



The Future of Supported Decision-Making

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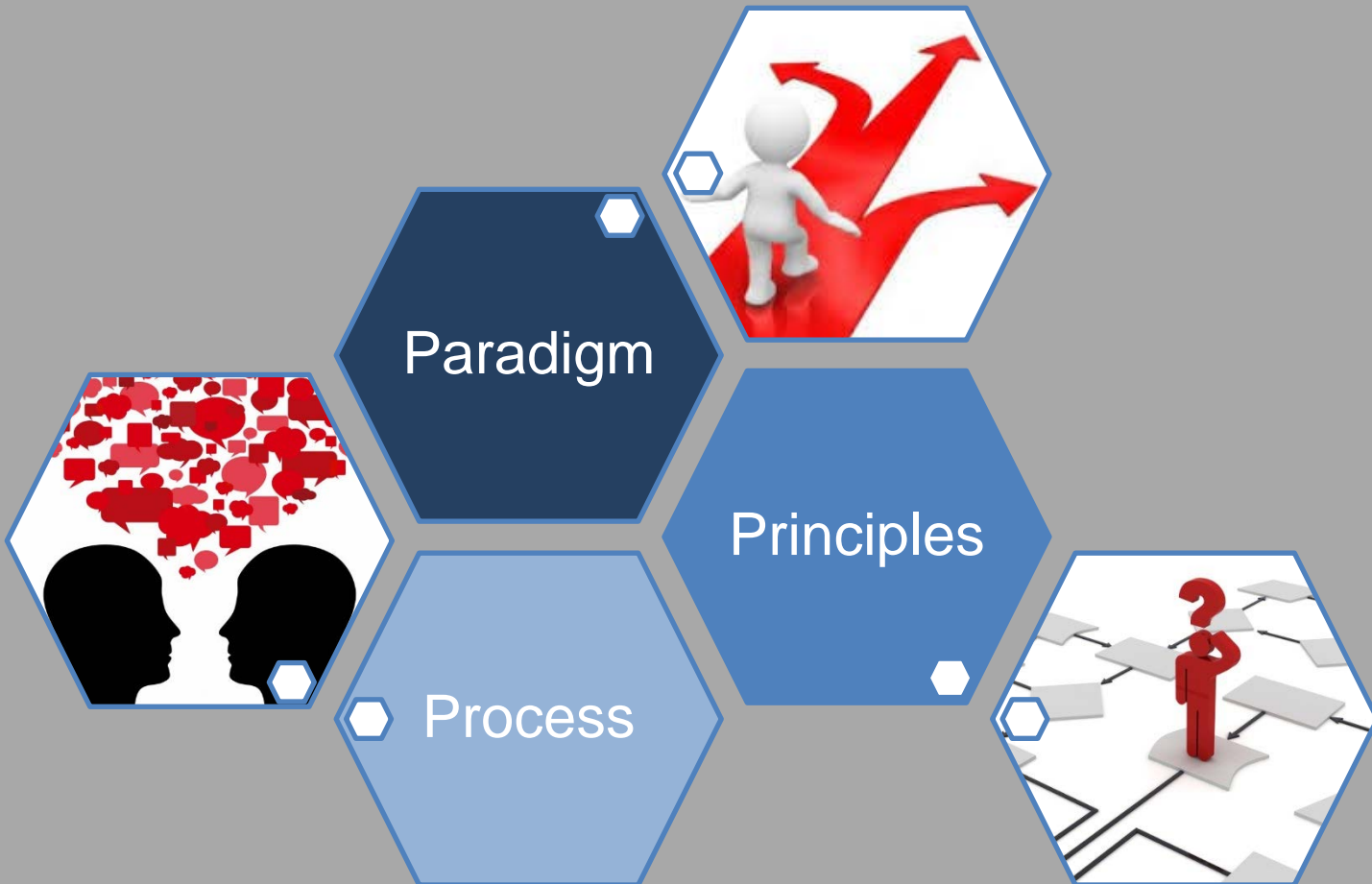
Outline

- Define supported decision-making
- Explore why is it important?
- Review the WAIIS SDM project
- Reflect on where the WAIIS project fits in the broader context of SDM developments across Australia
- Discuss facilitation as an important role for service providers
- Discuss where WAIIS wants to go with SDM in the future

What is supported decision-making?



