

# Advocacy

## 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.**

*An advocate can be:*



- a family member



- a person from an outside advocacy group
- a person from a legal organisation (like a lawyer).



If a person you do not know plans to be your advocate they will introduce themselves to you and explain how they will help.

## What can advocates do?



Advocates will always make sure that **you are safe and have what you need.**

### Advocates can:



- help you to advocate for yourself
- help you find out what you need



- say something for you
- help you to write and sign papers



- write and sign papers for you
- help you report incidents and make complaints.

## What advocates cannot do?



There are some things that advocates cannot do.

*An advocate **cannot**:*



- help with your health treatments
- make a decision or solve problems without you
- force their personal opinions on you
- make judgements about you

## 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 can 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 together 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 tool to look for advocates near you.



A full list of services in each state can be found on the NDIS website.