

Advocacy



About this document

Advocacy is the act of helping a person get what they need.

There may be times when you need the help of an advocate.



We will always help you to get an advocate if you need one.



This document helps you understand:

- what advocates are
- what advocates do
- what advocates can not do
- how we can help
- how to find an advocate.



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What an advocate is

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 an advocate can be



There are many different people that can be an advocate.

An advocate can be:



- a family member



- a person from an outside advocacy group



- a person from a legal organisation (like a lawyer).

What advocates can do



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

Advocates can



- help you advocate for yourself
- help you find out what you need
- say something for you



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



What advocates can not do

Advocates cannot:

- help with your health treatments
- act as a go between when resolving problems
- make decisions for a different person if they are not their advocate



How 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.



We will help you if you want to:

- be your own advocate
- get a new advocate
- stop advocacy services.



We will work with the advocate you choose.



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How to find an advocate



We will help you to find and contact your advocate.



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



You can use the internet to look for advocates near you.



A full list of services in each state is on the [NDIS website](#).