

# Funding Independent Advocacy is a Good Deal for People with a Disability and for Government.



We want lots of people to read this paper.



We have written it in easy read.



You are one of millions of people who live in Australia.



You might also be one of the 4 million Australians who have a disability.



You might have been born with your disability.



Your disability might have been caused by an accident or from getting sick.



Your disability might affect you in different ways.



Life can be much harder for people with a disability.

You are much more likely to be discriminated against.



You might not earn as much money.

You might find it harder to get a job.



You might have found it difficult to finish school.



You might have more health problems than Australians without a disability.



But you have the same right to enjoy a good life as every other Australian.



Advocates help people with a disability to enjoy their right to a good life.



Advocates help you sort out problems or difficulties.



Advocates help you if you have a problem with

- police
- the courts
- your employer
- disability services
- at the shops



Advocates can help you anywhere you might have a problem.

Independent advocates are on your side.

Independent advocates work for you.

They don't work for the places you have problems with.



Most advocates get money from the government to help you.

Some of this money comes from the Commonwealth government in Canberra.

Some comes from your State or Territory government.



Except in South Australia where all the money for independent advocacy comes from the Commonwealth.



Government must pay for lots of things like

- roads
- schools
- hospitals
- police



And lots of other things too.



When the government pays for something, it likes to be sure it is getting a good deal.



Economists are people who are very good at working out if the government is getting a good deal.



Some economists looked at the money the government pays to advocates to work with you.



They found advocates help you and other people with a disability in lots of ways.



The economists also found that the work advocates do when they help people saves the government lots of money.



The economists found that for every dollar the government spends on advocates, they save \$3.50 for everyone in the community.



This is a very good result.



Imagine if you saved a dollar with a bank and the bank paid you \$3.50 for saving the money with them.

You would be getting a very good deal.



Advocates work to help you and that gives the government a very good deal.



This means the government has more money to spend on important things.



So funding independent advocacy is a good deal for people with a disability and for governments.

This report was made for DANA to help explain how advocacy saves money for the government.



[www.dana.org.au](http://www.dana.org.au)

These organisations worked with DANA to make this report.



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