

**Easy
Read**

Victorian Disability Advocacy Program report

2024 to 2025



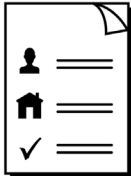
About this booklet



This booklet is from the Victorian Government
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.



This is an Easy Read booklet.



Easy Read uses simple words and pictures.



We add a star before and after ***hard words***.

Then we explain what the words mean.



You can ask someone to help you read and
understand this booklet.



Contact information is at the end of this booklet.

The Victorian Disability Advocacy Program



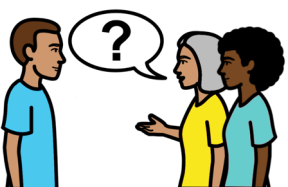
We have a ***Victorian Disability Advocacy Program*** that helps make Victoria safe and fair for people with disability.

In this booklet, we will call it **the program**.



The program helps people with disability to

- protect their rights
- stop ***discrimination***
 - discrimination means a person is not treated fairly because of something about them, like their disability or age
- get ***advocacy services***
 - advocacy services help people with disability ask for and get the things they need.



About the program



Laws in Australia say that people with disability have the right to advocacy services.

The program supports 3 types of advocacy.



1. ***Individual advocacy***

This means someone speaks for you when you need help to ask for what you need.



2. ***Self advocacy***

This means speaking up for yourself.

You can do this on your own or with a group.



3. ***Systemic advocacy***

This means people work to change laws and change how things are done.

What the program wants to achieve



The program wants to make sure that

- people with disability help lead advocacy



- people with disability have the skills and support to speak up



- advocacy helps make laws, services and policies better



- communities are more welcoming and ***inclusive***
 - inclusive means everyone can be part of it



- everyone can get advocacy help when they need it



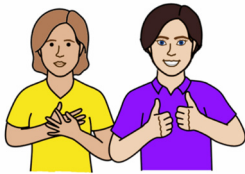
- advocacy groups have what they need to keep helping people.

Who the program supports



The program gives advocacy services to people with disability, their families and carers.

The program helps many different people.

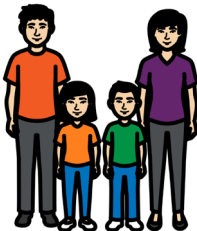


This includes

- women



- First Nations people



- children, young people and their families



- people from multicultural backgrounds



- people who need help with housing



- people who live far away from big cities.



The program helps people with different disabilities.



This includes

- people with intellectual disability



- people with acquired brain injury



- Deaf people



- people with low or no vision.



The program supports advocacy organisations by giving them

- training

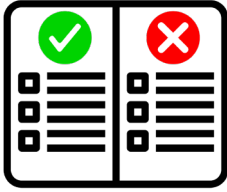


- resources

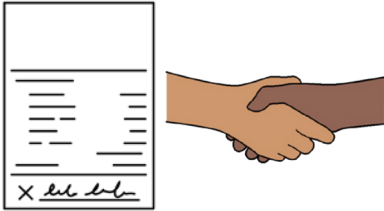


- ways to connect with each other.

Rules organisations must follow



There are laws and rules for organisations that give advocacy services.



Organisations that give advocacy services have a ***service agreement*** with the government.



A service agreement says

- what the organisation must do
- what the government must do.



For example, organisations must plan and be ready for emergencies.



The Victorian Disability Services Commissioner listens to and helps with complaints about disability advocacy services.

How many people need help?



The government wants to understand how advocacy makes a difference to people with disability.



The government pays for advocacy services as part of the program.

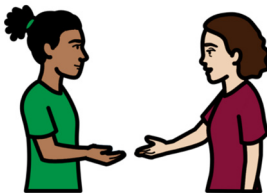


In 2024 and 2025, the Victorian Government gave almost 6 million dollars to the program.



The program wants to find out how many people

- get advocacy support



- are still waiting for help.



In 2024 and 2025, the program helped 2,812 people.



Some people with disability are still waiting for advocacy support.



We know that

- 252 people were on a wait list for individual advocacy supports



- people were on a wait list for about 18 days.



Wait list information helps governments understand how many more people need advocacy supports.



More information



Families,
Fairness
and Housing

For more information contact the
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.



Email ofd@dffh.vic.gov.au



Call 1300 475 170

Help in your language



If you need help with other languages, contact
the Translating and Interpreting Service.



Website [TIS National](http://www.tisnational.gov.au)
www.tisnational.gov.au



Call 131 450

Help to speak and listen



If you want to contact us using video call or text chat, the National Relay Service can help you.



Website

[National Relay Service website](http://www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs/nrs-call-numbers-and-links)

www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs/nrs-call-numbers-and-links



Give the National Relay Service our phone number.



Our number 1300 475 170

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To receive this document in another format, phone the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing on 1300 475 170 or email ofd@dffh.vic.gov.au

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Available at [DFFH Service Providers - Victorian Disability Advocacy Program \(VDAP\)](https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/disability-advocacy)

<https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/disability-advocacy>