****

Easy Read – Advocacy

What does advocacy mean?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Badge Question Mark with solid fill** | This document will help you understand **advocacy and who an advocate is**. |
| **Scales of justice with solid fill** | Advocacy is when a person publicly helps to **promote, provide, and protect your human rights**. |
| Badge Tick with solid fill | Advocacy can help **your voice be heard and your wishes met.**Advocacy can **be used to help you become part of your community.** |
| **Meeting with solid fill** | Sometimes you might find it **hard to say what you want.** You might want someone to:* **support** you
* **speak up** for you
* be your **voice.**
 |
| **Chat with solid fill** | An advocate can be that person.An advocate is someone who provides a public voice for you if you cannot or do not want to speak up yourself. |
| **Scales of justice with solid fill** | An advocate should be fair and treat everybody in the same way. |
| **Cheers with solid fill** | You can ask someone **you trust** to be your advocate, like your:* mum or dad
* brother or sister
* close friend.
 |
| **Briefcase with solid fill** | Or you can ask a **professional, independent advocate** to help you and to be your voice.They can help you make good decisions and choices that are right for you. |
| **Handshake with solid fill** | Your advocate should always:* **listen** and **support** you
* **take your side**
* help you make your **own good choices and decisions.**
 |
| **Boardroom with solid fill** | Your advocate can **help you**:* get ready for **meetings**
* tell people/providers **what you want**
* **by signing documents** for you**.**
 |
| **Lecturer with solid fill** | Importantly, your advocate **can represent you and speak on your behalf.**  |
| **Sad face with solid fill with solid fill** | Your advocate can help you **make a complaint** if you are not happy **with:*** supports provided
* the way you have been treated.
 |
| **Chat with solid fill** | Your advocate **can speak for you** and tell us how **you have been mistreated**. They will help us understand the **support and assistance you need**. |
| Lock with solid fill | Your advocate must keep your information **private.** |
| **Badge Question Mark with solid fill** | Not sure how t**o find an advocate**? |
| **Magnifying glass with solid fill** | Talk to the General Manager at Compassion SA. Call: 0437 801 739 They will help you find an advocate. |
|  | Our General Manager can also help you go online to use **the** [**NDIS Disability Advocacy Finder**](https://disabilityadvocacyfinder.dss.gov.au/disability/ndap/) |