

ASID Conference 2023

The Healthy Discussions Project

Wednesday 22 November 2023



Office of the
Public Advocate

Acknowledgement of Country



I would like to start by acknowledging Victoria's Aboriginal communities and their rich culture. I pay my respects to Elders, past, present and emerging.

I acknowledge their sovereignty was never ceded.

Welcome and introductions



Michelle



Welcome to today's information session. I am Michelle Wilcox, a policy and engagement officer at the Office of the Public Advocate (or OPA for short).



About me



- I have worked as a community worker
- I have studied at TAFE
- I was a coordinator of the Healthy Discussions Project which is what I am here to talk about



If you don't understand me, you can look at the board

Ask me to repeat myself or get me to say the same thing again



Overview



This session will cover:

- The aims of the Healthy Discussions Project
- Our information sessions
- What is decision-making capacity
- Human Rights Interviews



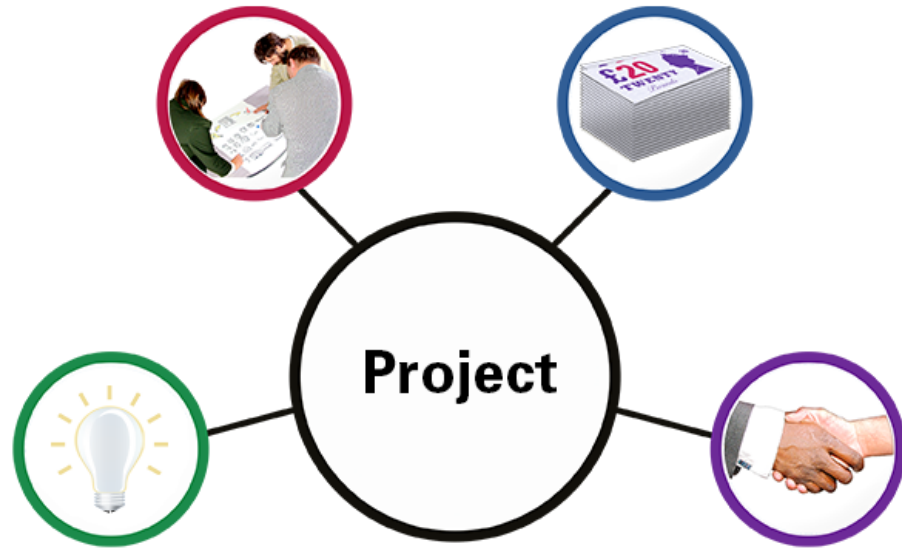
Healthy Discussions Project



- The project is about teaching healthcare workers how to talk with people with disability to make decisions about their own health.
- Our project helps healthcare workers understand more about people with disability.



Project funding



The project has been funded by a grant from the Australian Government Department of Social Services



Australian Government

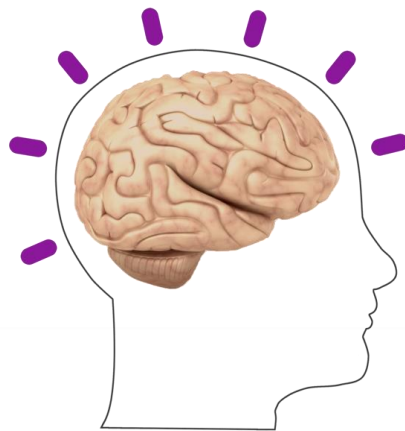
Department of Social Services



Information Sessions



We have done information sessions and looked at:



- Supporting people to make decisions about their health
- Different ways healthcare workers can talk to people with disability
- People living with a brain injury
- Decision-making capacity



Right to make own medical decisions



Healthcare workers should know people can make decisions about their own health



In Victoria, the principles of decision-making capacity can be found in the *Medical Treatment Planning and Decisions Act 2016*



Principles of decision-making capacity



In Victoria, the law says you have decision-making capacity if you can:

- Understand
- Retain – remember
- Use or weigh up information – think about
- Communicate – in some way



Medical Treatment Decision Maker



Sometimes people are not able to make a decision about their health treatment.

They may need someone to make the decision on their behalf.

The medical treatment decision maker must make the decision they reasonably believe the person would have made themselves.



Medical Treatment Decision Maker



People who can make the decision may include:

a) A partner



b) Unpaid carer



c) Son or daughter



d) Parent



e) Sibling – brother or sister



They must be available and in a close and continuing relationship with the person.



