

Advocacy support – Questions and Answers

Hi my name is Tania and I'm an advocate.

An advocate can help to protect your rights and support you if you want to tell your story to the Disability Royal Commission.

It's okay to have questions about advocacy support. We hope this video helps to answer your questions.

When do I contact an advocate for help?

You might contact an advocate if you feel like you are being treated badly or unfairly and need someone to help protect your rights.

Or if you need support to communicate, and need help with understanding how share your story with the Disability Royal Commission.

How do I talk to an advocate?

You can first contact us by phone or through our website. Then we can organise to support you in a way that works for you and makes you feel safe and secure.

This might mean meeting again in person, video chat or on the phone. Or organising communication supports like an Auslan or language interpreter.

Will an advocate make me feel safe?

Yes, we are here for you and want to make you feel safe, supported and respected – there is no judgement.

We can help you to understand some of what you are experiencing and give you practical strategies and tools to help you with your situation.

How can you help me tell my story to the Disability Royal Commission?

If you decide to share your story, we can help you tell it in a way that is right for you.

You can draw it, write it down, tell it to us over the phone, or we can type it out for you.

We can then help you to give your story to the Disability Royal Commission. This is sometimes called making a submission.

We can also help connect you to other supports such as legal and financial services if needed.

What if I am not ready to tell my story to the Disability Royal Commission?

You can speak to an advocate first to work out if telling your story to the Disability Royal Commission is what you want to do.

Remember, it is your decision. We will support you whether you choose to tell your story or not.

Will you keep my personal details private?

Yes. Advocacy is independent from Government and from the Disability Royal Commission. We will not share your personal details with anyone else if you don't want us to.

How do I contact an advocate?

Contact the National Counselling and Referral Service on **1800 421 468**. They can refer you to an advocate near you.

You can also find a list of advocacy organisations on our website dss.gov.au/disability-royal-commission-support.

Remember, support is here for you and your family.