



WA's Individualised Services

We acknowledge the traditional guardians of this land and pay our respects to their elders both past and present.



The Wurundjeri people, of the Kulin Nation.

Spirits represent Individuals making their own decisions with the meeting circles behind the, representing the supports they choose to use like family, friends, colleagues or professionals.

The branches and leaves show personal growth from being able to make your own decisions and choose your own path while receiving support to help you along the way, self-direction.

The top and bottom meeting places represent support services and the spirals leading out from these meeting places represent the road path journey that the individual will take when making decisions about their lives after receiving advice and guidance from the support services or people they have chosen to help guide them in the direction they wish to go.

Gertrina Hayden



Project Beliefs

Decision Making Possibilities is based on three main beliefs.



My Decisions *My* Rights *My* Supporters

Decision Making Possibilities

My Rights

Everyone has a right to make decisions and lead their own lives.

My Decisions

People can make decisions when they receive good decision support.

My Supporters

Understanding, exploring and acting on what a person wants is good decision support.

When people and their supporters work together on supported decision making it can transform people's lives.



24 Decision Makers

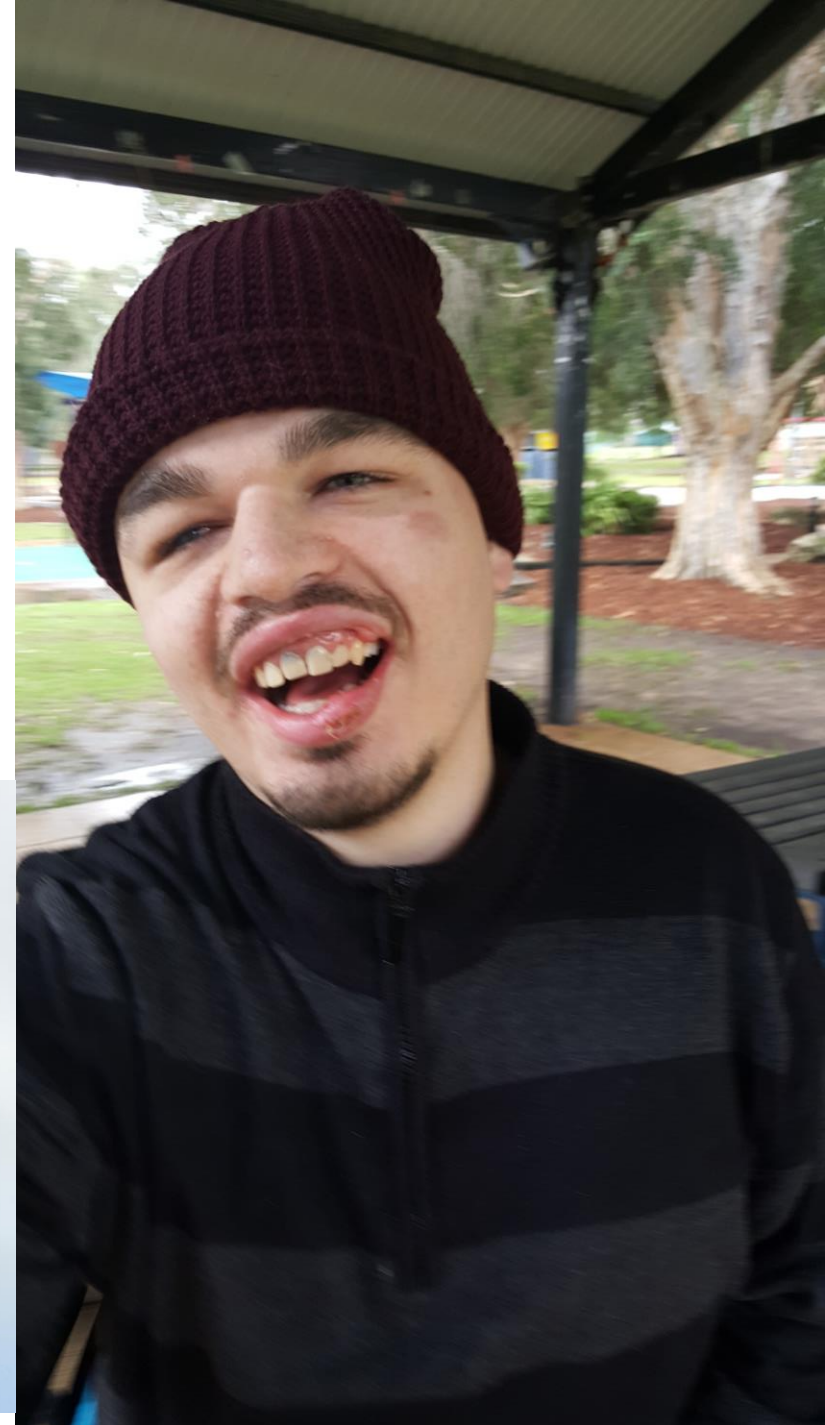
(who have complex communication access needs living in their own home, in their family home, or in a group home)