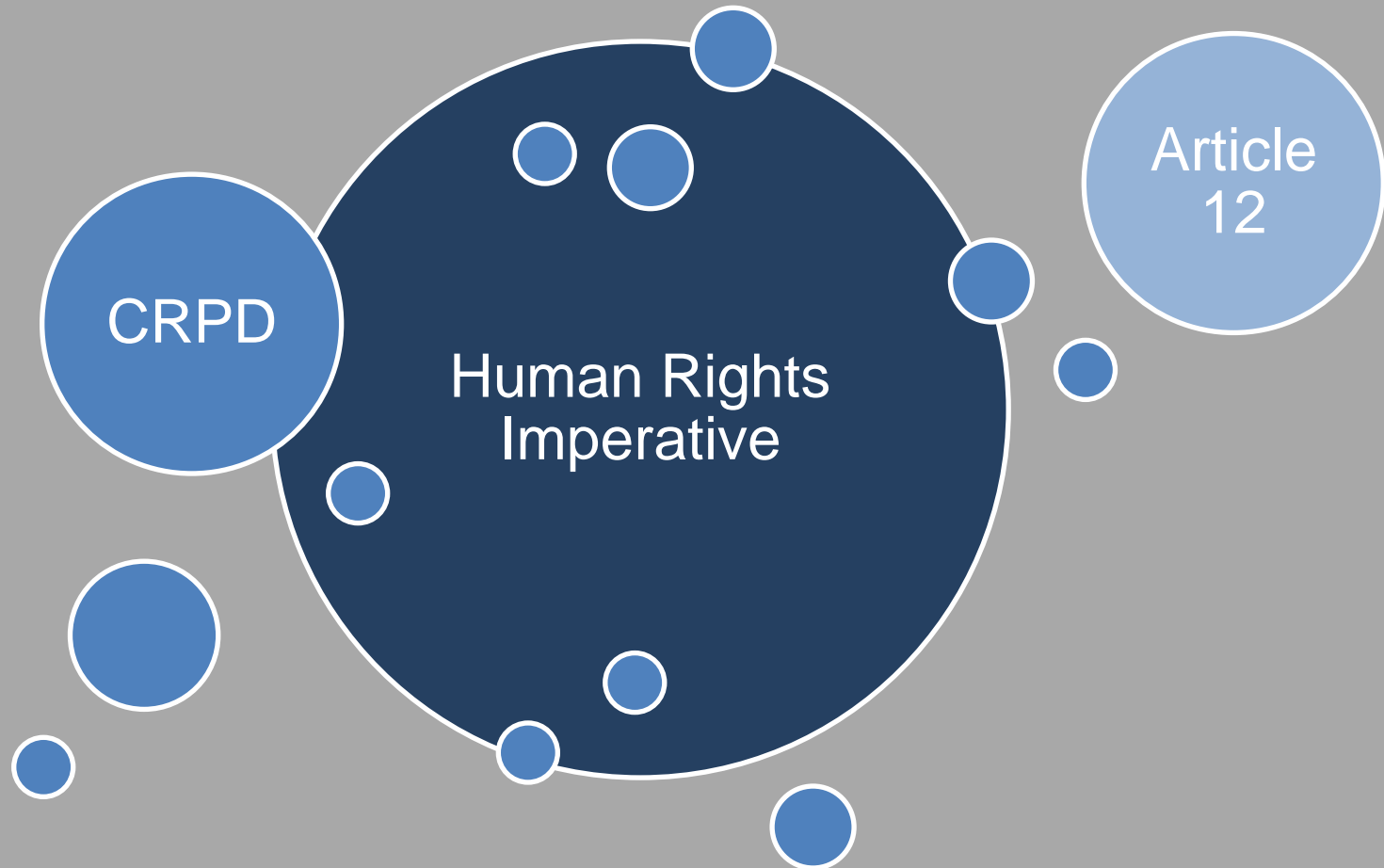
How does the literature talk about supported decision-making?



WAIIS definition of supported decision-making

Supported decision-making is a term used to refer to a range of practices whereby people with disabilities are assisted to make or implement their own decisions.

Why is supported decision-making important?

