

VICTORIAN ADVOCACY ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTING PARTICIPANTS AND FAMILIES

This document provides information about independent advocacy organisations that participants, their families and supporters may contact for advocacy assistance and support.

ADVOCACY ORGANISATIONS FUNDED BY THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST PARTICIPANTS TRANSFERRING FROM DHHS ACCOMMODATION SERVICES

These state-wide independent organisations have received funding from the Victorian Government to provide specific advocacy services to participants transferring from DHHS accommodation services.

VICTORIAN ADVOCACY LEAGUE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITY (VALID)

A peak advocacy organisation in the disability sector in Victoria, representing adults with a disability and their families.

Services include:

- Individual advocacy support
- Self-advocacy training and support
- Family advocacy
- Peer support
- Keys to success and staying safe training
- Systemic advocacy and representation
- Information and resources
- Community development

Telephone: 1800 655 570

Website: www.valid.org.au

CARERS VICTORIA

A state wide advocacy service providing support to carers in Victoria.

Services include:

- Advocacy support to family carers
- Support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers
- Support to culturally and linguistically diverse carers
- Support to LGBTIQ+ carers
- Financial support and assistance with advice
- Better Start program
- Carer's Cottage – low cost respite
- Counselling for carers
- Education and training for carers

Telephone: 1800 242 636

Website: www.carersvictoria.org.au

COMMUNICATION RIGHTS AUSTRALIA

A state wide advocacy service for people with a disability, prioritising those with communication support needs who have little or no speech.

Services include:

- Individual advocacy
- Community education
- Systemic advocacy
- Specialist information

Telephone: 1300 666 604

Website: www.communicationrights.org.au

OTHER ADVOCACY AND SELF ADVOCACY ORGANISATIONS

NORTH EAST CITIZEN ADVOCACY (NECA)

Advocating for people with an intellectual disability living in Melbourne's Banyule, Darebin, Whittlesea and Nillumbik Local Government Areas.

Telephone: (03) 8407 3684

Website: www.citizenadvocacy.com.au

SOUTHERN DISABILITY ADVOCACY

Advocating for individuals with a disability living in Melbourne's southern suburbs, including Port Phillip, Stonnington, Bayside, Glen Eira, Kingston, Frankston and the Mornington Peninsula Shire.

Telephone: (03) 9533 5977

Website: www.southernda.org.au

STAR VICTORIA

Advocating for people with an intellectual disability and their families.

Telephone: (03) 9650 2730

Website: www.starvictoria.org.au

REINFORCE

A self-advocacy organization run for and by people with an intellectual disability.

Telephone: (03) 9650 7855

Website: www.reinforce.org.au

YOUTH DISABILITY ADVOCACY SERVICE (YDAS)

An advocacy organisation specifically supporting young people with disability through individual and systemic advocacy.

Telephone: 1300 727 176

Website: www.ydas.org.au

FAMILY AND CARERS SUPPORT

CARERS VICTORIA

A state wide advocacy service providing support to carers in Victoria.

Telephone: 1800 242 636

Website: www.carersvictoria.org.au

SENIORS RIGHTS VICTORIA (SRV)

Advocacy organisation providing information, support and advice to help prevent elder abuse and safeguard the rights, dignity and independence of older people.

Telephone: 1300 368 821

Website: www.seniorsrights.org.au

CARER GATEWAY

A new Australian Government service providing support for carers across Australia.

Telephone: 1800 422 737

Website: www.carergateway.gov.au

SENSORY IMPAIRMENT ADVOCACY SUPPORT

UNITED BRAINS

A network of self-advocates and support groups for people with acquired brain injury (ABI).

Telephone: (03) 5977 5425

Website: www.unitedbrains.org.au

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (BIM)

A not for profit self-advocacy organisation that aims to empower people living with an acquired brain injury (ABI).

Telephone: (03) 9639 7222

Website: www.braininjurymatters.org

BLIND CITIZENS AUSTRALIA (BCA)

An organisation providing information, peer support, individual and systemic advocacy, and consultancy services to people who are blind or vision impaired.

Telephone: 1800 033 660

Website: www.bca.org.au

DEAF VICTORIA

A non-profit organisation providing advocacy, information and referrals about deaf and deafness issues.

Telephone: 1300 553 467

Website: www.deafvictoria.org.au

ARBIAS

Providing support services to people with an acquired brain injury, specialising in alcohol and other drug related brain injury.

Telephone: (03) 8388 1222

Website: www.arbias.org.au

LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL SUPPORT

ACTION ON DISABILITY IN ETHNIC COMMUNITIES (ADEC)

A state-wide organisation helping to empower people with a disability from non-English speaking backgrounds, their carers and families.