12 people from Perth (WAI S)

12 people from Brisbane (Mamre)

Advisory Board overseeing the project comprised of people with disability, family members, and people who have worked in disability for a long time.

In partnership
with Sotica
(Leighton Jay)
and Decision
Agency
(Michelle Browning)



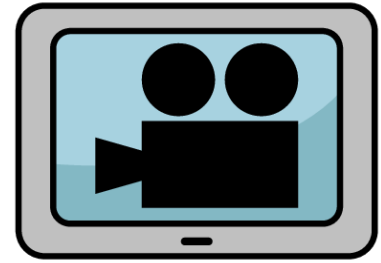


Consent to participate

Tricky!

Detailed process – using range of formats, videos, easy read, plain language and recording of decision making – taking significant time to ensure people could take in the information, process, and consequences of participating.

Some had legally appointed guardians to provide consent, however we still went through a decision-making process with them.



YES
 NO

Recording Supported Decision Making for Consent

What are the decisions?	Who were the right people to assist? Where was the right place to talk about this?	What was the right way to present the information?	How was the person assisted to weigh up their decision?	How did we hear the person's decision?	What did the person decide for each decision?

Name: Date:

Supported Decision Making Principles



I can change
my mind



Assume I can



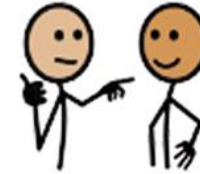
One decision at a time



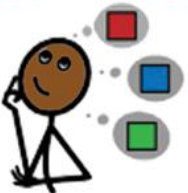
It's up to me



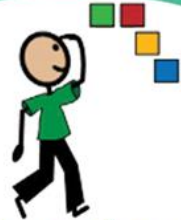
Understand me and
my preferences



Are the right people
involved?



Explore all options



Experience to explore




The right assistance
for me

How do
we make
this
come to
life for
Decision
Makers?

Ability +
Supports and
Accommodations
=
Decision Making
Capability



- Me + people who know me well + ways to support me
= My Capability (Bach & Kerzner)
- (not just me on my own with no support or accommodations)



Model of supported decision making

Education and Training



Communication Support



Decision Maker



Building my group of supporters / Network facilitation



Knowledge of and planning with a decision maker

Model of supported decision making





- Provided Speech Pathologist support who worked with the Decision Maker (and their supporters) to;
 - **understand** the way they uniquely communicate
 - **develop** resources outlining their communication to others (such as the ‘All About Me’ book / Communication profile), and
 - **develop** tools and strategies to enhance and respond to, the Decision Maker’s communication.



Knowledge of and planning
with a decision maker

- Facilitated genuine person-centred planning - discovering who people are, and their specific will and preferences
- Exploring decision making opportunities including;
 - Home
 - Relationships (Family, Friends, Romantic etc)
 - Work
 - Health
 - Sport
 - Recreation
 - Safety
 - Spirituality
 - +++++ more



Building my group
of supporters

- Support to build, enhance, facilitate and establish (where needed) a strong support network around the Decision Maker, including family, friends, allies and paid support workers, who all work together to support the person to exercise choice and control

- “Attention must be given to building the social capital of people with cognitive disabilities if supported decision making is to be a viable alternative for everyone...”

