

KERYL BEESLEY – ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ADVOCACY SUBMISSION

My Name is Keryl Beesley, and I have a brain injury as a result of a serious brain haemorrhage when I was 12 years old. I am being supported to write this letter by BRAIN INJURY SA so that I can put forward my thoughts about advocacy and how BRAIN INJURY SA have advocated for me in the past.

I have been a part of BRAIN INJURY SA for many years now. I volunteer for them, and they are a big part of my life. I volunteer in different areas of the organisation, providing them with help to do all sorts of things such as cleaning, shredding paper, helping with admin tasks, and I have been asked on occasions to provide feedback on services or be involved in committee's such as looking at what services the community needs.

I feel that I am a very valued member of BRAIN INJURY SA.

I have also had troubles that I have faced over time. These are usually as a result of my difficulty in understanding some complex situations, and I have on occasion been very distressed about issues that have occurred in my personal life. I have used the advocate service at BRAIN INJURY SA on many occasions over the years to help me deal with these issues.

I would like to say that:

- I feel safe and comfortable using the Advocate at BRAIN INJURY SA because I have a good relationship with them and know that they understand me.
- I don't feel that I would be as comfortable using any other service as I have difficulty building trust with people even if I know they are trying to help me.
- I think it is important for everybody with a disability to be able to use an Advocate, and that they have a choice in who the Advocate might be.
- Advocacy helps people with a disability have a voice, and having this support has made me feel as though I am a person again.

I believe that it is very important for people with disability to be involved in decision making about the services and supports for people with a disability. Our voices should be heard and our opinions are extremely important.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.



Keryl Beesley

21st June 2016