# Access to Advocacy Policy

## Policy

*futures in sight* is committed to independent advocacy as an individual and systems tool to ensure the rights of people with disability are protected and enhanced.

*futures in sight* respects the rights of all people we support to have an independent advocate and actively facilitates access to advocacy support.

### Scope

*futures in sight* Partners, Employees, Contractors and Volunteers

### Legislation

* NDIS Act 2013
* Disability Services Act (National Standards for Disability Services) Determination 2013
* Disability Discrimination Act 1992
* UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2007

### Principles

Each person with a disability

* has choice, voice and control over their lives;
* has the principles and articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities manifested in their life
* has the right to access an advocate of their choosing

### Definitions

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| Advocacy | is the process of taking action to:  • achieve social justice in the areas of rights, access, participation and equity;  • prevent or stop abusive, discriminatory or negligent treatment;  • increase and improve well-being;  • increase inclusion and acceptance in the community; and  • identify and put a stop to the causes of unjust and unfair treatment, situations and their many causes, so that people’s fundamental needs can be met. |
| Advocate | may be a family member or ally, or a member of an advocacy service.  An advocate may be a paid or an unpaid person.  An Interpreter is not an advocate.  An Advocate is on the side of the person with disability and needs to be independent of *futures in sight* |

## Procedures

Generally, it is the person we support or their family/ally who may identify the need for an independent advocate in relation to *futures in sight* services or in relation to other services.

In some circumstances, such as when advocacy is needed in relation to NDIA matters, where *futures in sight* may be explicitly prohibited from providing advocacy, we may suggest the need for independent advocacy to the person we support.

At *futures in sight* we:

* provide opportunities to gain an understanding of the role of advocacy
* make available a list of advocacy services on our website and keep them up to date
* actively assist people to access all forms of advocacy, if and when required
* respect the right of people we support to choose their own advocate/s
* ensure people we support have unimpeded access to their advocate/s
* identify people we support who do not have personal networks and who need assistance to speak up and actively seek the involvement of advocates on their behalf
* record contact details of advocates on the file of people we support
* have an up to date directory of advocacy on file and make that directory available to people we support on request.

**Review**

This policy will be reviewed on a two-yearly basis.

However, if at any time the legislative, policy or funding environment is so altered that the policy is no longer appropriate in its current form, the policy shall be reviewed immediately and amended accordingly.

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| Signed by all Partners |  |  |  |
| Date effective | 1 April 2023 | Version | V-3 |
| Review date | 1 April 2025 | No of pages | 7 |

**List of Advocacy, Legal Services and NDIS Appeals Support Services for People with Disability - New South Wales**

**Action for People with Disability**

**Phone:** 94495355   
**Website:**  [www.actionadvocacy.org.au](http://www.actionadvocacy.org.au)

**Australian Centre for Disability Law**

**Phone:** 1800800708  
**Email:** [adviceline@disabilitylaw.org.au](mailto:adviceline@disabilitylaw.org.au)   
**Website:** [www.disabilitylaw.org.au](http://www.disabilitylaw.org.au)

**Council for Intellectual Disability (CID)**

**Phone:** 1800424065  
**Email:** Info@cid.org.au  
**Website:** [www.cid.org.au](http://www.cid.org.au)

**Disability Advocacy NSW (DA)**

**Phone:** 1300 365 085  
**Email:** [newcastle@da.org.au](mailto:newcastle@da.org.au)  
**Website:** [Disability Advocacy NSW (DA)](https://da.org.au/)

**Family Advocacy**

**Phone:** 1800620588  
**Email:** [communications@family-advocacy.com](mailto:communications@family-advocacy.com)   
**Website:** [www.family-advocacy.com](http://www.family-advocacy.com)

**Illawarra advocacy**

**Phone:** (02) 4229 4999  
**Email:** [admin@illawarraadvocacy.org.au](mailto:admin@illawarraadvocacy.org.au)  
**Website:** [Illawarra advocacy](https://www.illawarraadvocacy.org.au/)

**Intellectual Disability Rights Service**

**Phone:** (02) 9265 6350  
**Phone:** 1300 665 908  
**Email:**[AbilityRightsCentre@idrs.org.au](mailto:AbilityRightsCentre@idrs.org.au)  
**Website:** [IDRS](https://idrs.org.au/)

**Legal Aid NSW**

**Phone:** 1300 888 529  
**Website:** [Legal Aid NSW](https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/)

**Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW (MDAA)**

**Phone:** 02 9891 6400  
**Phone:** 1800 629 072  
**Email:** [mdaa@mdaa.org.au](mailto:mdaa@mdaa.org.au)  
**Website:** [Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW (MDAA)](http://mdaa.org.au/)

**Newell Advocacy**

**Phone:** 02 6792 3195  
**Email:** [newell.narrabri@westnet.com.au](mailto:newell.narrabri@westnet.com.au)

**People with Disability Australia**

**Phone:**1800 422 015  
**Email:** [pwd@pwd.org.au](mailto:pwd@pwd.org.au)  
**Website:** [www.pwd.org.au](https://www.pwd.org.au/)

**Physical Disability Council of NSW**

**Phone:**1800 688 831  
**Email:** [admin@pdcnsw.org.au](mailto:admin@pdcnsw.org.au)  
**Website:** [www.pdcnsw.org.au](http://www.pdcnsw.org.au/)

**Regional Disability Advocacy Service (RDAS)**

**Phone:** 1800 250 292  
**Email:** [admin@rdas.org.au(link sends e-mail)](mailto:admin@rdas.org.au)  
**Website:** [Regional Disability Advocacy Service(link is external)](http://rdas.org.au/)

**Self Advocacy (Sydney)**

**Phone:** 02 9622 3005  
**Email:** [info@sasinc.com.au](mailto:info@sasinc.com.au)  
**Website:** [www.sasinc.com.au](https://www.sasinc.com.au/)

**Side By Side Advocacy**

**Phone:** 02 9808 5500  
**Email:** [info@sidebysideadvocacy.org.au](mailto:info@sidebysideadvocacy.org.au)  
**Website:** [www.sidebysideadvocacy.org.au](https://www.sidebysideadvocacy.org.au/)

**Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCIA)**

**Phone:** 1800 819 775  
**Email:** [office@scia.org.au](mailto:office@scia.org.au)  
**Website:** [Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCIA)](http://www.scia.org.au/)

**Sydney Region Aboriginal Corporation**

**Phone:** 02 4722 3524  
**Email:** [info@srac.ngo](mailto:info@srac.ngo)  
**Website:** [Sydney Region Aboriginal Corporation](https://www.srac.ngo/)

**Synapse**

**Phone:** 1800 673 074  
**Email:** [info@synapse.org.au](mailto:info@synapse.org.au)  
**Website:** [Synapse](https://synapse.org.au/)