

Our Draft National Disability Advocacy Framework 2022–2025

What did the community think?

An Easy Read report



How to use this report



The Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS) wrote this report.

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



We wrote this report in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold
Not bold

We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 18.



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



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

What's in this report?

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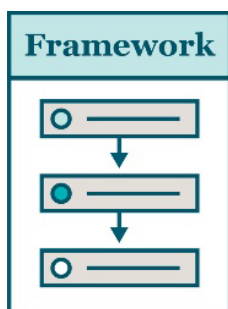
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What is this report about?



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



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 and with respect.

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

Advocacy services:



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



From April to July 2022, we asked the community to share what they think about our Framework.



This report explains what the community thought about our Framework.

Who did we talk to?

500+



We talked to more than 500 people in the community about our Framework.

40%



40% of these people were people with disability.

40%



40% of these people were disability organisations or advocates.

15%



15% of people were families and carers of people with disability.



We had 15 face-to-face **forums**.

A forum is an event where people get together to talk about their experiences or ideas.

4



We also had 4 forums for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

16



We ran 16 **focus groups**.

A focus group is a group of people who meet to talk about their ideas and opinions.



We also had 3 online events.

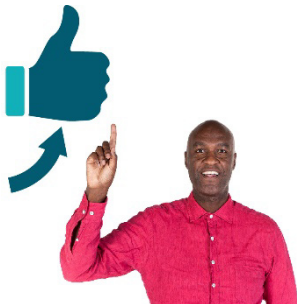
The community shared what they thought about:



- our Framework



- how well disability advocacy is going now



- how disability advocacy can be better.



We will include their ideas in our final Framework.

What people shared about advocacy

Good advocacy



People said that good advocacy should be **empowering**.

When advocacy is empowering, it helps you:

- live your life the way you want
- do things for yourself.



People also said that advocacy should be **accessible**.

When advocacy is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use advocacy services
- get support when you need it.



People said that when they ask for advocacy, they want to be treated with respect.

They also said advocacy should be **inclusive**.



When advocacy is inclusive, everyone in the community:

- is included
- feels supported.



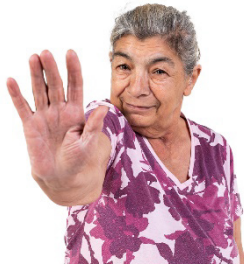
People said that advocacy should focus on the person who needs support.



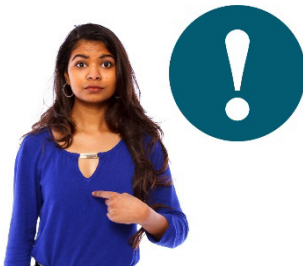
People also said that good advocacy happens when advocacy services:

- listen to what people need
- give advice about how advocacy can support them.

What stops good advocacy



People with disability shared what stops them from getting good advocacy.



Advocacy services shared what affects their services.

They told us they need more time and money to help people use:



- the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)



- housing services



- health care.

They also said that they need more training and staff to:



- deliver their services
- support people with disability.



People shared that not many people understand:

- what advocacy is
- how to use advocacy.



They also said that some people with disability can't find and use advocacy services in places far from big cities and towns.



And they told us that people should know that advocacy can be for all **cultures** and communities.



Your culture is:

- your way of life and beliefs
- what is important to you.



They shared that different advocacy services need to work well together.



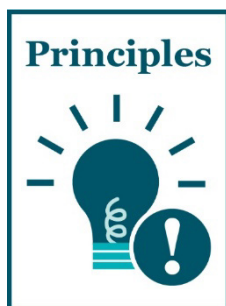
This means people with disability only have to share their story one time.



Some people with disability said they worry that using advocacy services can affect their supports.

What did people share about our Framework?

Our principles



Principles are important ideas that we should always think about.



People shared what they thought about the principles in our Framework.



They told us they support our principles.



And they said that it's a good idea to have a principle just for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with disability.

But it should be earlier in the Framework.



People said that we should work with people with disability when we work on our principles.



They said we should include a new principle about finding and using information about advocacy.



They also said we should change how we talk about different principles.

Our goals



Most people supported the goals we want to reach in our Framework.



They told us what we should do to reach these goals.



And they told us we need to share more information about how we will reach our goals.

What we plan to do



People agreed with what we plan to do.

They said the most important things we will do are:



- including people with disability



- making sure the money we give advocacy services is fair



- helping people with disability understand their rights.

How our Framework will work



People shared that there isn't much information about how the Framework will work.



This includes how governments will make sure it works the same way in each state and territory.

Word list

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



Accessible

When advocacy is accessible, it is easy to:

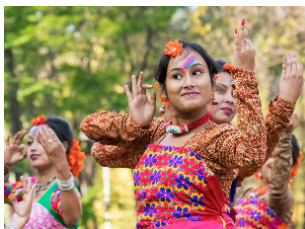
- find and use advocacy services
- get support when you need it.



Advocacy services

Advocacy services:

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



Culture

Your culture is:

- your way of life and beliefs
- what is important to you.



Disability advocacy

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



Empowering

When advocacy is empowering, it helps you:

- live your life the way you want
- do things for yourself.



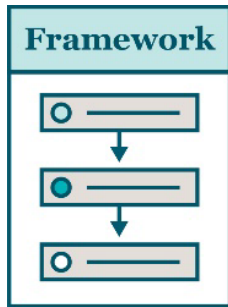
Focus groups

A focus group is a group of people who meet to talk about their ideas and opinions.



Forums

A forum is an event where people get together to talk about their experiences or ideas.



Framework

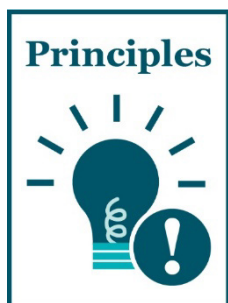
A framework explains how things should work.



Inclusive

When advocacy is inclusive, everyone in the community:

- is included
- feels supported.



Principles

Principles are important ideas that we should always think about.



Rights

Rights are rules about how everybody should be treated fairly, equally and with respect.

Contact us



You can call us.

1300 653 227



You can send us an email.

disabilityadvocacysecretariat@dss.gov.au



You can write to us.

GPO Box 9820

Canberra ACT 2601



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