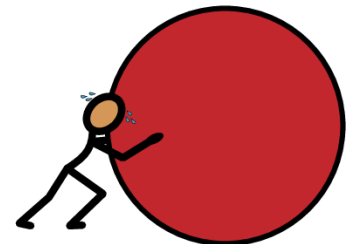
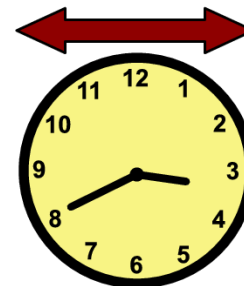
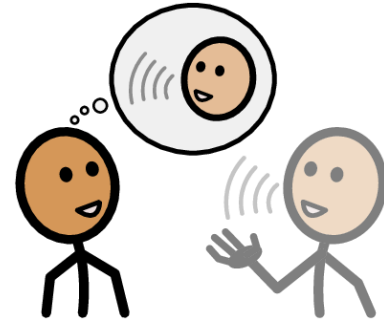
(Bigby & Douglas, 2020, p.61)



- Provided resources, training, information and practical support on Supported Decision Making including;
 - Values and principles - the ‘why’
 - Practice - the ‘how’
- This was provided to Decision Makers, Decision Supporters and other people involved i.e. Speech Pathologist, Network Facilitators

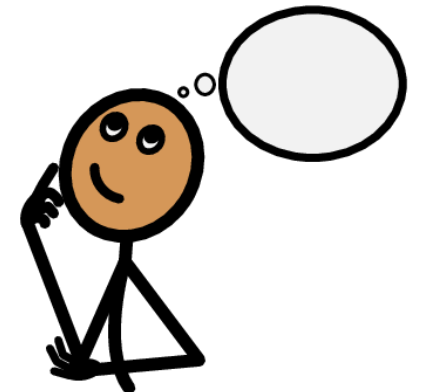
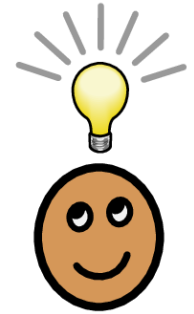
What we learnt from the project

- **Everyone** supporting the Decision Maker needs to understand the values and process of decision-making.
- Decision Supporters must deeply listen, and be ready to embrace change in their relationships with Decision Makers, and to support the Decision Maker in making decisions
- Decision Supporters need to be able to commit to embedding supported decision-making in the Decision Maker's life as this will take time and effort.



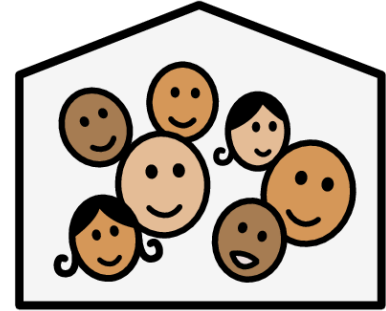
What we learnt from the project

- Decision Supporters said the greatest measure of success came from their growing insight into the capacity of the Decision Maker to communicate will and preferences.
- Many Decision Supporters found they had to reconsider their own way of communicating with the Decision Maker, in order to provide more time for the person to make a decision.
- To do this it required the Decision Supporter to reflect on their own behaviour, and to cede control for the decision to the Decision Maker.

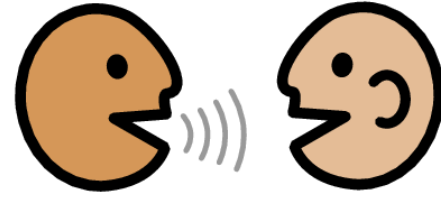


What we learnt from the project

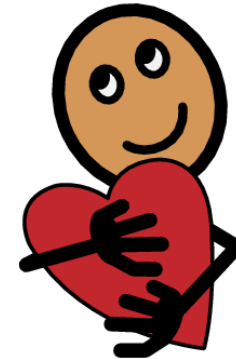
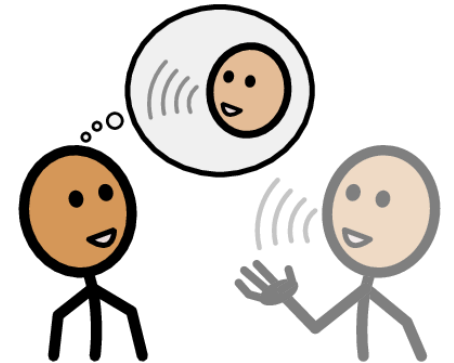
- Decision Makers living in congregate settings, or who were largely dependent on paid staff, found it more difficult to implement supported decision-making.
- These Decision Makers had greater challenges in accessing support for decision-making, largely due to inconsistency, embedded institutionalised practices, staff turnover, workload pressures and a lack of knowledge of supported decision-making within the provider organisation.



