

What is advocacy?

Disability advocacy is about your human rights.

Advocacy makes sure all your rights are protected, by giving you a voice, so you can live your life fully.

Who can be an advocate?

- You can be your own advocate
- You can have someone such as a family member or support worker be your advocate
- You can have an independent advocate who will be on your side and speak on your behalf. *This is what RDAS can do.*

Different types of advocacy

Self advocacy: This is when you advocate for yourself.

RDAS can provide information and support to help you do this, including:

- Knowing about your rights
- Helping to find forms you may need
- Finding a suitable support service.

Individual advocacy: This is when you are assisted by an advocate who takes action on your behalf, ensuring your interests are protected.

Your issue can be about anything to do with your rights.

Systemic advocacy: This is when an advocate acts on behalf of a group of people to change a law or policy.

Our contact details

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Advocacy

for people with disability



**Independent
Local
Free**



Disability
Services
NSDS

About our advocacy services

Who can receive advocacy from RDAS?

People with any type of disability including acquired brain injury, physical, intellectual, sensory or mental illness.

RDAS can also advocate with your family or carer to help you achieve what you want.

How can an advocate support you?

RDAS advocates can support you to:

- Make a complaint if you are not happy with a service you are receiving
- Provide support at a tribunal hearing
- Get the things you are entitled to like payments and subsidies
- Address a range of issues where you may have been discriminated against.

What an advocate cannot do

Advocates cannot:

- Provide legal or financial advice
- Be your case manager
- Advocate for you when there is a more suitable service to deal with your issue
- Investigate or enforce an organisation to take action.

Community education

RDAS can educate the community to raise disability awareness and promote change in the community. Staff are available to:

- Facilitate forums to identify issues
- Present at TAFE and universities
- Speak at schools
- Conduct training sessions for workers
- Write articles for the media.

RDAS services the following cities, towns and surrounds:

Victoria:

- Beechworth
- Benalla
- Bright
- Indigo
- Mansfield
- Myrtleford
- Rutherglen
- Tallangatta
- Wangaratta
- Wodonga

NSW:

- Albury
- Berrigan
- Carrathool
- Coleambally
- Coolamon
- Cootamundra
- Corowa
- Culcairn
- Gundagai
- Griffith
- Hay
- Henty
- Holbrook
- Jindera
- Junee
- Leeton
- Lockhart
- Narrandera
- Temora
- Tumut
- Wagga Wagga
- West Wyalong

