Individual Disability Advocacy Program

Consultation paper







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 Not bold

We have some words in **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



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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New Individual Disability Advocacy Program



We want your **feedback** on a new **individual** disability **advocacy** program.

We call it **IDAP** for short.



Feedback says what you think about something.

It will help

- Find problems
- Make it better in the future.



Individual means 1 person.



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



Rights are **rules** about treating everyone

- Fair
- Equal.



The **Disability Royal Commission** looked at how people with disability are treated.

We call it **DRC** for short.



DRC gave **recommendations**.

Recommendations are ideas to do things better.



To work on the recommendations the Australian Government said they would make IDAP.



You can go to the website to read more about DRC.

www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/aust ralian-government-response-to-the-disabilityroyal-commission

It is in Easy Read.

What is individual disability advocacy



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.



This supports people with disability to

• Make their own choices



• Have equal rights.

What the community has told us



We know disability advocacy is very important.



It supports people with disability to

Make their own choices



• Have equal rights.



The community has told us that individual advocacy

1. Gives trusted information



2. Helps people to build skills



3. Is an important **safeguard**

Safeguard means protecting people with disability from harm.



4. Helps people get the right support



5. Helps people speak up for their rights



6. Helps people take part in their communities



7. Is needed for different reasons



8. Needs to be done by organisations that can be **around for a long time**

This means people can go back to the same organisation if they have a different problem.



9. Be able to be done in person



Needs to be culturally responsive

Culturally responsive means respecting peoples

- Rights
- Cultures
- Traditions.

This helps people feel safe to be themselves.

Our plan



We have made a plan from what we heard.

Our plan has



• Aims

Aims are things you want to do.



Who we will work with

We call them **partners**.



• The things we will do

We call them **activities**.



Outcomes

Outcomes are the things we see when our plans are working.

Aims



We think IDAP should

 Support people with disability who are at risk of harm.



Risks are the chance that something bad might happen to you.



This will make sure people with disability get support to

Make their own choices



• Speak up for their rights.



To do this we think IDAP should

 Help people with disability and their supports to get individual disability advocacy support

They need to be able to get it when they need it.



2. Have advocacy that is more culturally responsive



3. Help organisations build their skills

This will mean they can do more advocacy that is

- Good
- Inclusive
- Responsive.



Inclusive is when everyone

- Can take part
- Feels like they **belong**.



Responsive means acting

- Quickly
- In a good way

When things need to change.



- 4. Supports advocacy that helps with
- Discrimination

Discrimination means treating someone unfairly because of something about them they **cannot** change.

Like they have a disability.



• Making **policies** better

Policies are plans for how to do things.



 Making the way services do things better

This can be called **improving practice**.



 Having less barriers for people to be included

A barrier is something that stops you from doing what you

- Want
- Need.

Partners



We will work with different people to make IDAP.



Disability advocacy organisations will keep giving support.



DHDA will work with the Community **Grants** Hub.

Grants are when people agree to do work for the government.

Activities



We will need to

 Have lots of advocacy services all around Australia



• Support people with the different parts of who they are

This is called **intersectionality**.



• Have training for advocates



 Collect good data to check how we are going

Data is

- o Facts
- Information
- o Records.

Outcomes



We think we will see

 People with disability getting advocacy support more easily

They will also know more about the supports they can get.



 Advocacy organisations will be able to do a better job



 The government will be able to use the data to make policies better.



Some outcomes will happen quickly.

Others will take longer.

How IDAP will start



The changes will happen over time.



We are planning carefully.

This will mean people can keep using services while we make changes.



We will give organisations time to make changes to how they

Work



 Help people find new advocacy services if they need.

What do you think



We want to know if you

• Agree with what we have heard



Think our plan will help people with disability.



We want to hear from

People with disability



• Their families



Carers



Advocates



Disability advocacy organisations



• Disability service providers.

How to share your ideas



You can take part by

• Answering questions on our website

consultations.health.gov.au/disability-andcarers-group/individual-disability-advocacyreform

It is **not** in Easy Read.



• Sending us your answers.

QUESTIONS

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
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We can send you the list of questions.

You can send us an email to ask for them.

disabilityadvocacyreforms@health.gov.au



You can send your answers to us by

Email

disabilityadvocacyreforms@health.gov.au



Posting a letter

Disability Advocacy and Inclusion Reforms Advocacy and Inclusion Programs Branch

Department of Health Disability and Ageing GPO Box 9848 Canberra ACT 2601



You need to send your feedback by

16 January 2026.