PBS. This can help you to identify key decision-making points in PBS, and how to involve the person in making these decisions. This will support collaborative planning with the person – i.e., working with the person to develop plans that best suit their needs, and to support them to live the life they want.