

Who we are

Independent Advocacy in the Tropics Inc., is an accredited independent disability advocacy organisation providing advocacy support for people with disability.

We undertake systemic advocacy projects to promote positive changes within communities, and all levels of government by analysing and responding to community attitudes of service models and practices that create dependency and segregation and impact negatively on people with disability.

Service Access

We are able to offer **FREE** advocacy services for those with a disability through various government funding streams. There are no barriers to age, ethnic background or type of disability including those living with mental illness.

A person can self-refer or if you are a family member, carer or support person to someone with a disability or even a service provider, you can make a referral for advocacy. It is important to note however that if you are referring someone to us we are only able to act for that person if they wish us to do so.

Referrals are reviewed and prioritized according to levels of vulnerability and urgency.

Funded By

Department of Social Services;
Department of Communities, Child Safety
and Disability Services;
Queensl and Health

**National Standards for Disability Services.
Accredited Individual and Systemic
Advocacy Service**

Independent Advocacy in
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**Independent
Advocacy NQ**

*"To empower
people with disability
through
independent advocacy."*



Advocacy

Advocacy for people with disability can be defined as speaking, acting or writing with minimal conflict of interest on behalf of the interests of a disadvantaged person or group, in order to promote, protect and defend the welfare of and justice for either the person or group.

People with disability are in particular need of advocacy because they often experience or are vulnerable to discrimination, neglect, exploitation and/or abuse. They are just as valuable as any other person regardless of what they do or don't do.

People with disability should not be separated, segregated or isolated. They should be able to make their own decisions, make mistakes, have courage, be fearful, be likable, be unpleasant just as any other person.

Advocates are here to guide you and give you the information you need to make decisions that are right for you. You will be involved, and in charge, at all times.

If you feel that you are in a situation where your rights and wishes are not being heard our advocates may be able to assist by speaking on your behalf and ensuring that your rights are respected and that you are treated fairly.

Services

Whether you have an issue with a service, business or government department, we can advocate and support you.

Advocates can support and be with you through formal and judicial hearings for example:

- submissions to the Disability Royal Commission and any subsequent hearings;
- legal/justice proceedings (and in correctional facilities);
- Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal;
- Mental Health Review Tribunal;
- Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) for NDIS Appeals and other matters.

Our service region stretches across the north and north-western regions of Queensland. If you live outside of these regions we may still be able to advocate for you.



King Protea (flower) stands for change and transformation.
It signifies daring and resourcefulness.
A symbol of diversity and courage.

NDIS

Once you apply for the NDIS, you start the planning and assessment process which is focused on you as the participant. It aims to maximise your choice and control by working through your existing and future support needs.

You are able to have a support person such as an advocate. If you are not sure what to do or you need help at any stage of the planning process or if you have difficulties with service providers we are here to help.

Reviewing Decisions

If you think a decision made by the NDIA about you is wrong, you can submit an application for Internal Review of a decision.

Reviewable decisions include things like not being accepted as a participant, the rejection of reasonable and necessary supports, or the reduction of funding.

NDIS Appeals

If you are still dissatisfied with a decision following an Internal Review, you can apply to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal by making a NDIS Appeal.

We provide you with specialist advocacy assistance during this process and you may also be eligible for legal assistance.