Telephone: 1800 626 078

Website: www.adec.org.au

MELBOURNE EAST DISABILITY ADVOCACY (MEDA)

A not for profit organisation promoting and protecting the rights and interests of people with intellectual disabilities in Melbourne's Eastern suburbs.

Telephone: (03) 9877 7990

Website: www.meda.org.au

MIGRANT RESOURCE CENTRE (MRC) NORTH WEST

Providing advocacy services, disability support and aged care to migrants and refugees living in the North Western regions of Melbourne.

Telephone: (03) 9367 6044

Website: www.mrcnorthwest.org.au

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

MENTAL HEALTH COMPLAINTS COMMISSIONER (MHCC)

An independent, specialist body established under the *Mental Health Act 2014* to safeguard rights, resolve complaints about Victorian public mental health services and recommend improvements.

Telephone: 1800 246 054

Website: www.mhcc.vic.gov.au

VICTORIAN MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS COUNCIL (VMIAC)

Providing information and support for mental health regarding the National Disability Insurance Scheme, as well as advocacy support.

Telephone: (03) 9380 3900

Website: www.vmiac.org.au

INDEPENDENT MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY (IMHA)

Supporting people who are receiving compulsory mental health treatment to make decisions about their treatment with advocacy services and information.

Telephone: (03) 9093 3701

Website: www.imha.vic.gov.au

MENTAL HEALTH LEGAL CENTRE

Providing free and confidential legal service to anyone who has experienced mental illness in Victoria where their legal problem relates to their mental illness.

Telephone: 1800 555 887

Website: www.mhlc.org.au

HOUSING ADVOCACY SUPPORT

ACTION FOR MORE INDEPENDENCE AND DIGNITY IN ACCOMMODATION (AMIDA)

A disability advocacy group supporting people with a disability with any problems they have with their housing.

Telephone: (03) 9650 2722

Website: www.amida.org.au

LEGAL SERVICES

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION LEGAL SERVICE (DDLs)

A state-wide independent community legal centre that specialises in disability discrimination legal matters, providing free legal services and advice.

Telephone: 1300 882 872

Website: www.ddls.org.au

VICTORIA LEGAL AID (VLA)

Providing free legal information and education to help protect the rights of Victorians and represent those who need it the most.

Telephone: (03) 9269 0234

Website: www.legalaid.vic.gov.au

VILLAMANTA DISABILITY RIGHTS LEGAL SERVICE

Providing legal advice, representation and advocacy support for people who have a disability, particularly those with an intellectual disability.

Telephone: 1800 014 111

Website: www.villamanta.org.au

VCAT GUARDIANSHIP LIST

Under the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1986*, this body can make orders and appoint guardians and/or administrators to protect people who have a disability, that is, intellectual impairment, mental disorder, brain injury, physical disability or dementia.

Telephone: 1300 079 413

Website: www.vcat.vic.gov.au

ASSOCIATION OF EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITY (AED) LEGAL CENTRE

A specialist community legal service providing information, advice and legal representation to people with a disability across Victoria, including reviews of decisions about NDIS Plans.

Telephone: (03) 9639 4333

Website: www.aed.org.au

COMPLAINTS SUPPORT

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE (OPA)

Providing advocacy services and advice to people with disability and their family and carers, such as assistance with guardianship and administration, powers of attorney and medical treatment decision-making.

Telephone: 1300 309 337

Website: www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au

DISABILITY SERVICES COMMISSIONER (DSC)

An independent oversight body resolving complaints about disability service providers, as well as assisting service providers to improve outcomes for people with a disability.

Telephone: 1800 677 342

Website: www.odsc.vic.gov.au

AUSTRALIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (AHRC)

An independent statutory organisation that reports to the federal Parliament, working to protect and improve the rights of people with disability across Australia.

Telephone: 1300 656 419

Website: www.humanrights.gov.au

NATIONAL ABUSE AND NEGLECT HOTLINE

A free, independent and confidential service for reporting abuse and neglect of people with disability.

Telephone: 1800 880 052

Website: www.jobaccess.gov.au/complaints/hotline

VICTORIAN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

An independent statutory body providing free advice, dispute resolution support, and information about equal opportunity, racial and religious vilification and the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.

Telephone: 1300 292 153

Website: www.humanrightscommission.vic.gov.au

CONTACT US

If you have any further questions on independent advocacy organisations that can offer you support, you can contact Life Without Barriers by calling 1800 955 229 or emailing asklwbvic@lwb.org.au, and one of our friendly team members can help you.