

Support Your Way:

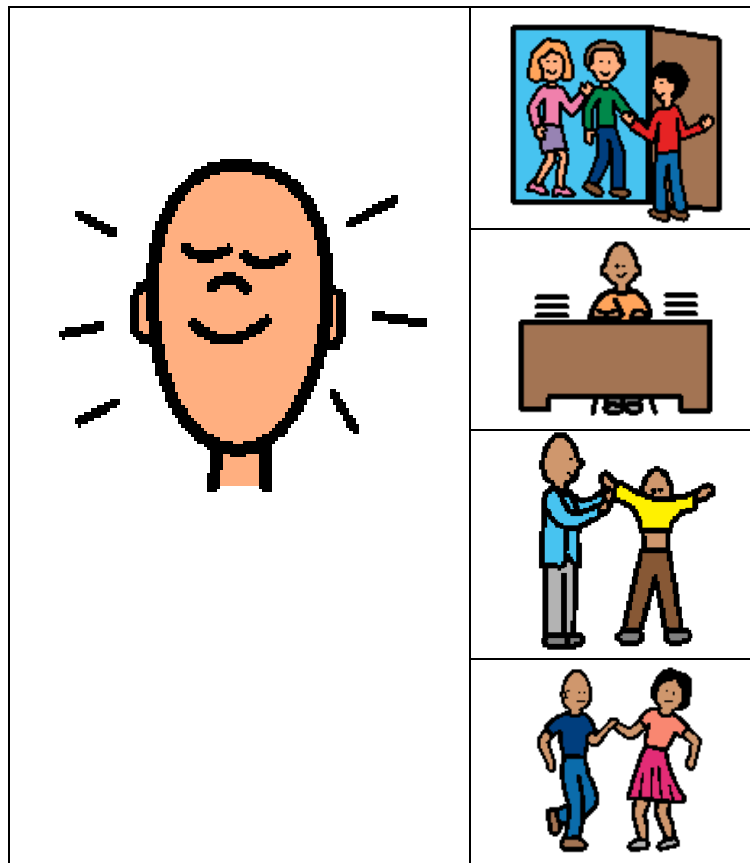
A self-directed approach for Victorians with a disability



Support Your Way:

A self-directed approach for Victorians with a disability

A summary in Easy English with pictures



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Support Your Way: A self-directed approach for Victorians with a disability
A Summary in Easy English with Pictures

This document may also be downloaded from the Department of Human Services website at:
www.disability.vic.gov.au

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Support Your Way

Living the life you want

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1. Introduction

People with a disability have the same rights, responsibilities and opportunities as everyone else.

This means that people with a disability can live the life they want and be able to:

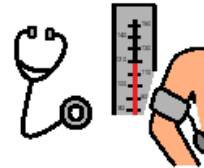
- go to school and work



- live in a nice home



- be healthy



- be close to the people they care about (for example family and friends)



- do the things they want to do.



For all of this to happen, people with a disability may need support. This might be a service, or help from family and friends.

Getting the right kind of support can make all the difference.

This book explains that you can make decisions (to the best of your ability) about the supports you need to live the life you want.

2. What does the law say?

In Victoria, there are two laws that say how people with a disability should be supported:

1. The Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006
2. The Disability Act 2006.



You can read more about these laws on the internet at:

www.dhs.vic.gov.au/disability



3. What does the Government say?

The Victorian Government has some documents that talk about how to support people with a disability. They are:

1. Growing Victoria Together
2. A Fairer Victoria
3. The Victorian State Disability Plan 2002-2012.



4. What's different?

These laws and Government documents talk about how people with a disability can have more control over their lives and more say about what they need and want.

This means that you work with others (such as friends, family and advocates) to make decisions about:

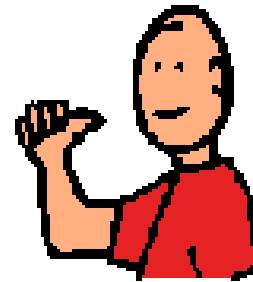
- Your plan;
- Your funding; and
- Your support.

This is called a 'self-directed' approach, which means that you are in charge.