- Some learnt new ways of communicating the way they want, with the support of the project's Speech Pathologist.

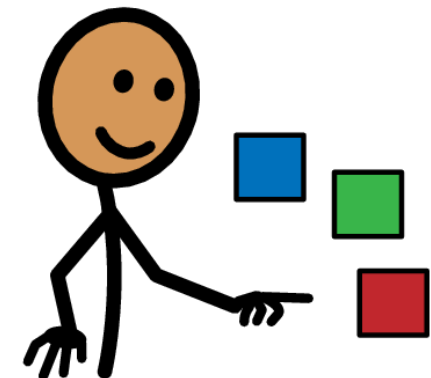
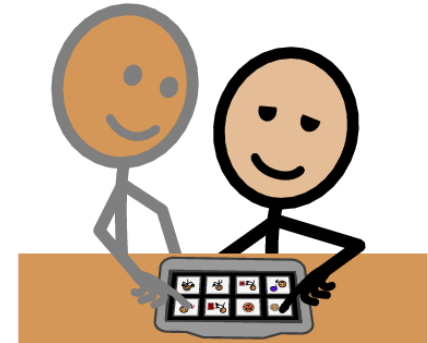


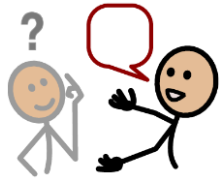
- Many Decision Supporters said that they were now giving greater attention and time to support the Decision Maker in communicate their will and preferences.



What we learnt from the project

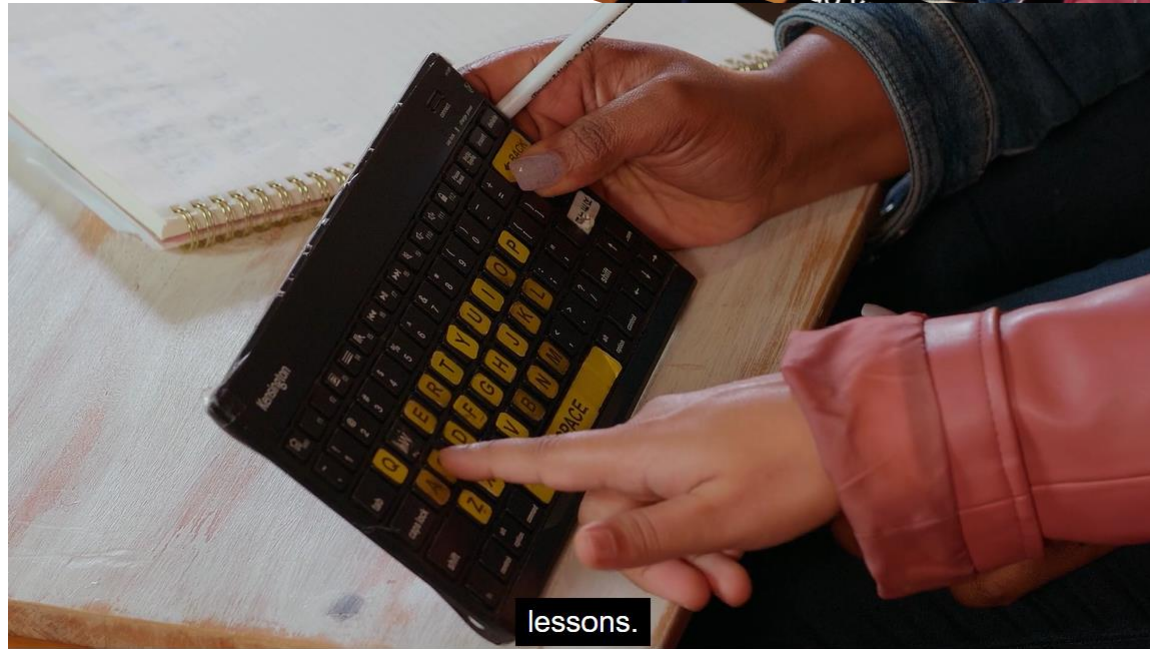
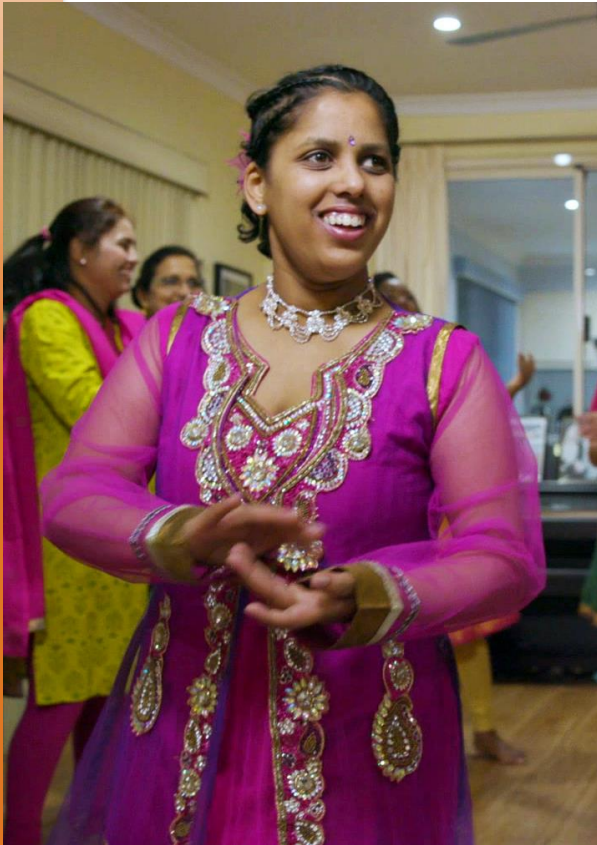
- Successful decision making is strongly influenced by Decision Supporter **beliefs** and **attitudes** and their capacity to support decision making
- Supported decision making **can** be facilitated with people who have complex communication access needs
- People with complex communication access needs **can** exercise their rights through supported decision making with the appropriate support



