



# Unique Directions Policy

## Advocacy (Easy Read)

*Version 1 (Last updated 15/10/2020)*

## About This Document



**Advocacy** is the act of helping a person get what they need. There may be times when you will need the help of an advocate.



We will always help you to get an advocate if you need one.

This document will help you understand:

- What advocates are and what they do
- What advocates cannot do
- How we can help
- How to find an advocate



## What Is An Advocate?



An advocate is a person who can help you stand up for your rights.



Advocates will work with you to find out what you need and what you want.



An advocate must be a person that you know and trust.

## Who Can Be An Advocate?



There are many different people that can be an advocate.



A **family member** can be your advocate.



A **person from an outside advocacy group** can be your advocate.



A **person from a legal organisation (like a lawyer)** can be your advocate.

## What Can Advocates Do?



Advocates will always make sure that you are safe and have what you need.



Advocates can help you advocate for yourself.



Advocates can help you find out what you need.



Advocates can say something for you.



Advocates can help you write and sign papers.



Advocates can help you report incidents and make complaints.

### **What Can Advocates NOT do?**



There are some things that advocates cannot do.



An advocate cannot help you with your health treatments.



An advocate cannot act as a go-between when resolving problems.



An advocate cannot make decisions for a different person (if they are not their advocate).

## How Will We Help You?



We have let our workers know when an advocate might be needed.



You have the right to choose your own advocate. We will help you with this.



We will help you if you want to:

- Be your own advocate
- Get a new advocate
- Stop advocacy services



We will work with your chosen advocate.

## How To Find An Advocate?



We will help you to find and contact your chosen advocate.



You can ask one of our workers about where you can find an advocate.



You can use Google and the [Disability Advocacy Finder](#) tool to look for advocates near you.



You can also contact the department that is in charge of advocacy in your state.



A full list of services in each state can be found on the [NDIS website](#).