

What is an Advocate?

An advocate is independent of your provider, the NDIS or government and is someone who can assist you to exercise choice and control and to have your voice heard.

An advocate can provide advice, act, speak or write to promote, protect and defend your human rights. An advocate acts at your direction, reflecting your wishes and preferences.

What can they do?

An advocate can assist with many issues or challenges you may face including:

- Navigating the NDIS
- Housing
- Access to supports and services
- Raising a complaint with your service provider
- Physical access to buildings or transport accessibility

The Office of the Public Advocate is empowered by law to promote and safeguard the rights and interests of people with disability.



Contact us

Our friendly Pathways Team are happy to assist with any questions you may have.

Phone: 03 5441 2666

Email: pathways@amicus.org.au

Where to find us

Our office is open Monday to Friday
9:00am until 5:00pm

Head Office and Adult Services

18 Myers Street, Bendigo VIC 3550

Children's Services

53 Myers Street, Bendigo VIC 3550

Behaviour Support & Support Coordination Services

90 Queen Street, Bendigo VIC 3550



@AmicusBendigo

www.amicus.org.au



**Advocacy
information**

How can they help and support me?

- They will listen carefully to your concerns and point of view
- Support you to understand your rights
- Provide you with information so that you can make an informed decision or choice
- Make sure that you have the opportunity to be heard
- Put forward your perspective either verbally or in writing
- Assist if you are at risk of, or been the victim of abuse, exploitation or neglect
- Facilitate the process if a Guardianship order is needed
- Assist you if you have been discriminated against

Who can be an advocate?

- A family member or a friend
- A trained advocate

Information and resources

Advokit
advokit.org.au

Belonging Matters
belongingmatters.org

Brain Injury Australia
braininjuryaustralia.org.au

Disability Advocacy Network Australia (DANA)
dand.org.au

National Disability Services
nds.org.au

People With Disability Incorporated
pwd.org.au/get-help/

Disability Services Commissioner
1300 728 187
odsc.vic.gov.au

Brain Injury Australia
braininjuryaustralia.org.au

Where can I find a trained Advocate?

Disability Advocacy Finder
disabilityadvocacyfinder.dss.gov.au

Rights Information and Advocacy Centre
03 5222 5499
riac.org.au

Victoria Advocacy League for Individuals with Disability
03 9416 4003 or 1800 655 570
valid.org.au

Office of the Public Advocate
1300 309 337
publicadvocate.vic.gov.au

If you would like any assistance to link with a trained advocate please contact pathways@amicus.org.au or call us on **5441 2666**.

