

What Is Advocacy?

Advocacy is about taking whatever action is necessary to ensure that everyone is treated fairly in areas of their human and legal rights, access to services, participation and inclusion in the community, to prevent or stop abuse, and to identify and stop the cause of unjust or unfair treatment.

What Is An Advocate?

An advocate is a person who is on your side to help you solve a problem or to act on your behalf to protect you and promote your rights and interests. Advocacy might help you when you feel you can't speak out on your own about something, or you want some support along the way. You can choose who you think would be the best person to be your advocate- sometimes it's a family member or friend, or someone from an advocacy support group.

What Does An Advocate Do?

An Advocate can help you with all aspects of your service delivery and supports, such as helping you to:

- Develop and review your personal support plans.
- Make informed decisions about your supports and lifestyle.
- Make complaints or raise concerns.
- Write letters or make phone calls.
- Go to meetings with you or on your behalf.

Community Connections Australia (CCA) upholds the right for any person receiving support to have an advocate of their choosing. You have the right to determine how the advocate will help you. CCA will support that decision and will work with you and your advocate to ensure you have the service and supports you want.

Does It Cost Me Anything?

Advocacy is free. You can go to an advocate as many times as you like. If it is a legal matter they may not be able to help you and they will tell you to seek legal advice.

How Do I Find An Advocate?

You can ask staff at CCA to help you find an advocate. There is a list of some services over the page. If you need help to get to an advocate we will support you.

Will I Be Treated Differently If I Have An Advocate?

It is your right to have an advocate to support you. We will always respect your choice to have an advocate and will work with your advocate in the way that you want.

What If I Change My Mind?

You can always change your mind at any time about having and advocate or not having an advocate involved in your supports.

Advocacy Services

There are many services that provide advocacy for people living with disabilities: You can use the following link to locate an Advocacy Service near you-

<https://askizzy.org.au/disability-advocacy-finder>

We also provide the following list of Advocacy Services-

Organisation	Contact	Website
SCIA – Spinal Cord Injuries Australia	1800 819 775	www.scia.org.au
Synapse – Australia's Brain Injury Organisation	1800 673 074	www.synapse.org.au
Disability Advocacy Network Australia (DANA)	<i>Email:</i> ceo@dana.org.au	www.dana.org.au
Disability Advocacy NSW (DA)	1300 365 085	www.da.org.au
People with Disability Australia (PWDA)	1800 843 929	www.pwd.org.au
Intellectual Disability Rights Service	1300 665 908	www.idrs.org.au
Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association (MDAA)	1800 629 072 or (02) 9891 6400	www.mdoo.org.au
Side by Side Advocacy Inc	(02) 9808 5500	www.sidebyside.org.au
Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT Ltd		www.alsnswact.org.au
•General Enquiries	(02) 9213 4100	
•Police Charges/Court Matters	1800 765 767	
•Care & Protection/Family Matters	1800 733 233	
Sydney Region Aboriginal Corporation (SRAC)	(02) 4721 1536	www.srac.ngo

The following government agencies may provide additional information:

- NDIS - <https://www.ndis.gov.au/> 1800 800 110
- NSW Ombudsman - <https://www.ombo.nsw.gov.au/> 1800 451 524