Human Rights Interviews



People we have interviewed about human rights include:

- The Public Advocate



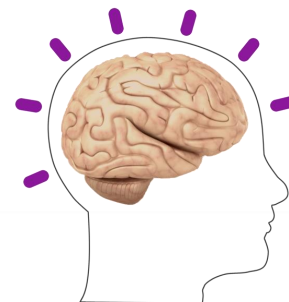
- Teachers at Sydney University



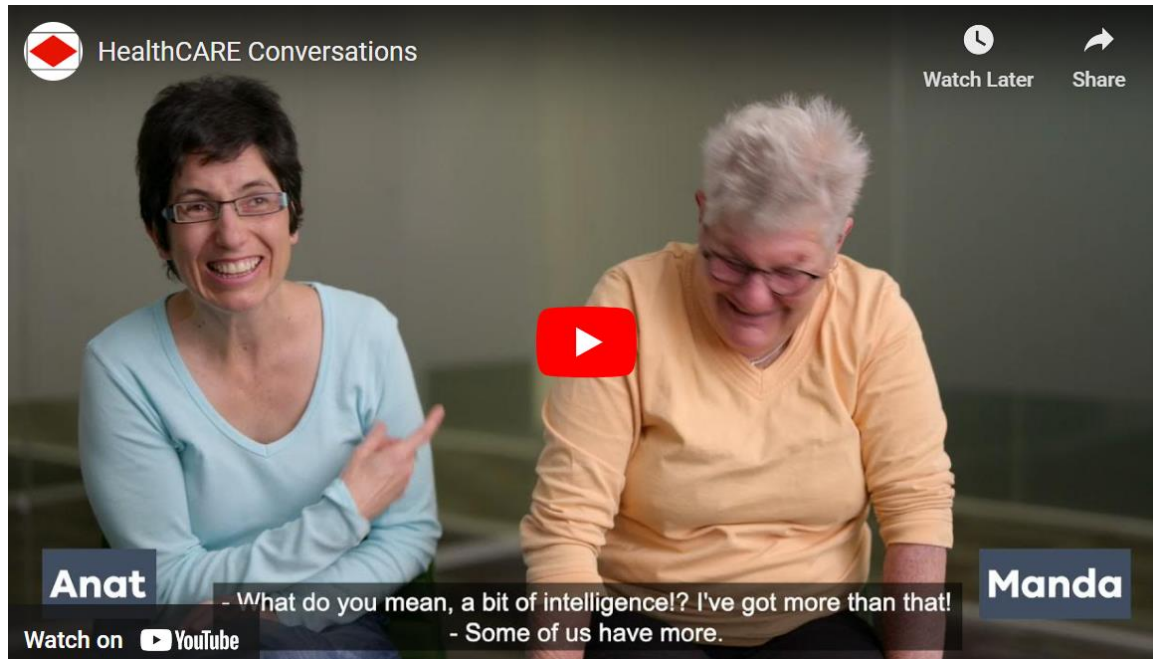
- A previous President of Brain Injury Matters



- People with a brain injury



HealthCARE Conversations videos



- We have made a video called “HealthCARE Conversations”
- People and a healthcare worker share helpful suggestions on how healthcare workers can talk to them

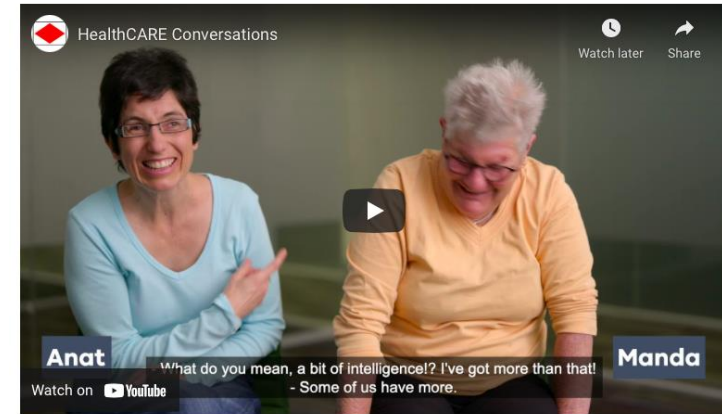
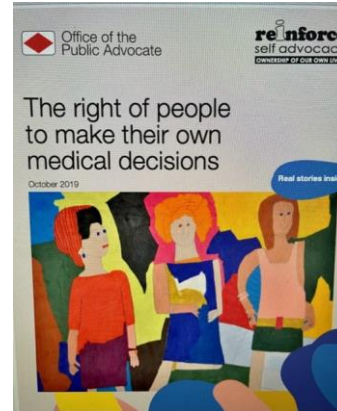


Resources



HealthCARE Conversations video

The right of people to make their own medical decisions information sheet



Partnership with University of Melbourne



Office of the Public Advocate



For more information go to www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au

Email: opa-projects@justice.vic.gov.au



Questions



Are there any questions?