

Advocacy Policy

VERSION:	11
TITLE OF AUTHOR:	Director / General Manager
NAME OF RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR:	Dr Sarita K Hamall & Chris Hamall
EFFECTIVE DATE:	July 2024
NEXT REVIEW DATE:	January 2025



Advocacy

Introduction

Advocacy is acting, speaking or writing to promote and protect the human rights and welfare of a vulnerable person or group of people. Examples of vulnerable people include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, children and their families, refugees, the elderly, the LGBTQIA community, the homeless, and people with disability. Advocacy services for people with disability in Australia are funded by The National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP) which ensures there is no cost for participants or service providers to access advocacy services.

Types of advocacy include:

- individual advocacy—a one-on-one advocacy aimed to prevent or address instances of discrimination or abuse to a person with disability
- systemic advocacy—advocacy to influence or secure long-term changes to ensure the collective rights and interests of people with disability
- family advocacy—when a parent or family member advocates with and on behalf of a family member with disability
- group advocacy—advocacy for a group of people with disability, such as a group of people living in shared accommodation
- citizen advocacy—where community volunteers advocate for a person with a disability over the long-term, supported by a citizen advocacy organisation
- legal advocacy—where a lawyer provides legal representation, pursues positive changes to legislation, or gives legal advice to people with disability about discrimination and human rights.

Individual advocates can:

- provide direct advocacy on behalf of a person
- provide information and advice so a person can advocate for themselves (e.g. deal with a landlord, go to court, deal with police, get legal advice, negotiate deals, deal with problems at work or education, deal with guardianship and financial matters)
- connect a participant to relevant services e.g. solicitor
- help a participant work through problems
- help a participant make formal actions on matters e.g. assist to make a complaint with the anti-discrimination board.

Advocates do not:

- provide counselling
- make decisions for another person
- provide mediation
- provide case management.

When
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • applies to all services at all sites.
Who
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • applies to all representatives involved in providing services including key management personnel, full time workers, part time workers, casual workers, contractors and volunteers.

Related Documents

- Disability discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)
- National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013

Summary:

What is advocacy and how we support a participant's right for advocacy

Categories:

Core Policies

Policy

Advocacy commitment

- upon commencing services, new participants are informed of the role of advocates, their right to use advocates and advocacy services, and how to contact and involve advocacy agencies
- participants are supported if they choose to self-advocate, change advocates, or withdraw their authority for an advocate
- if a participant needs an advocate and a family or carer cannot provide it, we will attempt to introduce an advocate chosen by the participant
- if a participant requests one of our workers to be an advocate, their authority to act is recorded along with the issues important to the participant and their goals
- we will work with the advocate chosen by a participant and involve the advocate in all areas of the participant's service planning and decision making
- whenever a participant is assisted by an advocate, we will document this.



<p>Legislation this policy is based on:</p> <p>Link: https://www.legislation.gov.au/Series/C2004A04426</p> <p>Link: https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2018C00276</p>	<p>Disability discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)</p> <p>National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013</p>
--	--

Version Control Sheet

VERSION	DATE	AUTHOR	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
V11	31.07.2024	Marisa Smythe	Updated policy with no changes
V10	30.01.2024	Marisa Smythe	Updated Policy with no changes
V9	31/07/2023	Marisa Smythe – Admin Officer	Updated Policy with no changes
V8	23/01/23	Sarah Miraziz – Little Star	Updated Policy with no changes
V7	11/10/2022	Sarah Miraziz – Little Star	Updated Policy with no changes
V6	06/12/2021	Casey Tarrant – Little Star	Updated Policy with no changes
V5	06/07/2021	Casey Tarrant – Little Star	Updated Policy with no changes
V4	18/01/2021	Casey Tarrant – Little Star	Updated Policy with no changes
V3	30/06/2020	Director - Dr Sarita Hamall / General Manager – Chris Hamall	Updated Policy with no changes
V2	20/01/2020	Director – Dr Sarita Hamall	Updated Policy with no changes
V1 - Modified	01/08/2019	Director – Dr Sarita Hamall	New Policy
Created	18/07/2018	Centro Assist / Little Star	

