PEARLS OF WISDOM

Table: Problem solving in the context of self-direction using de Bono's 6 Thinking Hats®

This table uses de Bono's ® Six Thinking Hats to break the complex work of self-direction into different roles. It offers a way of thinking and problem solving and shows how the work of self-direction can benefit by being shared with others

	Who might possibly wear this hat?	When would this hat be worn?	How to apply your thinking when wearing this hat	What operational functions does this hat demand?	Why is this hat important?
GREEN HAT: Creativity *Creating your dream, maintaining the vision!*	The individual, their family, friends, selected key people in the individual's life & networks	Most of the time - maintaining the vision, planning & reviewing	Be creative & flexible to new ideas & possibilities	Keeping the dream alive - your vision at the forefront of all that happens. Planning and reflection of supports and sharing the individual's vision.	It is the core of self-direction focusing on the individual's dreams & visions that can evolve.
RED HAT: Feelings *Me, myself and I*	The individual, their partner, family & friends	Everyday	Be aware of your gut feelings & emotions based on your past & present experiences without fear of repercussions	Expressing to other the reasoning behind how the individual's support operates based on the thinking of this hat.	Captures the knowledge that the individual and key people in their life hold.
BLUE HAT: Process *Direct Support*	The individual, their family, partner or people they may engage, for example, a key worker or coordinator or a personal assistant	Daily, weekly, monthly & yearly	Organisational, systematic & managerial	The processes to set up and use to organise the support needs & of managing the people who carry out this work.	Controls the sequence of operations that make the direct supports happen; provides the individual with ownership of their life
WHITE HAT: Facts and Information *Financial Matters*	The individual, key people they have chosen and at times a host agency - if you choose to engage them for this purpose	When planning, reviewing & referring to financial matters	Separate those personal feelings & emotions surrounding the individual's life & support needs.	The Money: Budgeting, Payroll, Legal and financial requirements.	Without the money there is no paid support. White hat is critical for ongoing viability of your self-direction business.
BLACK HAT: Judgement & Cautions *Accountability*	The individual, key people they have chosen to assist them with their self-direction & a host provider if you have engaged one	When reporting for accountability purposes	Dotting the 'I's' & crossing the 't's' so to speak – thinking about what underpins the operations of the individual's self-directed supports	Being up to date & incorporating regulations, legalities, safety, human resources & risk management. Eg. Performing a home safety checklist / audit of the individual's home to make sure it complies with a safe work place	It requires direct reporting between the individual, the host (if engaged) & the department to be accountable for public money
YELLOW HAT: Benefits and Optimism *Celebrating Success*	The individual & those who are a part of the dream & vision	When celebrating successes, milestones & achievements of the dream & vision	Wear this hat with pride & positivity	Celebrations, reflections – capturing the Kodak moments	The **yellow** hat signifies progression & growth of the individual & those who are a part of their journey

Read *What does it take? The business of self-direction* on the Pearl website for more detail.
Read de Bono's 6 Thinking Hats® for more information.