



Australian Government
Department of Social Services



Review of the National Disability Advocacy Program

Discussion paper

April 2016

Easy Read version



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 Department of Social Services (DSS).

When you see the word 'we', it means DSS.



This Easy Read document is a summary of another document.



You can find the other document on our website at 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 NDAP?



The National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP) is a way of providing advocacy for people with disability.



Advocacy is when someone stands up, or speaks up, for a person with disability.

The goal of NDAP is to make sure that people with disability:



- have access to good advocacy



- have their human rights respected



- are able to take part in all aspects of life in the community.



Why are we asking you about disability advocacy?



We are looking at NDAP to see how we could make things better.



We want to know how we can improve the way people with disability can get advocacy support.

Since NDAP started there have been lots of changes to:



- how we provide disability advocacy



- how disability services work in Australia.



The start of the National Disability Insurance Scheme – the NDIS – is also changing the way disability supports and advocacy are provided.



Sometimes it has been a challenge to keep up with all the changes.



We need to make sure that people with disability will continue to get good advocacy supports during these changes.

How do we improve disability advocacy?



In some parts of Australia people with disability can't find the supports they need, even if there are a few agencies in their area.



Sometimes the type of advocacy they want is not available.



It would be better if all types of advocacy support were available in all locations.



We know that some people with disability find it hard to find and use advocacy supports.



The things that make it hard are:



- if they live in the country



- if they live alone and not with their family or friends



- if they can't read or talk very well



- if the advocacy organisation is difficult to find or visit



- if the advocates don't understand your culture or language.



We would like to hear about practical ideas to make it easier for people to find and use the disability advocacy supports they need.

Questions to think about



If you need support to stand up for your rights, what are the most important things for you?



What things have stopped you from getting help from an advocate?



What would make it easier for you to get support?



If you have had good advocacy support what things made it helpful?



Next steps



We would like you to tell us what you think and answer the questions we have asked.



Please tell us if there are any other important issues and ideas that you think would help us improve the future delivery of disability advocacy through NDAP.



There is a form you can use on our website at engage.dss.gov.au



We will use the suggestions and ideas people give us to choose topics for a series of workshops.



The workshops will help us come up with the best ways to improve the delivery of advocacy through NDAP.



We will share more information when it is available.



After the workshops we will develop a proposal for the Government on how NDAP will work from 1 July 2017.



The Government will review this proposal and decide which ideas to put into practice.



We expect that the Government will make these decisions in the second half of 2016.



Thank you for helping us.

Contact us



Email us disabilityadvocacy@dss.gov.au



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



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