

Advocacy

Definition

In broad terms, advocacy for people with disability can be defined as speaking, acting or writing with minimal conflict of interest on behalf of the interests of a person or group, in order to promote, protect and defend the welfare of and justice for either the person or group by:

- Being on their side and no-one else's
- Being primarily concerned with their fundamental needs
- Remaining loyal and accountable to them in a way which is empathic and vigorous

Source: FaHCSIA

Advocacy is **not** Mediation, Counselling or interpreting for a person.

Mediation is: remaining neutral – helping two people find a solution to a mutual problem or conflict

Counselling is: Helping people solve their problems with living

Interpreting is: Telling someone what someone means

Types of Advocacy

Individual Advocacy is when the advocate concentrates their efforts solely on advocating for one or two people. The advocate could be a staff member of an organisation, a carer, family member, friend or volunteer. This type of advocacy is focused on the specific needs or situation surrounding the individual or person with a disability.

Systemic Advocacy is primarily concerned with influencing and changing the 'system' in general (such as legislation, policy and practices) in ways that will benefit people with a disability as a group. Systemic advocates will encourage overall changes to the law, service policies, government, and community attitudes. This form of advocacy does not usually involve individual advocacy as it can cause a conflict of interest around the resources that are being generated and the purpose of the advocacy in general.

Self Advocacy is similar to individual advocacy except it is undertaken by a person or group of people on behalf of themselves. If it is a group of people self advocating they typically share the same characteristics, interests, or needs.

Source: www.bereal.com.au

Family Advocacy is advocacy for families who need support in their role of advocating for themselves or for a member of their family

Legal Advocacy is used if you have trouble with the police, or with your landlord, if you are in a car accident, or you might have a legal problem. It deals with the legal system assisting people facing legal procedures or advocating for systemic changes

Citizen Advocacy is where a trained volunteer person becomes a special friend and support person for the person needing advocacy.

Advocacy Services

The Commonwealth and State governments fund organisations to provide advocacy services to people who have a disability and their carers. Services usually only provide one or two types of advocacy and not all types of advocacy are funded.

Most disability funded services and general community services undertake an advocacy role as part of the work they do, and can assist people with understanding their rights about advocacy.

Under the NSW Disability Standards all people using a service have the right to have an advocate.

Advocacy Services funded by the Commonwealth Government - FaHCSIA

Organisation	Advocacy Type	Target Group	Service Area	Contact Number
Self-Advocacy Sydney Inc	Self and Individual	Intellectual Disabilities	Sydney Metropolitan	9622 3005
Intellectual Disability Rights Service	Individual and Systemic	Intellectual and Acquired Brain Injury	NSW	1800 666 611 or 9318 0144
People with Disability Australia	Individual and Systemic	All Disabilities	NSW	1800 422 016 or 9370 3100
Family Advocacy	Family and Systemic	Intellectual Disabilities	NSW	1800 620 588 or 9869 0866
Spinal Chord Injuries Australia	Individual and Systemic	People with a spinal chord injury	Sydney metropolitan	1800 819 775 or 9661 8855
Brain Injury Association of NSW	Individual, Self, Family and Systemic	People with an Acquired Brain Injury	NSW	9868 5261
Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association (MDAA)	Individual and Systemic	People from diverse cultural and linguistic background with all disabilities	NSW	1800 629 072 or 9891 6400 www.mdaa.org.au
Sydney Regional Aboriginal Corporation Legal Service	Individual	Aboriginal people with a disability	Campbelltown, Liverpool and elsewhere in NSW	1300 114 327 or 9687 7688
The National Disability Abuse and Neglect Hotline	Reporting abuse and neglect of people with a disability who use government-funded services		1800 880 052 TTY 1800 301 130	

Advocacy and Information Services funded by the NSW State Government

The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) supports advocacy and information organisations to provide free services to people with a disability, their families and carers.

Information services provide information and knowledge to people with a disability that can help them to participate in the community and to make choices about the services they receive.

Macarthur Disability Services – MDS	Information and Referral Service	1800 683 232 or 4621 8400 www.mdservices.com.au
-------------------------------------	----------------------------------	---

Advocacy services helps people with a disability to participate in community life and to get their rights. Some people with a disability are able to speak up for themselves, others get help from their family and friends and some go to advocacy organisations that help people with a disability get their rights and have their voices heard.

