

How to Get an Advocate

A guide for individuals and their families

Hard words



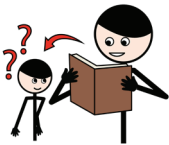
This book has some hard words.



The first time we write a hard word

- the word is in **blue**
- we write what the hard word means.

You can get help with this book



You can get someone to help you

- read this book
- know what this book is about
- find more information.



About this book



This book is from the Autism Association of Western Australia



This book is about **advocates**.

An advocate is a person who can help you:

- understand information



- to say what you want to say

- to assist you to make choices



We think your right to speak up is important.

What an advocate can do



An advocate can help you to understand your **rights** and **responsibilities**.

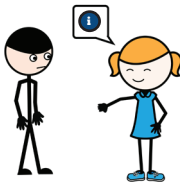
Rights are something you are allowed to do, have or get.

Responsibilities are what you need to do, have or get.



An advocate will

- listen to you



- tell you information about services



- speak up for you when you ask them to



- help you to speak up for yourself.

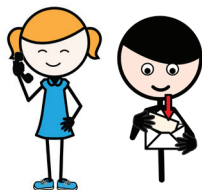


An advocate can help you talk with services.



They can

- go to meetings with you



- help you make phone calls



- help you write letters

- help you fill out forms.



An advocate can help you with Centrelink too.

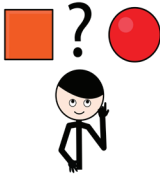


An advocate can help you make decisions for yourself.

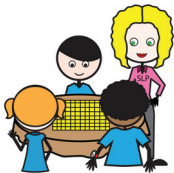


They can

- make sure you know what people say



- help you know the choices you have.



An advocate can help you join in services in your community.



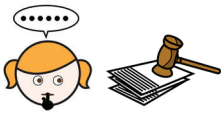
An advocate can help you make a **complaint.**

A complaint is when you tell someone that you are **not** happy about something.

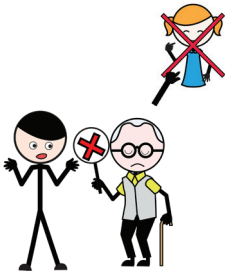
What an advocate can not do



An advocate can **not** make decisions for you.



An advocate can **not** give you advice about the law.



An advocate can **not** help you sort out problems with other people.

You may need a counsellor to help with this.



An advocate can **not** be your **case manager**.

A case manager is someone who looks after all your support services.

Your advocate



You can choose someone to be your advocate.



An advocate can be

- someone in your family
- a friend you trust
- another support person you trust.



You may want to ask someone else to be your advocate.

Like someone from another service.

This is called an **advocacy agency**.

This is a service where lots of advocates work.

How to find an advocate



You can use the Disability Advocacy Finder to find an advocate in your area.



Website

disabilityadvocacyfinder.dss.gov.au/disability/ndap/



You can ask our staff to help show you where to find an advocate.

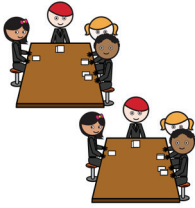


You do not have to pay for an advocate from an agency.



Our staff will work with you and your advocate to help fix any problems.

Advocacy agencies in WA



You can find contact details for advocate agencies in WA on the next 4 pages

Explorability



Call 08 6361 6001

Website

www.explorability.org.au

Office of the Public Advocate

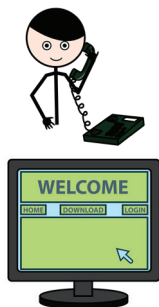


Call 08 9278 7300 or 1300 858 455.

Website

www.publicadvocate.wa.gov.au

Citizen Advocacy Perth West



Call 08 9445 9991

Website

www.capw.org.au

People with Disabilities WA



Call 08 9420 7279

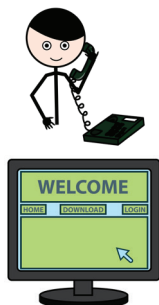
Website

www.pwdwa.org

Midland Information, Debt and Legal Advocacy Service

We say MIDLAS.

Call 08 9250 2123



Website

www.midlas.org.au

Sussex Street Community Law Service



Call 08 6253 9500

Website

www.sscls.asn.au

Ethnic Disability Advocacy Service

We say EDAC.



Call 08 9388 7455 or 1800 659 921

Website

www.edac.org.au

Developmental Disability WA

We say DDWA.



Call 08 9420 7203

Website

www.ddwa.org.au

Uniting WA – Your Say



Call 1300 663 298

Website

www.unitingwa.org.au

Advocacy WA

(for the South West region only)



Call 08 9271 6444

Website

www.advocacywa.org.au

You can contact the Autism Association of Western Australia for more information about finding an Advocate.



Call

1800 636 427 or 08 9489 8900.



Email

autismwa@autism.org.au



Website

www.autism.org.au

You can write to us



Locked Bag 2, Subiaco, WA 6904

or

215 Stubbs Terrace, Shenton Park, WA,
6008