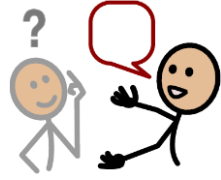


Introducing . . .

Shewani

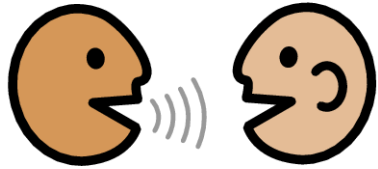


lessons.

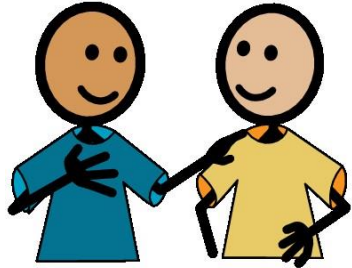


Decision Making Possibilities

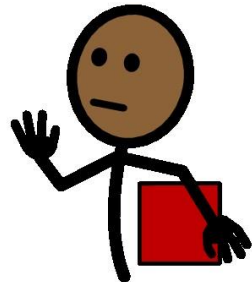
Here's what I learnt and know:



- We all communicate

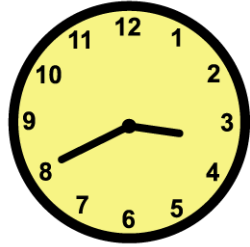


- Supported decision making means that the person guides decisions about them.



- It is a way for people's decisions to be protected

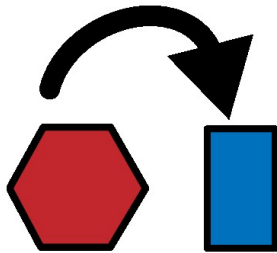
Here's what I learnt and know:



- Big decisions can take time

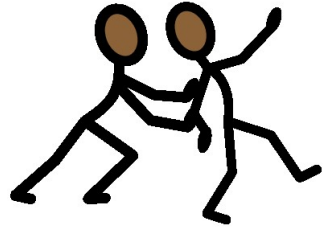


- People will become lonely and behave aggressively towards people who control their decisions.

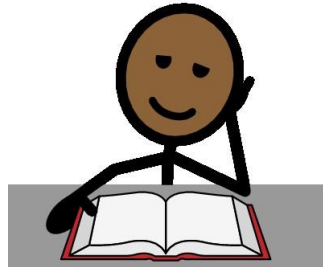


- A change in attitude is what's needed, not more funding to 'fix' behaviours.

