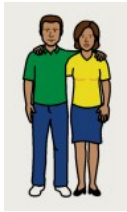


# Advocacy: The role of families and advocates



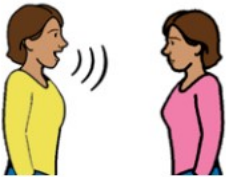
## An Easy English information sheet



Your family, friends or **advocate** play an important role. An advocate is someone you can trust.

They make you feel safe and secure.

They know you very well.



We like to talk to them about what you like.

Knowing you better means we

can

- provide you with the best support



and

- help you live the life you want.



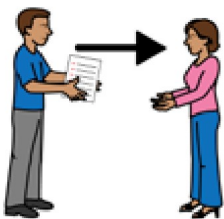
We like to talk to

- you



and

- your family



- or an advocate.

We will always respect who you want us to talk to.



We think about decisions very

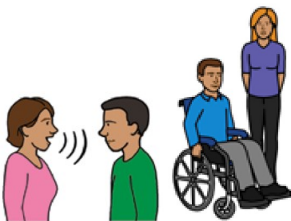
carefully.

We will support you to keep meeting with family and friends who you would like to see and talk to.

## Advocates

You can have an advocate at any time you want one.

If you want an advocate ask your support worker.



Or you can talk to



- **Disability Advocacy Resource Unit**

Phone: **03 9639 5807**



[www.daru.org.au/organisation-type/individual-advocacy](http://www.daru.org.au/organisation-type/individual-advocacy)



- **VALID**

Phone: **03 9416 4003**



[www.valid.org.au](http://www.valid.org.au)



- **Office of the Public Advocate**

Phone: **1300 309 337**



[www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au](http://www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au)

## Advocacy: The role of families and advocates



**Better Together**

### A Plain English information sheet

At Melba, we believe that the families, friends and advocates of the people we support play an important role in a person's life.

Everyone needs people they know and trust to help them feel safe, supported and cared about.

We know that families and friends have a great deal of knowledge and information to share with us.

When they do share this with us, we are able to better understand:

- how to support a person to live the life they want; and
- how to provide quality services to all the people we support.

When making decisions about an individual we support, we will make sure that all important people are involved in these decisions. We will also make sure to inform all the important people about any issues.

We won't do this if a person we support has told us that they don't want their families involved.

At all times when a decision is being made, we will be mindful of the potential impact the decision may have.

We will always think about the person we are supporting, as well as their relationships with their family, friends and/or advocate.

Our staff will support people to keep strong relationships with their families and other support networks.

## **Independent Advocates**

We strongly encourage and support people to access independent advocates at any time.

You can do this at any time you feel it would be helpful.

Our staff can help you connect to an advocate in your area.

Or you can contact:

- **Disability Advocacy Resource Unit**

Phone: (03) 9639 5807

[www.daru.org.au/organisation-type/individual-advocacy](http://www.daru.org.au/organisation-type/individual-advocacy)

- **VALID**

Phone: (03) 9416 4003

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- **Office of the Public Advocate**

Phone: 1300 309 337

[www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au](http://www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au)