**Advocacy policy**

**Easy English Version**



**Version 2.0**

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# Advocacy policy

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|  | | **About this document** **Advocacy** is the act of helping a person get what they need.  There may be times when you will need the help of an advocate. | |
|  | We will always help you to get an advocate if you need one. | |

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|  | This document will help you understand:   * what advocates are and what they do * what advocates cannot do * how we can help * how to find an advocate. |

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|  | **What is an advocate?**  An advocate is a person who can help you stand up for your rights. |

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|  |  | Advocates will work with you to find out what you need and what you want. |

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|  |  | An advocate must be a person that you know and trust. |

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|  | **Who can be an advocate?**  There are many different people that can be an advocate. |

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|  |  | A **family member** can be your advocate. |

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|  |  | A **person from an outside advocacy group** can be your advocate. |

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|  |  | A **person from a legal organisation (like a lawyer)** can be your advocate. |

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|  | **What can advocates do?**  Advocates will always make sure that you are safe and have what you need. |

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|  |  | Advocates can help you advocate for yourself. |

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|  |  | Advocates can help you find out what you need. |

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|  |  | Advocates can say something for you. |

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|  |  | Advocates can help you write and sign papers. |

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|  |  | Advocates can help you report incidents and make complaints. |

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|  | **What can advocates not do?**  There are some things that advocates cannot do. |

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|  |  | An advocate cannot help you with your health treatments. |

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|  |  | An advocate cannot act as a go-between when resolving problems. |

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|  |  | An advocate cannot make decisions for a different person (if they are not their advocate). |

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|  | **How will we help you?**  We have let our workers know when an advocate might be needed. |

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|  |  | You have the right to choose your own advocate. We will help you with this. |

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|  |  | We will help you if you want to:   * be your own advocate * get a new advocate * stop advocacy services. |
|  |  | We will work with your chosen advocate. |

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|  | **How to find an advocate**  We will help you to find and contact your chosen advocate. |

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|  |  | You can ask one of our workers about where you can find an advocate. |

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|  |  | You can use Google and the [Disability Advocacy Finder](https://disabilityadvocacyfinder.dss.gov.au/disability/ndap/) tool to look for advocates near you. |

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|  |  | You can also contact the department that is in charge of advocacy in your state. |

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|  |  | A full list of services in each state can be found on the [NDIS website](https://www.ndis.gov.au/understanding/ndis-and-other-government-services/disability-services). |