Organisation	Advocacy Type	Target Group	Service Area	Contact Number
Association of Blind Citizens of NSW	Not Stated	People with vision impairment	NSW	9744 1516 www.asnblind-nsw.org.au
Brain Injury Association of NSW	Individual	People with an acquired brain injury	NSW	1800 802 840 or 9868 5261 www.biansw.or.au
Disability South West	Individual	All disabilities	Liverpool Bankstown and Fairfield	9821 2811 TTY 9601 2605
Down Syndrome Association of NSW	Not stated	People who have Down syndrome	NSW	9683 1900 www.dsnsw.org.au
Early Childhood Intervention Aust NSW	Systemic	Children who have developmental or disability	NSW	9873 2593 www.ecia-nsw.org.au
Ethnic Child Care Family and Community Services	Not Stated	Families from a non English background	NSW	9569 1288 www.eccfcsc.org
Indigenous Disability Advocacy Service	Individual	Aboriginal people	NSW	9687 7688 www.idas.org.au
Organisation	Advocacy Type	Target Group	Service Area	Contact Number

Intellectual Disability Rights Service NSW	Individual and Legal	Intellectual disabilities	NSW	1800 666 611 or 9318 0144 www.idrs.org.au
National Disability Services NSW	Systemic	Disability Service providers only	NSW	9256 3111 www.nds.org.au
NSW Council for Intellectual Disabilities	Systemic	Intellectual disabilities	NSW	1800 424 065 or 9211 1611 www.nswcid.org.au
People with Disabilities – PWD	Individual and Systemic	All Disabilities	NSW	1800 422 015 or 9370 3100 www.pwd.org.au
Physical Disability Council of NSW	Systemic	Physical disabilities	NSW	1800 688 831 or 9552 1606 www.pdcnsw.org.au
Spinal Chord Injuries Australia	Individual	People with spinal chord injuries	NSW	1800 819 775 or 9661 8855 www.scia.org.au
The Deaf Society of NSW	Systemic	Hearing impairment	NSW	9893 8555 TTY 9893 8858 1800 893 885 www.deafsociety.com

For a directory of the organisations that DADHC funds for advocacy and information services, please click

[DADHC Disability Advocacy and Information Services Directory](#) (updated May 2008)

Other Organisation providing Advocacy

Organisation	Advocacy Type	Target Group	Service Area	Contact Number
Carers NSW	Systemic	Carers	NSW	1800 242 636 or 9280 4744 www.carensw.asn.au
Disability Complaints Service		All disabilities	NSW	1800 424 007 or 9319 6549 www.pwd.org.au
Mental Health Advocacy	Individual	People with a mental health issue	NSW	9745 4277
NSW Disability Discrimination Legal Centre	Individual	All disabilities	NSW	1800 800 708 www.ddlcnsw.org.au
Welfare Rights Centre	Individual and Systemic	People dealing with Centrelink	NSW	1800 226 028 or 9211 5300 www.welfarerights.org.au
Association of Children with Disabilities NSW	Systemic	Families with children - all disabilities	NSW	1300 851 603 www.acdnsw.org.au
The Australian Association of Special Education – AASE	Individual and Systemic	People with special education needs	Australia	www.aase.edu.au
Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission - HREOC	Individual and Systemic	All disabilities	Australia	9284 9600 or 1300 369 711 or The Complaints Infoline 1300 656 419

Macarthur based Advocacy Services

Organisation	Advocacy Type	Target Group	Service Area	Contact Number
Families in Partnership Co-operative	Family and Systemic	Families and Carers supporting people who have a disability	Macarthur	4648 1593 or 0400 481 520 www.fip.org.au
Macarthur Disability Service – MDS Ltd	Systemic	People with disabilities	Macarthur	4621 8400 www.mdsservices.com.au

Key Community Organisations in Macarthur

General community service organisations across Macarthur can assist people who have a disability and their Carers in providing local information, resources and programs that could assist with issues they face.

Organisation	Target Group	Service Area	Contact Number
Dea'f Heal'f	Deaf community	Macarthur	deafhealf@gmail.com Fax 4626 2640
The Junction Works Community Centres	General Community Services	Rosemeadow Glenquarie	4625 7333 9605 9278
Camden Community Connections	General Community Services	Camden	4647 1283
Community Links Wollondilly	General community services and disability services	Wollondilly and Camden	4683 2776
Camden Council Community Workers	Local government Local information Disability access issues	Camden	4654 7777
Wollondilly Shire Council Aged and Disability Officer	Local government Local information Disability access issues	Wollondilly	4677 1150
Campbelltown City Council Aged and Disability Officer	Local government Local information Disability access issues	Campbelltown	4645 4579
WILMA Women's Health Centre	Women	Macarthur	4627 2955
Macarthur Legal Centre	General Community	Macarthur	4628 2042
Campbelltown Family Support Service	Families	Campbelltown	4628 7233
Warragamba Silverdale Neighbourhood Centre and Family Support	General community and families	Warragamba and Silverdale	4774 1273
Macarthur Diversity Services Inc	CALD communities	Macarthur	4627 1188
Lifeline	General Community	Macarthur	13 11 14 24 hour line