

Advocacy

What is a Disability Advocate?

A Disability Advocate is a person who can assist you with making complaints, communicating with the NDIS and service providers, communicating with general services including places of education and the workplace, and connect you with legal services relevant to your situation. They offer an independent support for those who feel they are not being listened to, respected, or cared for adequately.

With your permission, they will work with you to defend your rights as a human. They will do this through communicating with the relevant people through speaking, writing or acting on your behalf, ensuring your voice is heard, and that you are involved in decision making regarding services you access, the care you receive, and the planning of your supports.

Disability Advocacy is a free service.

Who is it for?

A Disability Advocate can help anyone with a disability and/or mental illness. This includes all disabilities – physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments.

When can an Advocate help you?

An advocate can help you when –

- You feel as though you have been treated unfairly by a service
- You feel as though you are not being heard or taken seriously with your concerns
- You would like to appeal decisions made by the NDIS
- You have missed out on an opportunity due to your disability – e.g. course, school, job position, using a service
- If you are being abused, neglected, or taken advantage of
- You are being pushed to make a decision or arrangement you don't agree with
- You have been involved in an accident or injury
- Connecting with appropriate and accessible health services

What can't an Advocate do?

- Provide mediation or counselling
- Provide casework services
- Provide advocacy for a person when a more appropriate service is available
- Provide legal advice (but may help you connect with a legal service if appropriate)
- Provide advocacy services when a disability worker, case worker or support coordinator can provide support without a conflict of interest

MARLI & MOE

Through the ups and downs... together

HEAD OFFICE

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Where can I find an Advocate –

There are many services available to you. The best source of information to find a service local to you is –

New South Wales –

- <https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers/programmes-services/for-people-with-disability/national-disability-advocacy-program/models-of-disability-advocacy/national-disability-advocacy-agencies-funded-by-the-commonwealth-by-state-or-territory/disability-advocacy-agencies-new>

Queensland –

- <https://www.qai.org.au/>
- <https://www.qld.gov.au/disability/legal-and-rights/advocacy>

Victoria –

- <http://www.disabilityadvocacyvic.org.au/>

Tasmania –

- <https://advocacytasmania.org.au/>
- <https://www.speakoutadvocacy.org/>

Northern Territory –

- <https://nt.gov.au/wellbeing/disability-services/disability-advocacy>
- <https://ntcoss.org.au/directory/listing/disability-advocacy-service>
- <https://www.das.org.au/>

South Australia –

- <https://www.dacssa.org.au/>
- <https://www.dras.com.au/>

Western Australia –

- <http://www.disability.wa.gov.au/individuals-families-and-carers/for-individuals-families-and-carers/services-supports-and-eligibility-new/services/services-provided-by-the-commission/advocacy/>

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