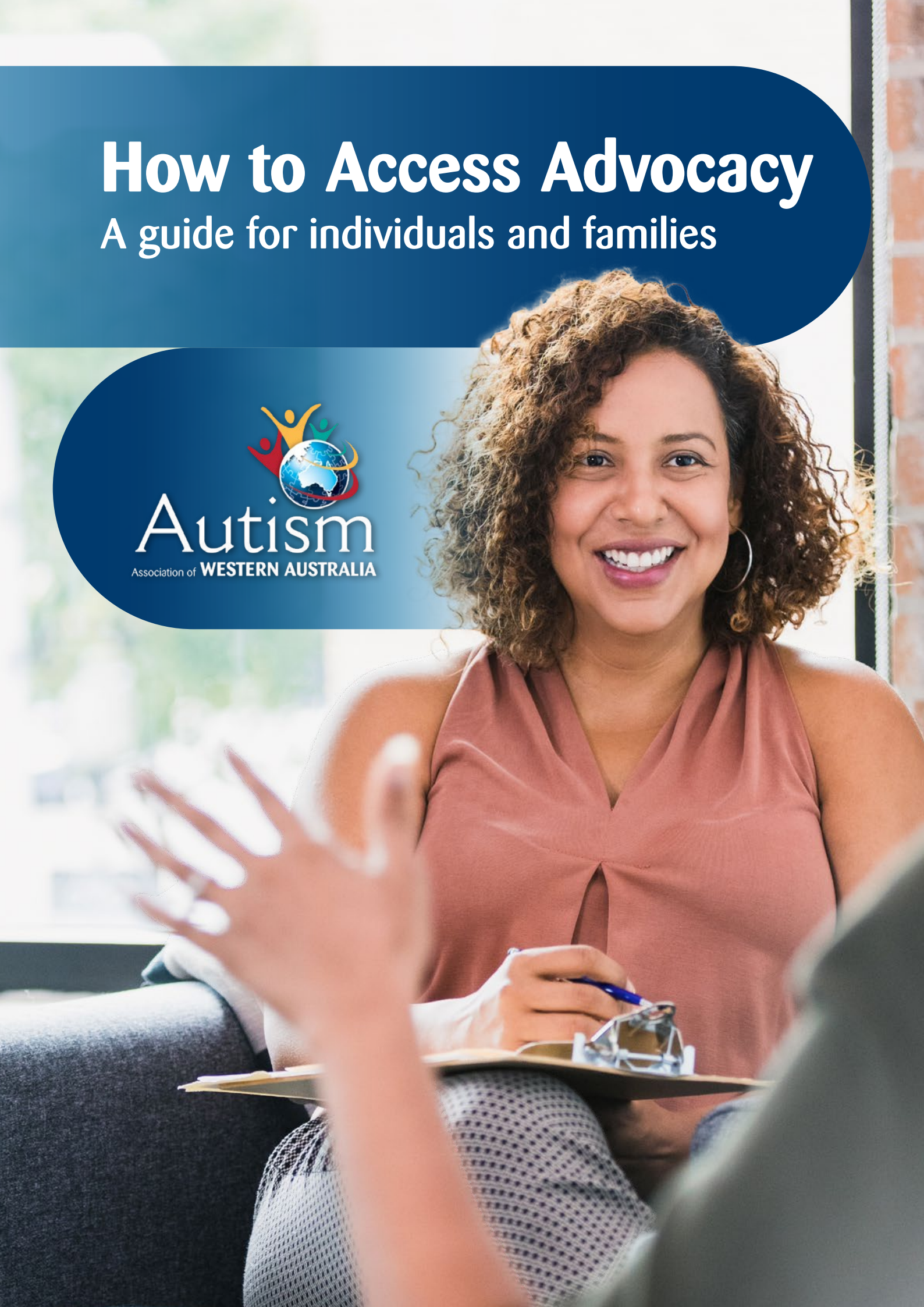


# How to Access Advocacy

A guide for individuals and families



# Using an Advocate

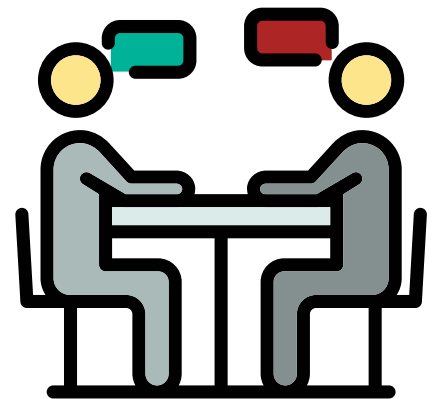
The Autism Association of Western Australia believes everyone has the right to have an advocate. We support people's decision to have their advocate involved in their services.

An advocate can help you speak up when you are unable to. They make sure that you have the opportunity to express your views and uphold your rights.

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## An advocate can:

- Listen to you and hear your story
- Speak for you and represent your views when you feel unable to do it yourself
- Give information and guidance
- Attend meetings, make calls, write letters and complete forms with you
- Help you understand your rights and responsibilities
- Liaise with Centrelink and support you to fill out applications for payments
- Help you raise a complaint with a service provider
- Help you access the NDIS
- Refer and connect you with services in your community
- Build your skills so you can speak for yourself



## An advocate cannot:

- Make decisions for you
- Give you legal advice
- Provide counselling or mediation services
- Provide case management services

## How to Access an Advocate

An advocate can be a family member, friend or a support person you know well and trust. Sometimes you might need to turn to someone you trust in the community for more formal and independent advocacy.

You can also use the Ask Izzy website to find advocacy services in your local area [www.askizzy.org.au/disability-advocacy-finder](http://www.askizzy.org.au/disability-advocacy-finder).

### The Autism Association can support you to connect with an advocate.

Here is a list of free advocacy service agencies in WA:

#### **Explorability Inc.**

(08) 6361 6001 [www.explorability.org.au](http://www.explorability.org.au)

#### **Office of the Public Advocate**

(08) 9278 7300 or 1300 858 455 [www.publicadvocate.wa.gov.au](http://www.publicadvocate.wa.gov.au)

#### **Citizen Advocacy**

(08) 9445 9991 [www.citizenadvocacy.org.au](http://www.citizenadvocacy.org.au)

#### **People with Disabilities WA**

(08) 9420 7279 [www.pwdwa.org](http://www.pwdwa.org)

#### **MIDLAS (Midland Information Debt and Legal Advocacy Service)**

(08) 9250 2123 [www.midlas.org.au](http://www.midlas.org.au)

#### **Sussex Street Community Law Services Inc.**

(08) 6253 9500 [www.sscls.asn.au](http://www.sscls.asn.au)

#### **Kin - Disability Advocacy for Diverse Communities**

(08) 9388 7455 or 1800 659 921 [www.kinadvocacy.org.au](http://www.kinadvocacy.org.au)

#### **Developmental Disability WA**

(08) 9420 7203 [www.ddwa.org.au](http://www.ddwa.org.au)

#### **Uniting**

1300 663 298 [www.unitingwa.org.au](http://www.unitingwa.org.au)

#### **Advocacy WA (South West region only)**

(08) 9271 6444 [www.advocacywa.org.au](http://www.advocacywa.org.au)

*This information can be translated to different languages or produced in different formats such as Easy English and child-friendly versions upon request.*



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