

Ageing and Disability Commission

An Easy Read guide to the Issues Paper about advocacy in NSW



How to use this document



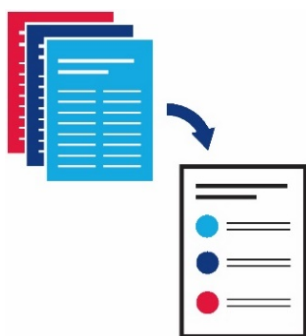
This information is written in an easy to read way. We use pictures to explain some ideas.



This document has been written by the NSW Ageing and Disability Commission (ADC). When you see the word 'we', it means the ADC.



Some words are written in **bold**. We explain what these words mean. There is a list of these words on page 19.



This Easy Read document is a summary of another document.



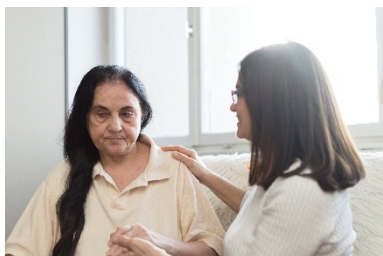
You can find the other document on our website at www.adc.nsw.gov.au.



You can ask for help to read this document.



Some people might be upset by some of the ideas in this document.



You can get support if you need it.



A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

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What is this review about?



We are reviewing **advocacy** for people with disability across NSW.



Advocacy is speaking up for your rights.



Some people get help to speak up.



Others speak up for themselves.

We explain advocacy in more detail on page 8.



In NSW, there are organisations that work in advocacy.

In this review, we want to look carefully at:



- why we have advocacy organisations



- what advocacy organisations do



- how the government pays for advocacy.

We will look at organisations that:



- are separate from the government and support people with disability



- provide information and work as leaders in the disability sector.



By doing this review, we hope to better understand the advocacy services people with disability in NSW will need in the future.

What is advocacy?



Advocacy is speaking up for rights.



For example, advocacy can be speaking up about the rights of people with disability.

Advocacy is important in our community, because it helps make sure that people:



- have someone to stand up for them



- have their needs met



- have their issues taken seriously.



Advocacy also helps people understand their rights, so they can stand up for themselves.

This is known as **self-advocacy**.



People working in advocacy are called **advocates**.



Advocates are impartial, which means they treat everyone the same.



In NSW, people with disability can use an advocate.

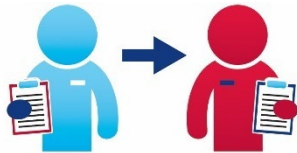


Your family and people who support you can also use advocacy services.

As well as helping you understand your rights, an advocate can help you:



- communicate with the government or your service provider



- move from one service provider to another



- have a say in making decisions that are about you



- understand what services are available to meet your needs



- fix any problems you might have with the government or with your service provider



- increase your skills and knowledge so you can stand up for yourself in future.

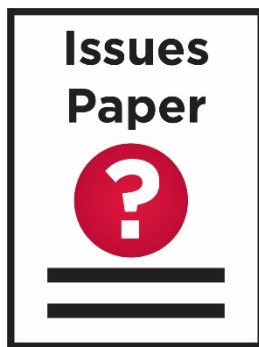


These services can help to give you more choice and control in your life.

How will we do this review?

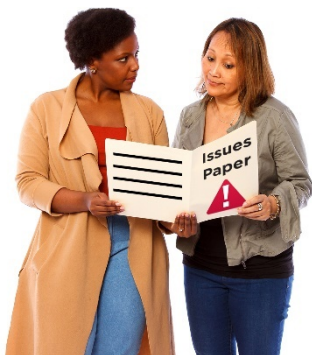


As part of the review, we are asking people what they think about advocacy.



We've included some ideas to talk about in the **Issues Paper**.

We explain more about the Issues Paper on page 14.



We will use the Issues Paper to talk to people across NSW.



We will invite people to share their ideas with us in face-to-face meetings at a later date.



This will help us better understand the issues.



After that, we will write a report.



We will give the report to the NSW Parliament by 31 December 2019.



We have asked a **consultant** to help with this process.



A consultant is a person or organisation separate from the government that helps with projects.

For this review, the consultant is WestWood Spice.

What is an Issues Paper?



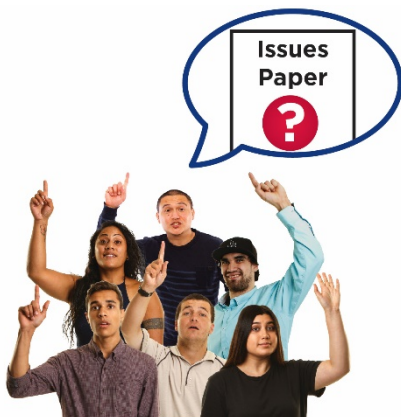
An Issues Paper is a document that asks questions about an important topic.



People can answer the questions with their thoughts and ideas.



It's a way of sharing all of our views and opinions.



Anyone can comment on the Issues Paper.

You might be:



- a person with disability



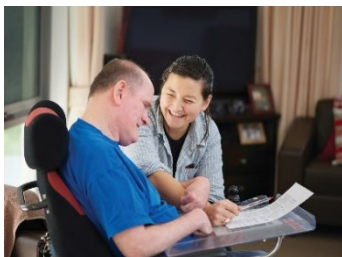
- a family member of a person with disability



- a friend of a person with disability



- a carer of a person with disability



- a support worker or other person who works with people with disability.



We would like to know what you think.

We want to know about your:



- ideas about advocacy in NSW



- experiences of advocacy in NSW



- what can be done to make advocacy better for you.



We might publish your ideas in our report.



This means that people will be able to read the ideas you share with us.

How to tell us what you think



If you want to share your ideas and experiences of advocacy in NSW, please

- [follow this link](#)



or

- visit www.adc.nsw.gov.au.



You can download a copy of the Issues Paper on that website and fill in your comments in the Issues Paper.



You can then email that document to commissioner@adc.nsw.gov.au



Or you can post it to

PO Box 40

Parramatta NSW 2124



You can also call us on **(02) 4904 7500** and leave a short message about the Issues Paper.

When you fill out the form,



- you don't need to answer every question



- your answers can be short.

You can also take your time to think about the information:



- in this document



- in the Issues Paper.



The Issues Paper will be available until Friday 18 October.

Word list



Advocacy

Speaking up for your rights.



Advocate

A person working in advocacy.



Consultant

A person or organisation separate from the government that helps with projects.



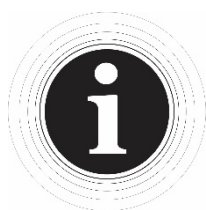
Issues Paper

A document that asks questions about an important topic.



Self-advocacy

Self-advocacy helps people understand their rights, so they can stand up for themselves.



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