

Using an Advocate

Information for participants, families and carers

An advocate is someone who can support you to:

- make decisions for yourself
- make your voice heard
- stand up for your rights
- protect and promote your interests

An advocate can be a family member, friend or an organisation.

People often use an advocate in a situation where they feel confused, overwhelmed, intimidated or lack confidence. Sometimes people use advocates to speak on their behalf or support them to speak for themselves. For example, you could use an advocate when you are assessed for services, or to assist booking your appointments.

Should you need assistance finding an advocate the below organisations may be able to assist.

People with Disability Australia (PWDA)

- Tel: 1800 422 015
- Provide individual advocacy services to people with a disability who have serious and urgent problems
www.pwd.org.au

Indigenous Disability Advocacy Service (IDAS)

- Tel: 1300 114 327
- Provide individual advocacy services to Indigenous people with disabilities, their families and carers who have serious and urgent problems

Intellectual Disability Rights Service (IDRS)

- Tel: 1800 666 611
- The IDRS provides telephone advice on a range of legal issues and representation in priority areas such as criminal law, care and protection and guardianship.