**Advocacy policy**

**Easy English Version**



**Version 2.0**

This document and its contents are copyright of Centro ASSIST© 2020. All rights reserved.
Any redistribution, retransmission or distribution of part or all of the contents in any form without our express written permission is prohibited other than the following:

* you may share and use with your clients, NDIS participants, to aid communication
* you may share and use with employees to assist in their work

© 2020 Holocentric Pty Ltd, trading as Centro ASSIST
ABN 73 052 972 095

# Advocacy policy

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **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. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | 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.
 |

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Advocates can say something for you.  |

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 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.  |

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

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

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

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 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).  |