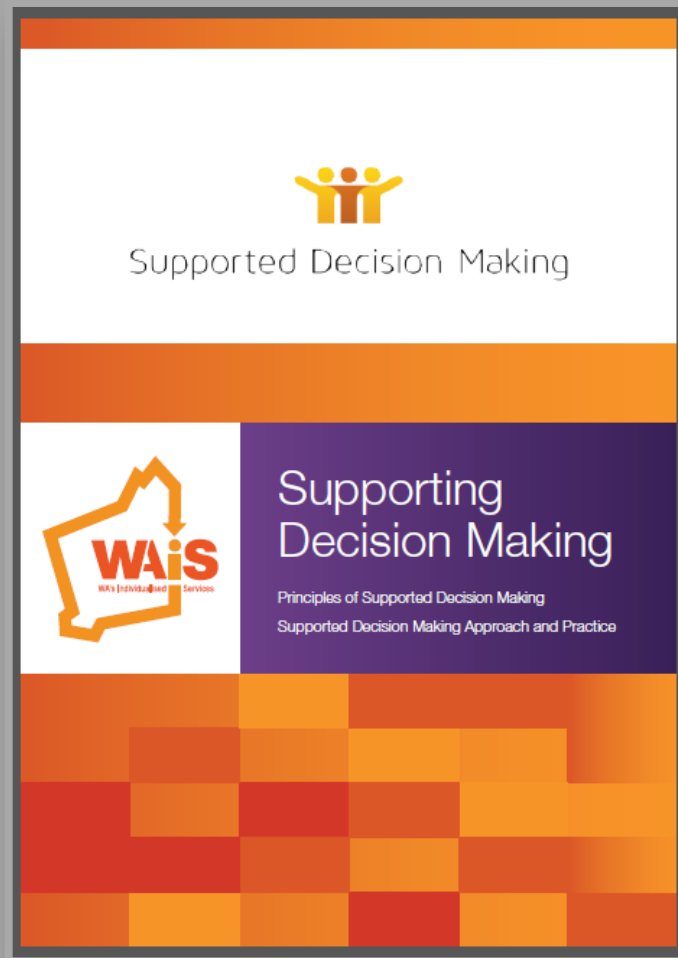




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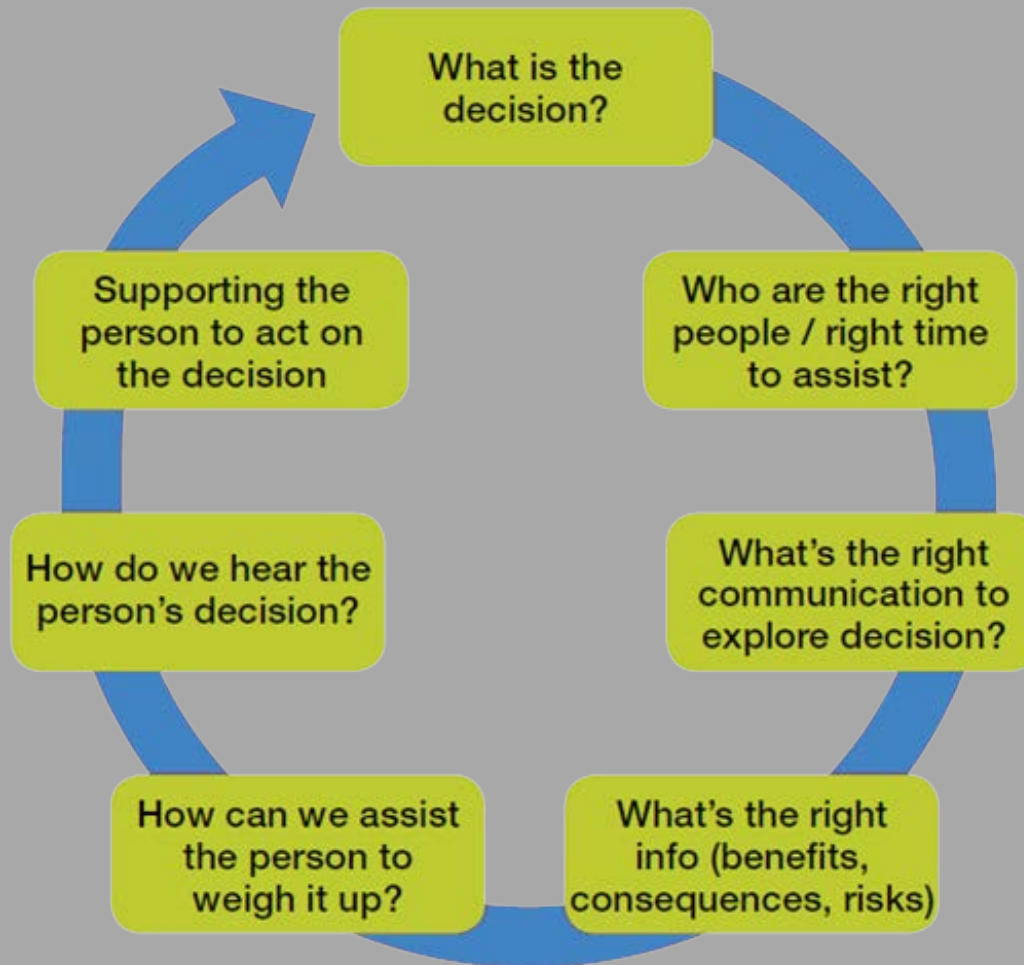
WaiS Project



WAIIS Principles



WAIIS Process



What did WAIIS learn from conducting the supported decision-making project?



