



Australian Government

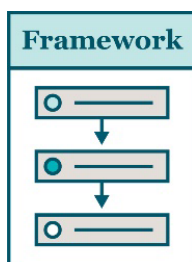
Department of Social Services

Draft National Disability Advocacy Framework 2022–2025

Easy Read version



How to use this Framework



A **framework** explains how things should work.



The Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS) wrote this Framework. When you see the word 'we', it means DSS.



We wrote this Framework in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Not bold
Bold

We have written some words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 24.



This Easy Read Framework is a summary of another Framework. This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find more information about our Framework on our website at www.engage.dss.gov.au



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



This plan is quite long.

It includes a lot of information.



You don't need to read it all at once.

What's in this Framework?

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What is our Framework about?



We wrote the National Disability Advocacy Framework 2022–2025.

We call it our Framework.



Our Framework is about **disability advocacy**.



Disability advocacy is when someone supports you to speak up for your **rights**.



Rights are rules about how everybody should be treated:

- fairly
- equally
- with respect.

Disability advocacy supports people with disability to take part in:



- decisions that affect them



- the community.



Our Framework is also about **advocacy services**.

Advocacy services:



- support you
- help you have your say
- give you information and advice.



Our Framework supports the rights of people with disability.



We want to make sure people with disability can find and use advocacy services in Australia.

What we want Australia to be in the future

We want people with disability to find and use disability advocacy that:



- supports them



- protects them



- helps them take part in the community.

We also want people with disability to find and use disability advocacy that makes sure they are treated:



- fairly
- equally
- with respect.

Our principles



Principles are important ideas that we should always think about.



Our framework has 8 principles.

Our principles help us:



- make sure people with disability are treated fairly



- think about why advocacy services are important.



On the following pages we talk in more detail about our:

- principles
- goals.

1. Rights and making decisions



Everyone has the right to:

- be treated with respect
- tell someone if they are not treated with respect.



Everyone also has the right to make their own choices.

It's important to keep people with disability safe from:



- violence – when someone hurts you



- abuse – when someone treats you badly



- neglect – when someone is not helping you how they are supposed to help you



- exploitation – when someone takes advantage of you.

2. Safety



It's important to protect the rights of people with disability.

It's also important for people with disability to:



- know what their rights are



- feel safe



- be treated equally.

People with disability should get support to understand:



- when someone doesn't treat them the way they should
- what they can do if this happens.

3. Justice

Disability advocacy can include:



- legal advice
- help from people who know the law, such as a lawyer.



People with disability should be able to get legal advice if they want it.

4. Getting support



It's important for people with disability to get support.



It's important to:

- listen to what people with disability need
- communicate with them.

5. Inclusive communities



When something is **inclusive**, everyone can take part.

It's important for communities to be inclusive.

Disability advocacy is an important tool to:



- support people with disability to take part in the community



- include people with disability in our society.

6. Listening to people with disability



People with disability often say:

“Nothing about us, without us.”



This means disability advocacy should listen to people with disability when they speak up for what they need.

Disability advocacy should also help them:



- speak up by using what they are good at



- learn about disability advocacy so they can do things for themselves.

7. Respecting different experiences

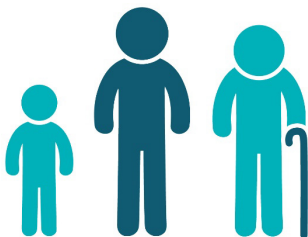


Every person with disability:

- is different
- needs different things.



It's important to respect each person's experiences.



This includes experiences they've had because of their age.



This includes experiences because of who they are:

- as a person
- attracted to.



This also includes experiences because of their:

- religion
- background.

8. Working with First Nations peoples



Our Framework will follow other plans that support **First Nations** peoples with disability.



First Nations peoples are also known as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



It's important for disability advocacy to be safe for First Nations:

- peoples
- communities.

The goals we want to reach



We want people with disability to have the same rights as everyone else in Australia.

We want to support people with disability who experience:



- violence
- abuse
- neglect
- exploitation.



We want disability advocacy to include legal advice.



This will help people with disability:

- use their rights
- fix legal problems.



We want people with disability to take part in decisions that affect them.



We want people with disability to:

- ask for what they need
- feel supported to get what they need.



We want people with disability to have their say:

- in the community
- about plans all levels of government make.



We want advocacy services to use what people with disability are good at to help them take part in more decisions.



We want to make sure people with disability can get advocacy services, even if they live far away from any cities or towns.



We want people with disability to live in communities that are inclusive.



We want the community to:

- listen to people with disability
- learn about problems people with disability face.



We want to make sure **culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)** people with disability are treated with respect.



CALD people:

- come from different backgrounds
- speak languages other than English.



We want to make sure people with disability of all ages are treated with respect.



We want **LGBTQIA+** people with disability to be treated with respect.



LGBTQIA stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning, intersex, and asexual.



The '+' is for people who are part of the LGBTQIA+ community but don't talk about themselves using a word from this list.



People also use these words to talk about who:

- they're attracted to
- they feel they are as a person.



We want all of these people with disability to find and use safe advocacy services.



We want to support First Nations peoples with disability.



We also want to:

- work with First Nations peoples
- support advocacy services in First Nations communities.



And we want First Nations peoples with disability to have their say about how they find and use advocacy services.

Reaching our goals



All levels of government must work together to reach the goals in our Framework.



We need to make sure people with disability are the focus of new plans that affect them.



To make our Framework better, we will:

- work with people with disability
- listen to people with disability.



We need to help the community understand disability advocacy.



We will use our Framework to keep track of what is getting better for people with disability.

We need to work with others to protect the rights of people with disability by changing:



- laws



- policies – plans for how to do things



- ways of working.

What happens next?



We will write a work plan that talks about how we will follow our 8 principles.



Our work plan will talk about how we will work together with all levels of government.



We will ask people with disability what they think before we make our work plan.



We will make sure our work plan supports the Strategy.



If we need to change anything, we will do this after we ask the community what they think.

Word list

This list explains what the **bold words** in this document mean.

Advocacy services



Advocacy services:

- support you
- help you have your say
- give you information and advice.

Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) people



CALD people:

- come from different backgrounds
- speak languages other than English.



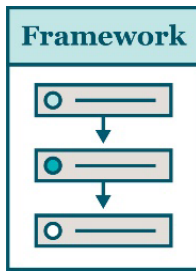
Disability advocacy

Disability advocacy is when someone supports you to speak up for your rights.



First Nations peoples

First Nations peoples are also known as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Framework

A framework explains how things should work.



Inclusive

When something is inclusive, everyone can take part.



LGBTQIA+

LGBTQIA stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning, intersex, and asexual.

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Principles

Principles are important ideas that we should always think about.

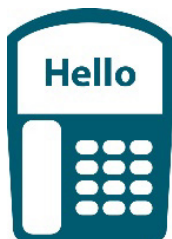
Rights

Rights are rules about how everybody should be treated:

- fairly
- equally
- with respect.



Contact us



TTY

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Speak and listen

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