



Factors to consider when nominating the Support Person

Support staff: A carer's knowledge of a person's communication style, support needs, and general preferences may be extremely helpful when interpreting responses during the Picture My Future process. However some carers may have a limited understanding of person-centred processes and may be too dominant in meetings about the process. They may make strong suggestions about the life areas that 'are important' to the person. Carers need to be given clear instructions as to what kind of support is likely to be helpful to the person and what might hinder their exercise of choice and self-determination. You may need to discuss the role of the Support Person with them. This might include asking them to withhold their comments until the person has had a chance to respond.

Family members: While family members may have valuable insights regarding how to communicate with the person, it is important to consider that their presence may cause the person to censor the information he or she provides. For example, the person may be less inclined to talk about preferred living arrangement or sexual needs with a family member present.

Family members and support staff are potentially important participants in the process and can assist the person to collect images or take photos, and to explain what is important to them. However, not all families and support staff may be available or choose to participate in this process. It is important to check the extent to which families or support staff want to or can play a role in the process. Ultimately, the preferences of the person should be of greatest importance. Raise these issues with the person.