

Shared Management Principles

These principles are important because they are the essential foundations that ensure that Shared Management genuinely empowers and enables people with disability to have maximum control over their support services and arrangements.

The principles are derived from many years of successful Shared Management experiences in the WA disability services sector and are consistent with, and supportive of many important, aspirational clauses in the NDIS Act.

1. Shared Management is a **partnership built on mutual respect** in which the person or their family member is the leader. Both parties will treat each other openly, honestly and fairly.
2. Shared Management is built on recognising **the person's expertise in guiding and organising their own life**. This includes the person's decisions about how much responsibility they have in the Shared Management arrangement.
3. Shared Management arrangements **support and expand the person's autonomy, capability and right to participate as a full citizen** in all aspects of society and community.
4. The person or their family member can **decide how their funded resources and services can best be used and organised**. The person or their family member has the right to change their mind.
5. The person or their family member is the **employer of paid support staff**.

Embedding these principles into your organisation will require focused and sustained attention. They may have implications for many providers, meaning that several other actions may be needed before committing to offer Shared Management. These may include:

- i. Assessing your organisation's culture against the five principles;
- ii. Ensuring that your operational systems and cost structure can accommodate Shared Management;
- iii. Determining your organisation's risk appetite and being aware of the additional risks that come with Shared Management; and
- iv. Ensuring that you have staff with the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to deliver high quality Shared Management.