What has been learned across six pilot projects in Australia?

Supported decision-making has positive outcomes for decision makers & supporters:

- Decision makers became more confident making decisions with support
- Support led to increased experience making decisions
- Support led to the person experiencing greater autonomy
- Greater participation in a wider range of activities
- Supporters were more likely to recognise the potential for autonomy and offer the person choices about every day things

Bigby et al. (2017).

What has been learned across six pilot projects in Australia?

- There were pervasively low socio-cultural expectations regarding people with disability being involved in decision making.
- Decision makers and supporters benefitted from external support (a coordinator, facilitator)
There was often a gap between making and acting on decisions. This required advocacy to overcome.
- Decision supporters found at times there were conflict with others involved in the person's life. The conflict usually revolved around the tension between autonomy, dignity of risk and safety.
- Some trials found recruiting decision supporters challenging.

What do you take away from these pilots?



What do you think needs to be explored further?

Afternoon tea



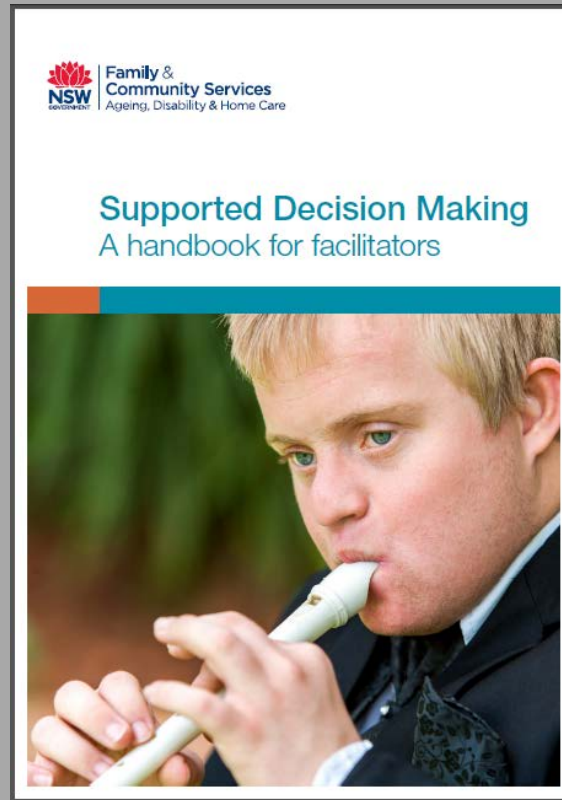
Facilitation

- Facilitation was necessary in all of the trials to varying degrees (SA1, ACT, NSW, VIC, SA2, WA).
- Facilitators were paid staff who offered decision makers and supporters assistance.
- Key aspects of the role included:
 - training, mentoring and coaching in SDM practice,
 - guidance in reflecting on practice,
 - support to resolve conflict between interested parties,
 - advocacy to resolve barriers to implementing decisions, and
 - assistance to work through ethical dilemmas.

A helpful independent focus

- Orchestration – facilitators were able to provide independent assistance to supporters trying to “orchestrate” and coordinate a range of interested parties. This was particularly helpful when there was conflict.
- Building decision-making capability – the distance created by independence allowed facilitators to help supporters reflect on their influence over the decision-making process and support them to remain focused on building and expanding the decision maker’s capability.

NSW trial developed a tool for facilitators



This resource can be found at:

https://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/individuals/inclusion_and_participation/supported-decision-making/sdm-projects

Do you consider you have
been engaged in facilitation
in your role at WAIIS?



What has been successful? What has been challenging?

Thinking more broadly,
where should WAiS go with
supported decision-making
in the future?



What steps and resources might be needed to get there?

Conclusion

- Supported decision-making continues to grow as an important practice because of its strong human rights imperative.
- WAIIS have been involved in important early work assisting decision makers and supporters to improve their decision making skills and practice.
- WAIIS are well placed to continue to push the boundaries of practice and improve the lives of people who need decision-making support.



Thank you

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