



Dignity of Risk & Decision Making



This policy explains what **Dignity of Risk** means.



Dignity of Risk is the **legal right** of every person, including those with a disability:

- **to make decisions** and,
- **take risks** in order to learn, grow and have better **quality of life**.



Decisions are **choices** we make.



Some **decisions** we make **may be safe**.



Some **decisions** we make **may be risky**.



Some **decisions** are **BIG** and Some **decisions** are **Small**.



Dignity of Risk means being able **make decisions** (even risky ones) **about:**

- What **you can** and **cannot do**
- What **you want** and **do not want**



An example of **decisions you can make** are choosing:

- **Food** you like to eat
- **Activity** you want to join
- **People** you want to spend time with
- **Clothes** you want to wear
- **Medicines** to take
- When, where and how to **spend your money**



Sometimes you may need to ask for advice when making a decision, especially **when a decision** may be **risky**.



If you need advice about a decision you need to make, you may like to ask:

- A **Juniper worker**
- **Family** or **representative**
- An **advocate**



If a **Juniper worker thinks** that **your decision** could be very risky and may **hurt you** or could **hurt someone else**, they must try to help you by:

- **Making sure** you have **all the information** to make your decision
- **Talking to you** about the possible risks.
- **Making suggestions** for safer choices
- **Supporting you** to do the activity
- **Asking your** family/ guardian or advocate to help you to decide



Juniper has a **duty of care** to make sure you are **safe**.



Duty of care is the **responsibility** of **Juniper workers**, to ensure they do **no harm** to the customers **they support**. This means they must step in when a decision or choice may have a risk of:

- **Death** (including suicide)
- **Permanent** and **serious disability**
- **Lack of capacity** – (this may be determined by a legal process such as a Guardianship order)
- **Harm to another person**



If the decision is **too dangerous**, Juniper may **need to stop you from making the decision by:**

- **Giving reasons** why you cannot
- Providing **other options**
- **Advising your guardian or family representative**
- **Reporting to other services** (like the Police, Aged or NDIS Commission)



Juniper will make sure that all customers:

- Have maximum **choice and control** over decisions they make. See- *Decision making & Consent Policy*
- Have **access to an advocate or professional service** if they need support with decision making or advice.



Please **contact Juniper** if you would like **more information** about this **Decision Making and Dignity of Risk Policy** Or if you would like to **view** this information in **another format** (way):

- Phone: **1300 313 000**
- Online <https://www.juniper.org.au/contact-us/>
- **Speak to us in person**



You can also contact the **Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission** on **1800 951 822** or by visiting their website:

www.agedcarecommission.gov.au



Or you may also contact the **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Commission** on **1800 035 544**

OR by visiting their website: www.ndiscommission.gov.au



For **more information** about **Decision Making** and **Dignity or Risk** you can **visit** these **websites**:

- ✓ <https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/consumers/consumer-rights>
- ✓ <https://www.ndis.gov.au/participants/working-providers/safeguards>