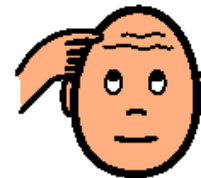


5. Your plan

This means that you are at the centre of deciding:



- what you want from life



- who is going to make this happen



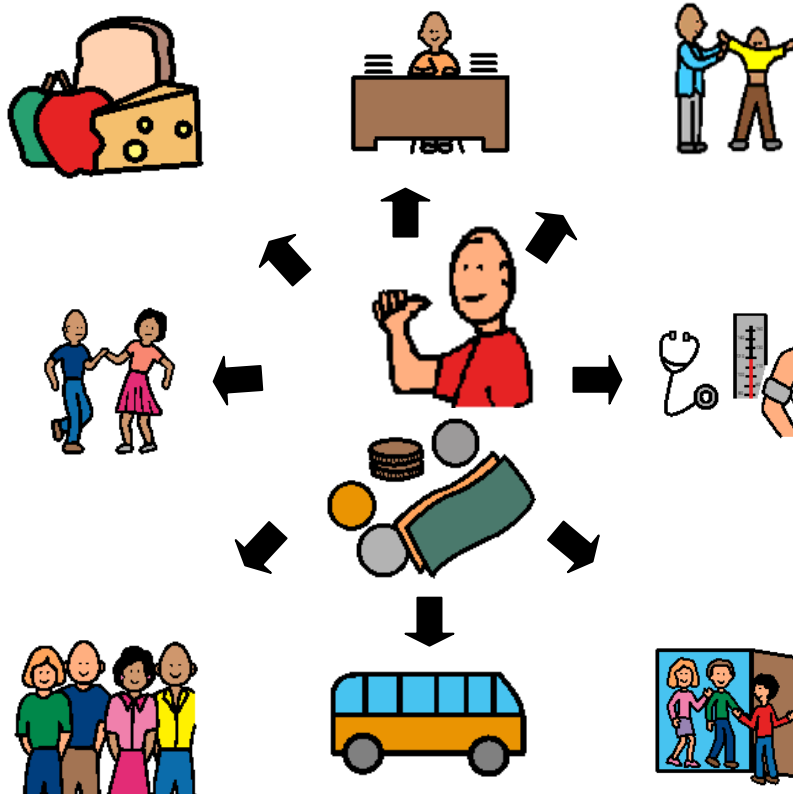
- how and where you will get the support you need.



6. Your funding

Funding is the money from the Department of Human Services used to pay for your support.

You can choose how to use the funding to meet your goals. You may also have a say about who manages the funding.



7. Your support

This means that you get to choose who provides supports. This support might come from:

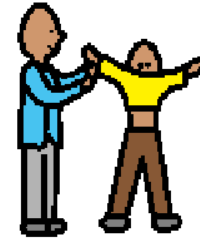
- family and friends



- community services (for example employment agency, leisure centre)



- specialist services (for example accommodation services, therapy).



8. Making it all happen

To get the right plan, funding and support for you, you and your family might need:



- information about what's available – this information needs to be easy to find and easy to understand



- help to make a plan which says the right things about you, your needs and what you want from your life



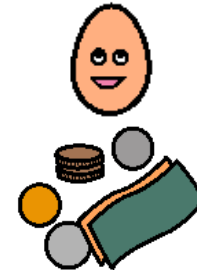
- good quality services to choose from



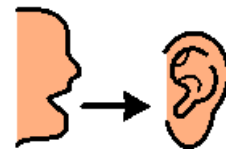
- ideas for using different types of support



- funding that is used to buy the supports in your plan



- ways to tell Government and service providers what you think about the support you are getting.



9. What does this mean for you?

By choosing how you want to live your life, you have:

- more say; professionals support you to work out what you want (rather than what they think you need)



- better services; you get to have a say in how services are designed and run



- responsibilities; you will need to check that everything is working properly. Are services doing the right job? Are you getting value for money? Is the plan right for you? Support is available to help you do this work



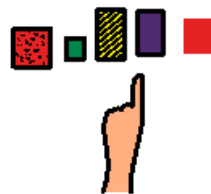
- a better life; so far, people who have been involved in planning, managing their funding and choosing their supports are healthier, more active in their community, have more control over their life, more choice of things to do and have more dignity.



10. Where to now?



In order for all of these changes to continue, we need to see:

- different types of services to meet different needs
- help for people with a disability, services and the community so they can be better at working this way
- good quality services
- more ideas for supporting people with a disability.





For more information on any of the topics discussed in this book, please:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• go to www.dhs.vic.gov.au/disability to get a complete copy of this document	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• talk with a staff or family member or a friend	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• contact your Disability Services Intake and Response team on Ph 1800 783 783• if you are Deaf, or have a communication impairment, you can call us on the TTY (telephone typewriter) on 1300 131 525 (for the same cost as a local call)	