



Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

# Individual Disability Advocacy Program

Consultation

Final report

Part 2





**Australian Government**

**Department of Health,  
Disability and Ageing**

The Australian Government Department of Health Disability and Ageing wrote this.

We say **DHDA** for short.

When you see the word **we** it means DHDA.



We wrote this in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

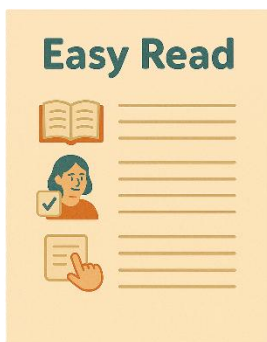
**Bold**

We have some words in **bold**.

Not bold

This means the letters are thicker and darker.

These are important words.



This is an Easy Read summary of another document.

This means it has the most important ideas.



We can answer any questions by email.

Email us

[disabilityadvocacyreforms@health.gov.au](mailto:disabilityadvocacyreforms@health.gov.au)



You can ask for help to read this document.

You can ask

- A friend
- Family members
- A support person.



We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the **Traditional Owners** of the land we live on.



They were the **first people** to live on and use the

- Land
- Waters.

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# About this document



This document is in **2 parts**.



**Part 1** talks about

- Our **consultation**

Consultation is the governments way of working with the disability community.

It makes sure that the government is listening to communities.

This helps the government make better plans to support people with disability.



**Part 2** talks about

- What people said.



You can read the other part on our website.

[consultations.health.gov.au/disability-and-carers-group/individual-disability-advocacy-reform/](https://consultations.health.gov.au/disability-and-carers-group/individual-disability-advocacy-reform/)



This is **part 2**

# What is individual disability advocacy



The Australian Government is making a new **individual** disability **advocacy** program.

We call it **IDAP** for short.



Individual means 1 person.



Advocacy is when someone supports you to speak up for your **rights**.



Rights are **rules** about treating everyone

- Fair
- Equal.



Individual disability advocacy is when a person gets support to fix

- When they have been treated unfairly



- **Abuse**

Abuse is when someone treats you badly.



You can get support from

- An **expert** advocate

Expert is knowing a lot about something.



- Family member



- Friend



- **Volunteer** from an advocacy organisation

Volunteers help someone but do **not** get paid.

# What people said about advocacy



People agreed that advocacy is important.



They said advocacy helps people

- Know their rights



- Speak up for their rights



- Make their own choices



- Understand things that are confusing.



People said advocacy is important for people at risk of

- **Harm**

Harm means that something bad might happen to you.



- Abuse



- Neglect

Neglect is when someone is not helping you the way they are supposed to.



It could also help people who feel **excluded**.

Excluded means someone is left out.

## Ideas people liked



Most people said

- IDAP could make advocacy better.



They said the **funding** should go for longer.

Funding is **money from the government** to take part in advocacy.



Funding going for longer would help

- Have more jobs for advocates



- Have better services



- Build relationships with people who use advocacy supports



- Advocates do their job better.



People said advocates need good training to

- Learn what they should do



- Learn new skills



- Get better at doing their work.

# Local area supports



People said the

- Government should support different types of organisations.



This means smaller organisations

- For people from the same culture



- In rural areas



- In remote areas

Do **not** miss out on funding.

These organisations are important.



They

- Build trust



- Respect different cultures



- Support local communities.

# Awareness and access



People said there needed to be better

- **Awareness**
- Access

To advocacy services.

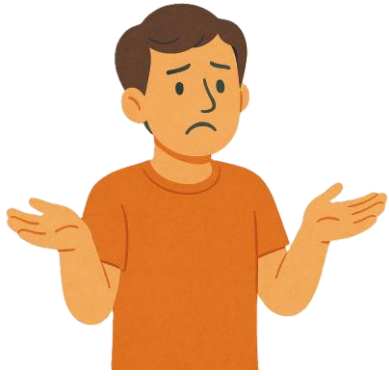


Awareness means more people know about something.

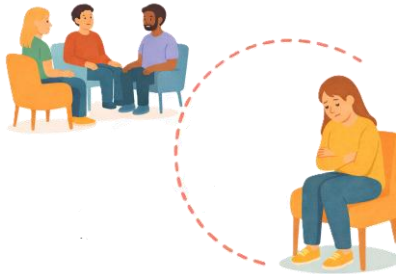


People said

- Lots of advocacy services are too busy to help them



- Some people do **not** know about advocacy until they need it right away



- Some people miss out.

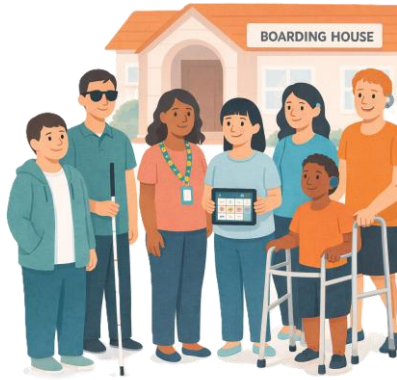
This could be people who are

- **Isolated**

Isolated means being alone.



- Non speaking



- Living in large care settings

Like boarding houses with lots of people.



- Living in remote areas.



People need to know how to ask for help.

This can be hard if you do **not** know how to.



Advocacy is **not** always **accessible**.

Accessible means everyone can use it.



It can be hard for

- People who speak different languages



- People from different cultures



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



- People who are part of the LGBTQIA+ community



- People with **intellectual disability**

An intellectual disability can make it hard to

- Learn new things
- Solve problems
- Communicate
- Do things on your own.



- People who live in large care settings

Like boarding houses.

# Workers

People said advocacy work can be



- Hard



- Stressful.

People said having funding for longer would help fix this.





It is important to make sure the funding is right for

- The amount of work



- How hard the work is.

# Changes



People said the changes need to be done carefully.



It is important to

- Have good communication



- Have enough time to make changes



- Keep the relationships people already have



- Not have **gaps** when changes happen

Gaps are the difference between

- What currently happens
- What should happen.



This will help keep people with disability safe during the changes.

# What happens next



The government will use what people have said to make

- IDAP better



- Rules for funding



- Rules for how IDAP should work



- Plans on how to move to IDAP.



The government is still making decisions about IDAP.

## Contact us



You can contact us if you **need more information**.



You can send us an email.

[disabilityadvocacyreforms@health.gov.au](mailto:disabilityadvocacyreforms@health.gov.au)



You can look at our website.

[consultations.health.gov.au/disability-and-carers-group/individual-disability-advocacy-reform/](https://consultations.health.gov.au/disability-and-carers-group/individual-disability-advocacy-reform/)

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