

Advocacy – public support for or recommendation of a particular cause or policy

Advocate - a person who puts a case on someone else's behalf – “care managers can become advocates for their clients”

Should your problem require more attention than advocacy or legal assistance, perhaps one of the following numbers may be of assistance:

- [Lifeline Australia](#) – 13 11 14
- [Lifeline New Zealand](#) – 0800 543 354
- [Kids Helpline](#) – 1800 55 1800
- [MensLine Australia](#) – 1300 78 99 78
- [Suicide Call Back Service](#) – 1300 659 467
- [Beyond Blue](#) – 1300 22 4636
- [Veterans and Veterans' Families Counselling Service](#) – 1800 011 046
- [QLife – Nationally orientated LGBTI counselling & referral service](#) – 1800 184 527

Disability advocacy is acting, speaking or writing to promote, protect and defend the human rights of people with disability.

While there are other advocacy groups, and certainly some in areas not mentioned here, these are the groups who gave us permission to publish their links on our website.

Disability Advocacy Organisations

- **Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA)** - wwda.org.au
WWDA represents more than 2 million disabled women and girls in Australia. We are run by and for women with disabilities. We operate as a transnational human rights and systemic advocacy organisation.

New South Wales

- **Australian Centre for Disability Law (NSW ONLY)** - disabilitylaw.org.au
Promote and protect the human and legal rights of people with disability and their supporters through legal advocacy.
- **Disability Advocacy NSW (DA)** - da.org.au
Disability Advocacy NSW (DA) is a program of Advocacy Law Alliance Inc.
DA believes that people with a disability have the same rights (and responsibilities) as people who do not have a disability. DA's core purpose is to ensure that people with a disability realise these rights in practice by advocating with and for them.
DA's helps people of all ages with any type of disability or mental illness get fair treatment in the Hunter, New England, Mid North Coast, Central West, Central Coast and Hawkesbury-Nepean regions of NSW, AUSTRALIA.
- **Regional Disability Advocacy Service (RDAS)** – rdas.org.au
The Regional Disability Advocacy Service (RDAS) is a not-for-profit organisation that assists people with a disability living in the Owen Murray district of North East Victoria and the Murrumbidgee district of Southern NSW.
Our service provides free and independent advocacy and information to anyone with a disability, of any age to ensure equality of rights and increased integration into the community.
We can assist people to find services that will meet your needs and link you into service of your choice.

Queensland

- **Independent Advocacy N Q** – www.independentadvocacy.org.au
Independent Advocacy in the Tropics is a Certified Disability Advocacy Organisation accredited under the National Standards for Disability Services.
Our service is available to those of any age, all disabilities, and genders and from all cultural backgrounds.
- **Queenslanders with Disabilities (QDN)** - qdn.org.au

Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN) is a state wide organisation of, for, and with people with disability connecting for collective and affirmative action.

Our motto is “nothing about us without us.”

QDN operates a state-wide network of members who provide information, feedback and views from a consumer perspective to inform systemic policy feedback to Government and peak bodies.

Victoria

- **Action on Disability within Ethnic Communities (ADEC)** - adec.org.au
Action on Disability within Ethnic Communities Inc. (ADEC) is a state-wide organisation that strives to empower people with a disability from Non-English speaking backgrounds, their carers, and families to fully participate as members of the Victorian community.
- **Assert 4 All (A4All) (formerly Barwon disability Resource Council)** - bdrc.org.au
Barwon disability Resource Council is a voluntary body formed for the purpose of representing the interests of people with disabilities.
- **Disability Discrimination Legal Service Inc. (DDLS)** - ddls.org.au
The Disability Discrimination Legal Service Inc. (DDLS) is a state-wide independent community legal centre that specialises in disability discrimination legal matters. We provide free legal services in several areas including information, referral, advice, casework assistance, community legal education, and policy and law reform.
- **Rights Information & Advocacy Centre Inc. (RIAC)** - riac.org.au
Rights Information & Advocacy Centre Inc. (RIAC) is a not-for-profit organisation that assists people with a disability living in the Owen Murray district of North East Victoria and the Murrumbidgee district of Southern NSW. Our service provides free and independent advocacy and information to anyone with a disability, of any age to ensure equality of rights and increased integration into the community. We can assist people to find services that will meet your needs and link you into service of your choice.
- **Southern Disability Advocacy** - southernda.org.au
Southern Disability Advocacy advocates for the rights and interests of individuals with a disability. Where appropriate we will work with families and other informal supports of the person with a disability. Our services are free and we are independent of service providers and the Government, so we are able to advocate for our clients without conflict of interest.
We are funded to work with people with a disability from the following areas:
 - City of Port Phillip, City of Stonington, City of Bayside,
 - City of Glen Eira and the City of Kingston
 - City of Frankston & Mornington Peninsula Shire.

Western Australia

- **Midland Information Debt & Legal Advocacy Service** - midlas.org.au
Midland Information Debt and Legal Advocacy Service Inc. (Midlas) is a not for profit community agency based in Midland that provides financial counselling, tenancy advocacy, disability advocacy and legal service to people throughout the north east region of Perth. Supporting people in our community for over three decades, Midlas has a long-standing strong commitment to improving lives.
- **Women with Disabilities (WA)** - wwdwa.org.au
We are a non-profit incorporated organisation that is run BY women with disabilities FOR women with disabilities. What Do We Do?
We have regular forums on a wide range of topics of interest to women with disabilities in WA. The forums are held on the 3rd or 4th Sunday of every month at a central, accessible venue in Perth.
We work to provide input to the government and the community on health, family and domestic violence, housing, education, employment, parenting, sexual health and financial issues and how all of these things affect women with disabilities.
Our members support each other to become more involved in advocating for a better future for women with disabilities.
Who Can Be Involved?
Women with any kind of disability – physical, intellectual, sensory and mental health disabilities and chronic illnesses.