Here's what I learnt and know:



- Decisions and the time needed to make them can be abused



- People need to learn what it means to be a great decision supporter

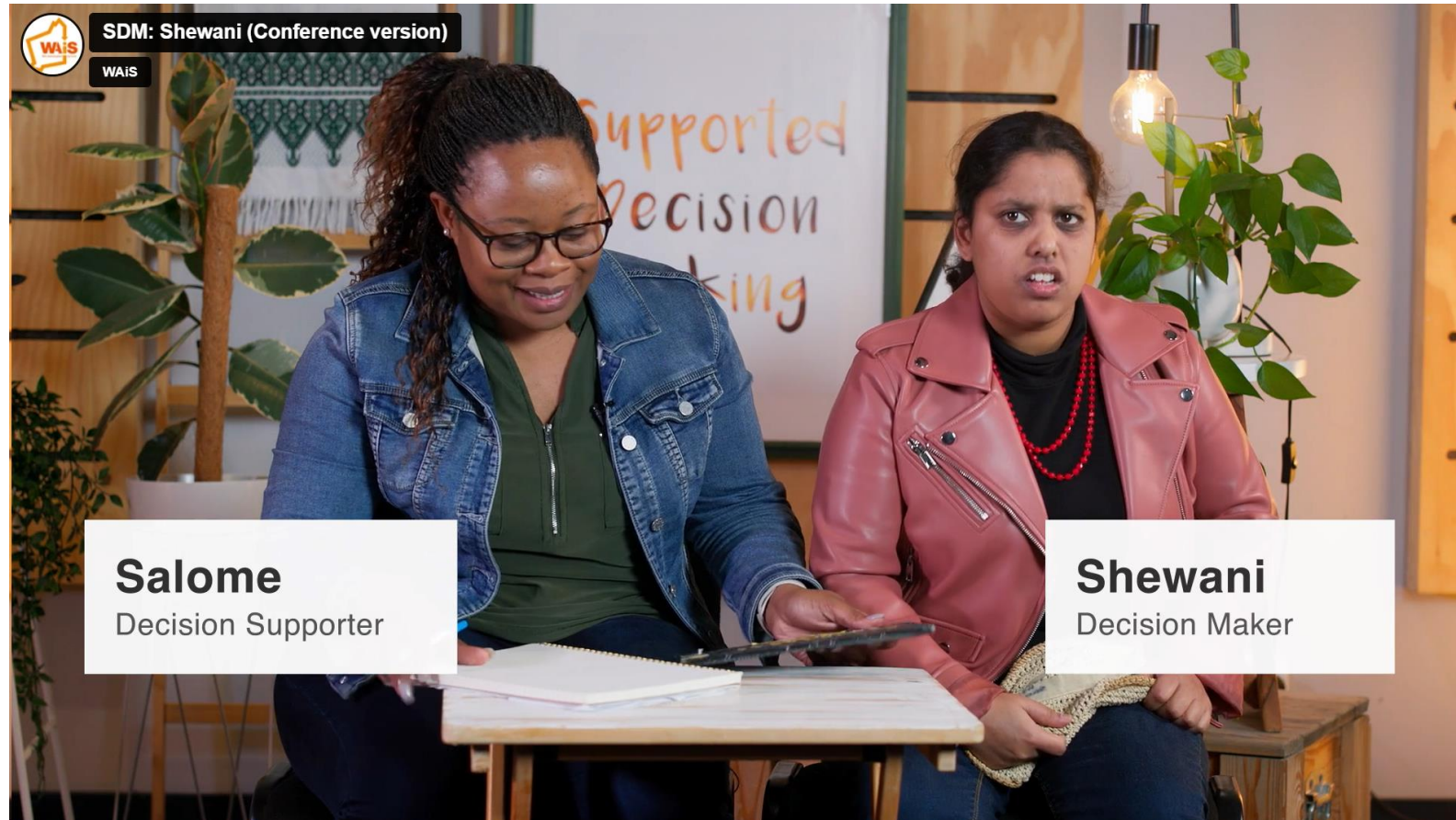


- Parents can support their children to make decisions from a young age



- Don't let this new idea go

- <https://waindividualisedservices.org.au/supported-decision-making-resources/>
- <https://supporteddecisionmaking.com.au/>



Questions

