

Our Way of Working



side by side advocacy

We are Side By Side Advocacy.

Our vision is

A world where all people are equal and valued, where diversity is celebrated, needs are fulfilled, and opportunities realised.

Read on to find out how this vision shapes what we do and how we do it.



Our vision informs our purpose and our values.

Our Purpose

To promote and uphold the rights, needs and interests of people with disability to enable full and meaningful participation in the community

We recognise that people with intellectual disability experience particular barriers in having their voices heard and needs met. For that reason, we specialise in providing advocacy for people with intellectual disability.

Our Values

Inclusive

We embrace diversity and treat everyone with dignity and respect



Accountable

We are transparent and ethical in all we do



Tenacious

We act with vigour and a determination to achieve the best results



Our purpose and values guide **how we approach our work.**

We are committed to providing high quality advocacy for people with disability.

Our advocacy puts people with disability first and is not motivated by other interests.

We strive to minimise conflicts of interests and our processes are fair and transparent.

Our way of working affirms the dignity, independence, and autonomy of people with disability.

We seek to maximise opportunities for people with disability to take control of their lives and live a good life as contributing members of their community.

Our advocacy is tailored to suit the unique needs of each person seeking assistance.

We work respectfully and sensitively with diverse cultural groups and with First Nations People and members of the LGBTQIA+ communities.

Our approach to our work is implemented across our **four different programmatic areas** that assist people with disability in various ways.

Citizen Advocacy

Citizen Advocacy promotes and protects the rights, needs and interests of people with intellectual disability who are at risk of abuse, neglect and/or social isolation. It does this by establishing and supporting one-to-one relationships between a person with disability who has unmet needs and a citizen who is interested in having a long-term connection with that person.

Citizen Advocacy is available for people with intellectual disability living in the Ryde and Hunter's Hill Local Government Areas.



Individual Advocacy

Individual advocacy provides people with disability with one-to one support when they are facing challenging situations or being treated unfairly. We specialise in providing individual advocacy to people with intellectual disability. Some examples include: problems at work, home or with neighbours; dealing with government departments; accessing educational opportunities; and navigating Guardianship matters.

Individual advocacy is available to people with disability in most locations in the Northern Region of Greater Sydney.



NDIS Appeals Support

NDIS Appeals Support is available for people with disability seeking a review of decisions made by the National Disability Insurance Agency in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT). This support can include: explaining the review process, including what is involved in appealing to the AAT; helping to prepare documents; and providing advice and skills so appellants can better represent themselves.

NDIS Appeals Support is available for people with disability in Greater Sydney.



Disability Royal Commission Advocacy

Side By Side Advocacy helps people with disability share their experience with the Disability Royal Commission (DRC). If people have a story they want to share, advocates help them to: learn about what the DRC is doing; decide if they want to share their experience; plan the best way to share their story; contact the DRC in a way that suits; and access information about organisations where other support such as counselling can be sought.

DRC Advocacy is available for people with disability in most locations in the Northern Regions of Sydney.



All of our work is underpinned by our principles.

Our Principles

Each person's life is of equal and inherent value and worth

People with disability have the right to advocacy and to protection from devaluation, neglect, abuse and the denial of human rights

People with disability have the right to be treated as individuals, and not in terms of their disability

All people are entitled to comprehensive and appropriate support to ensure full inclusion into the community

All people have the right to make decisions about their own lives

All people should be treated with dignity and respect

All people have the right to be safe, valued and accepted

All people have the potential to grow and develop and should be provided with opportunities

All people have the same human and legal rights regardless of age, race, disability, religious belief, sex, sexuality and gender identity

People with disability are to be treated in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



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