



# What happened in My Choice Matters?

The last Easy Read report



My Choice Matters helps people with disability and their families to learn about choice, voice and control. It also helps them learn about self-directed support and individualised budgets.

- **Self-directed support**

Self-directed support is when you are in charge of what happens in your support and services (for example, the activities you do or workers who help you).

This is instead of an agency being in charge.



- **Individualised budgets**

This is when you are given money to pay for your support and services. This is instead of the agency having the money. You can have help to know how to use the money.

The Social Policy Research Centre did research to find out how well My Choice Matters was working.



They have written reports about My Choice Matters before.

You can find those reports on their website

[www.sprc.unsw.edu.au](http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au)

or by emailing

[sprc@unsw.edu.au](mailto:sprc@unsw.edu.au)



This is the last report.

It is about the whole of My Choice Matters.

My Choice Matters did a good job on a lot of things.



- Giving people information on the NDIS

They added this to the program when people said they needed it



- Giving people information that was easy to understand



- Giving people with disability a chance to think about their lives



- Giving people with disability a chance to share stories and learn from other people



- Giving people with disability a chance to learn new skills

My Choice Matters had to deal with some difficulties.



- There was not a lot of time to get the program set up at the beginning. The program got better the longer it went on.



- The staff were not sure when the funding would run out. Some staff left for other jobs, but then My Choice Matters got more funding and had to keep going without all its staff.



- Because My Choice Matters was so popular, some staff had too much work to do. Sometimes they got more staff to help. Sometimes managing the new staff was also extra work.

My Choice Matters was good at helping different groups of people. They got better at this the longer the program went on.



- People with intellectual disability



- People living in group homes
- People who speak a language other than English at home



- Aboriginal people



- People living in a regional area



- People in jail



- Young people

Some people thought My Choice Matters should have done more to help some groups of people.



- Aboriginal people



- People who speak a language other than English at home



- Family members



- People who did not think they would get NDIS funding



My Choice Matters had an advisory group.

The group gave them ideas about how to do their work.



People with different types of disability were on the advisory group.



Some people thought there should have been more people who speak a language other than English on the advisory group.



Some people thought My Choice Matters really listened to the advisory group.

Other people thought My Choice Matters did not listen to the group enough.



Some people thought people did not turn up to the advisory group enough.

One person with disability did not turn up because he thought the group was too hard to understand.

There are some important things to learn from My Choice Matters.



Programs that help people with disability to share stories and learn from other people are useful.

It is important to make sure that lots of different groups of people can take part.



It is good to include people with disability on advisory groups for programs like My Choice Matters.

It is important to make sure they get the right help to take part.



It is important for programs like My Choice Matters to have enough time and money to:

- Make clear decisions and plans about what to do in their work
- Manage their staff well

Future programs can learn from what happened in My Choice Matters.