

Review of the National Disability Advocacy Framework – Discussion Paper

We want to know what you think

June 2015



How to use this document



This information is written in an easy to read way.
We use pictures to explain some ideas.



This document has been written by the Australian Government Department of Social Services, or DSS. When you see the word 'we', it means DSS.



Some words are written in **bold**. We explain what these words mean. There is a list of these words on page 20.



This Easy Read document is a summary of another document.



You can find the longer document on our website at www.engage.dss.gov.au



You can ask for help to read this document.
A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

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What is this document about?



This document is about **advocacy** for people with disability.



Advocacy means the support you are given to:

- stand up for your **rights** – we all have the right to be treated fairly
- make sure your rights are protected
- take part in your community
- have your say.



We want to make it easier for people with disability to get the advocacy they need.



And we want to help improve the advocacy you get.



In 2012, we came up with a plan. Our plan is called the **National Disability Advocacy Framework**.

In this document we call it the Framework.



We want to know what you think about the Framework.



This will help us make plans for the future.

How can you tell us what you think?



We want you to share your ideas with us.



You can do this by visiting our website at

www.engage.dss.gov.au



Or you can email your ideas to

disabilityadvocacy@dss.gov.au

Or you can post your ideas to

Disability Advocacy

Department of Social Services

PO Box 7576

Canberra Business Centre

ACT 2610



We have included some 'Questions to think about' in this document.

These questions may help you to work out what you want to say.



We also want to know if you have any other ideas that can make the Framework better.



You need to let us know your ideas by Friday 24 July 2015.

What is advocacy?



Advocacy is when a person is given support to stand up for their rights and have their say.



An **advocate** is a person who gives you that support.

An advocate can also give you information and advice.

An advocate can be:



- a member of your family
- a friend
- a person who has had a similar experience to you
- a person from an advocacy organisation or service.



There are different types of advocacy for people with disability.



Individual advocacy

Individual advocacy is when a person with disability is supported to have their say.

This support can help:



- A person to speak up for themselves. This is called **self-advocacy**.



- The family of a person with disability to speak up for that person. This is called **family advocacy**.



- A group of people with disability to speak up together. This is called **group advocacy**.



- People with legal knowledge help people with disability to be treated fairly when dealing with legal issues. This is called **legal advocacy**.



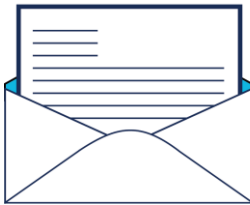
Systemic advocacy

Systemic advocacy helps make things better for all people with disability.



It helps make changes to:

- **laws** – the rules that we all must follow
- the way things are done in the government, and in the disability sector.



It can include sending letters to politicians.



And making people aware of issues that affect people with disability.

Questions to think about

How can advocacy help you?

What else can advocacy do for people with disability?



What we want to do



We want to make sure people with disability can get the support they need.



Governments around Australia will work together to make advocacy better for people with disability.



This will make sure people with disability can have their say.

We also want to make sure people with disability:



- Have rights and choices.



- Can take part in their community.



- Can find employment and training.



- Feel valued and respected in their community.



- Are supported to achieve their goals.



- Are supported to make decisions that affect their lives.



- Can receive independent advocacy support. This means that the support is not influenced by the government or other people.



- Have their needs met.



- Are involved in making decisions about government disability programs and services.

Questions to think about

Do you think advocacy can help us to do all these things?

What other things should we include?



Why did we create the Framework?



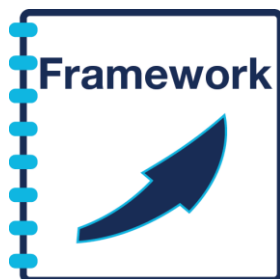
In 2008, governments around Australia met to talk about disability.



They decided that there needed to be better advocacy services.



And that those services needed to be easier to find and use.



In 2012, we put together a plan of how we could do this.

This Framework is our plan.



The Framework is for people with disability.

Why do we need a National Disability Advocacy Framework?



Many people with disability find it difficult to take part in their community.



This can be because:

- other people in their community make it difficult for them to take part
- it is hard to access some places or services
- finding the right job can be difficult.



This can mean that life is not as good as it should be for people with disability.



The Framework explains how governments will help us to support people with disability to overcome these problems.



And to have their say.

How should advocacy work?



We have ideas about how advocacy for people with disability should work.

Our ideas are that all disability advocacy:



- Follows government rules and works under particular laws, agreements and plans.



- Protects the rights of people with disability.



- Promotes the things that matter to people with disability.



- Promotes the idea that people with disability can take part in their community, and it values what they do.



- Makes the community more aware of issues for people with disability.



- Helps make changes in law, policies and the way things are done to make things better for people with disability.



- Encourages people with disability to be leaders and develops their abilities.



Needs and goals

- Makes sure that the needs and goals of people with disability are included.



- Supports and encourages people with disability to speak up for themselves.

- Respects that each person with disability is different.

We understand that everyone in our community is different in lots of ways, such as your age, culture, education, where you live and what your background is.

Advocacy must consider these things.





- Makes sure that any information about you is kept private.



- Makes sure your different services, support groups and the government talk to each other.

Questions to think about

Should all of these ideas be included in the Framework?

What other ideas could you add to improve how advocacy works for people with disability?

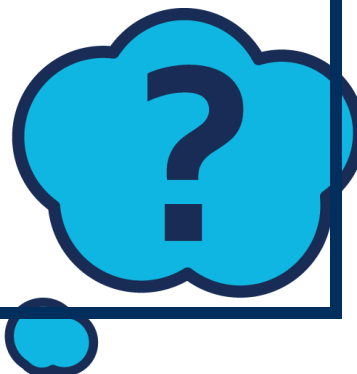
What else would you like to tell us about the Framework?

What else could we do to make the Framework better?

Where did you find out about this review?

Did someone help you?

Who helped you?



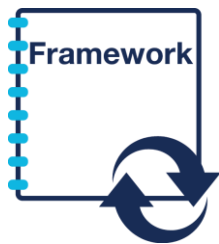
What we will do next



We will collect everyone's ideas and opinions about the Framework.



We will read and think about all of these ideas.



And then we will update the Framework.



Early in 2016, the new Framework will be finished.

You will be able to find the new Framework on our website at www.dss.gov.au

Where can you find more information?

If you would like more information you can:



Email us disabilityadvocacy@dss.gov.au



Go to our website www.engage.dss.gov.au

Word list



Advocacy

When a person is given support to stand up for their rights.

Advocate

A person, or service, that supports people to stand up for their rights and have their say. An advocate can also offer information and advice.

An advocate may be a family member, a friend, someone who has had a similar experience or a professional service.



Agreement

A legal arrangement between different groups.



Disability advocacy

A disability advocate makes sure that people with disability are able to take part in making decisions about their life.



Individual advocacy

When a person with disability is supported to have their say themselves, through a group, a service or with one-to-one support.



Law

A law is a rule that we all must follow. A rule like this is made by the government and the courts.



Rights

Having rights means you can expect to be treated fairly.



Self-advocate

A person with disability who is able to speak up and represent themselves.



Systemic advocacy

Aims to help all people with disability by changing things for the better.

It might be done by encouraging changes to the law, policies or the way things are done.



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