



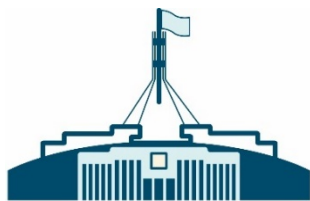
Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Advocacy support

For people with disability who have
experienced violence, abuse, neglect or
exploitation



How to use this fact sheet



The Australian Government wrote this fact sheet.
When you see the word 'we', it means the Australian Government.



We have written this fact sheet in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.



We have written some words in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.



You can ask for help to read this fact sheet.
A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

Do you need support?

Support is available for people with disability who have experienced:



- **violence** – if someone is hurting you physically



- **abuse** – if someone is treating you badly



- **neglect** – if someone is not helping you the way they are supposed to help you

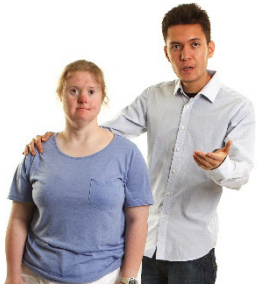


- **exploitation** – if someone is taking advantage of you.



If you are experiencing any violence or abuse, or if you feel unsafe, call 000 or contact the Police.

Advocacy support



Advocacy is when someone speaks up for you when you can't speak up for yourself.



There are advocacy organisations that connect you with an **advocate**.



An advocate is someone who can:

- help you have your say
- give you information and advice
- help you work out issues or problems you have.



Advocates can support:

- people with disability
- their families and carers.



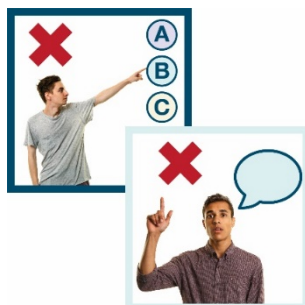
You might need support from an advocate.

An advocate can help you to:



- tell your story
- protect your rights
- find supports to help you talk with others
- find someone to support you with your rights and the law
- find someone to support you if you have trouble with money.

An advocate won't:



- make decisions for you
- tell you what to do.

The support you can get is:



- **free** – it won't cost you any money



- **independent** – it is run by disability organisations, not by the Australian Government



- **confidential** – the person you talk to won't share what you say with anyone else.

Who can you call?



You can contact the National Counselling and Referral Service to find an advocate.



1800 421 468

or

(02) 6146 1468



From:

- 9 am to 6 pm AEST/AEDT on weekdays



- 9 am to 5 pm AEST/AEDT on weekends and national public holidays.



You can **find an advocate on our website.**

If you speak a language other than English,
you can call:



Translating and Interpreting Service

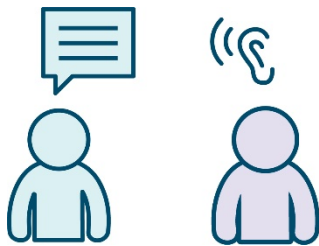
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If you are deaf or have a speech or hearing
impairment, you can call:



TTY

1800 555 677



Speak and Listen

1800 555 727



National Relay Service

133 677

www.relayservice.gov.au



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