



Advocacy for Disability Access and Inclusion Inc.

Submission on the National Disability Advocacy Framework 2022 – 2025

Department of Social Services

8 July 2022

About Advocacy for Disability Access and Inclusion Inc.

Advocacy for Disability Access and Inclusion Inc. (ADAI) is funded by the Department of Social Services (DSS) to provide independent advocacy to any person living with disability and or the family that supports them. ADAI provides independent advocacy across South Australia.

Contact

Jenny Hughes

CEO

Advocacy for Disability Access and Inclusion Inc.

47 Tynte Street

North Adelaide 5006

South Australia

Website: <https://advocacyfordisability.org.au/>

Email: Admin@advocacyfordisability.org.au

Phone: (08) 8340 4450

Freecall: 1800 856 464 (Country callers)

ABN: 14 743 342 196

ADAI is located on the traditional Country of the Kurna people.

47 Tynte Street
North Adelaide
Adelaide SA 5000

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ABN 14 743 342 196

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Advocacy for Disability Access and Inclusion
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Dear Secretariat

RE: Submission on the National Disability Advocacy Framework 2022 – 2025

Advocacy for Disability Access and Inclusion (ADAI) appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this consultation on the draft for a new National Disability Advocacy Framework 2022-2025 (the Framework).

ADAI would like to add our support to the submission by Disability Advocacy Network Australia (DANA) on the draft Framework and what is needed to realise its intended Outcomes.

We would like to add particular emphasis to:

- The request to support identified population groups with disability that require specifically tailored approaches, especially parents and carers with disability, and their families. We believe there should be increased awareness of the roles of carers and families, and the supports they require.
- The barriers experienced by people in rural and remote areas, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and the need for targeted support to better meet their needs.
- The need for service capacity enhancement, especially in regards to the recent changes to AAT Appeals advocacy funding and the lack of capacity of all advocacy organisations to manage the current level of support requests.
- The need for improved communication between the Department and the sector, particularly regarding service changes.
- The need to ensure the Framework remains underpinned by a “person centered and rights based approach”.

ADAI share DANA’s concern that the definitions of advocacy are not flexible enough to fully represent the activities of independent advocacy. We agree that the definition should include the roles of both funded and informal advocates and extend value to both.

In reference to the Outcomes stated within the Draft Framework ADAI have concerns regarding the use of the term “greater say” in reference to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people with disability having input into the design

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and delivery of advocacy services. The term “greater” is subjective and could be taken to mean another party has “less say”, or that the greater of 1 is 2 even if the whole is 100. We caution use of these words.

ADAI request that the Framework is also informed by and supports the Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA), and the states Disability Inclusion Plans.

ADAI believe that the current and future disability environment requires an emphasis on the need to make improvement to technology, including client facing service delivery and information provision. There is also a need for self advocacy resources and tools that can be distributed centrally and shared across the sector.

We urge the Disability Reform Ministers and their respective governments to prioritise this work and make strong commitments on disability advocacy funding and collaboration to help realise the vision of Australia’s Disability Strategy 2021-31 and the National Disability Insurance Scheme: an Australia that includes and values people with disability and respects human rights for all.

Sincerely

Jenny Hughes
CEO
Advocacy for Disability Access and Inclusion

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