Queensland Disability Advocacy Framework 2023 – 2026

The Queensland Government supports advocacy for people with disability, their families and carers.

This framework outlines the Queensland Government’s approach to supporting disability advocacy in Queensland.

Advocacy supports people with disability, their families and carers to:

* have their voice heard on issues important to them
* defend and safeguard their rights
* access mainstream and NDIS services
* build their capacity through self-advocacy.

# Objective

People with disability have access to effective disability advocacy that promotes, protects and advances their rights, interests and wellbeing, enabling full community participation and inclusion.

# Principles

* Presumption of rights and capacity
* Safeguards and justice
* Participation, inclusion and access to supports
* Self-determination
* Approaches that meet the needs of First Nations people with disability
* Understanding of and respect for intersectionality and diversity

# Types of advocacy

* Self-advocacy
* Legal advocacy
* Group advocacy
* Individual advocacy
* Disability advocacy
* Systemic advocacy

# Specific cohorts

* People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
* Children and young people with disability
* First Nations peoples with disability

# Priorities

* Ethical
* Rights-based
* Person-centred
* Culturally sensitive
* Duty of care
* Codesign
* Evolving nature of disability

# International, national and state context

## International

United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

## National

Australia’s Disability Strategy 2021-2031 and National Disability Advocacy Framework

## State

Queensland’s Disability Plan 2022-27: Together, a better Queensland and the Queensland Disability Advocacy Framework.

An inclusive society that ensures people with disability can fulfil their potential, as equal members of the community

– vision of Queensland’s Disability Plan and Australia’s Disability Strategy

# Supporting disability advocacy

The Queensland Government has committed to the [*National Disability Advocacy Framework 2023-2025*](https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers-programs-services-for-people-with-disability/national-disability-advocacy-framework-2023-2025)(NDAF) and work plan.

# Queensland Disability Advocacy Program

The Queensland Government funds the Queensland Disability Advocacy Program (QDAP) to deliver advocacy services to Queenslanders with disability, their family members and carers.

QDAP includes:

* a statewide centralised phone advice and referral service
* specialist individual advocacy services to priority cohorts
* regional individual advocacy services for all people with disability.

QDAP provides statewide advocacy services which help people with disability:

* to understand their rights
* to address discrimination, conflict and unfair treatment
* to build capacity to advocate for themselves
* to navigate the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and other mainstream services
* address gaps in support
* to make informed decisions
* ensure fundamental needs are met
* through legal matters
* with information and referrals to disability support services.

# National Disability Advocacy Work Plan

The Australian Government and state and territory governments have agreed to six priority areas to improve national consistency and access to disability advocacy services:

1. **Measuring and reporting the outcomes of the NDAF:** Develop a measure of outcomes for the Framework.
2. **Improving data consistency:** Explore existing data collection practises across jurisdictions.
3. **Improving service delivery:** Conduct a mapping exercise to identify where current individual disability advocacy services are available.
4. **Sector development and support:** Develop a national sector development project.
5. **Better coordination of funding:** Review existing funding arrangements and identify opportunities to better coordinate funding.
6. **Supporting access for First Nations people:** Increasing culturally appropriate and accessible advocacy services for First Nations people with disability.

# Systemic advocacy

Systemic advocacy works for broader social or service changes to ensure the collective rights and interests of people with disability are upheld through legislation, policies and practices.

 The [Queensland Disability Advocacy Program](https://www.qld.gov.au/disability/legal-and-rights/advocacy) and the [Queensland Disability Peak and Representative Bodies Program](https://www.qld.gov.au/disability/adults/peak-body-support) fund organisations to provide advice to governments and inquiries on systemic issues affecting people with disability.

Find out more about [disability advocacy supports](https://www.qld.gov.au/disability/legal-and-rights/advocacy).