

**INFORMATION
FOR PARENTS**
on

ADVOCACY



XAVIER CHILDREN'S SUPPORT NETWORK

encourages and supports families to access the services of an independent advocate of their choosing should that be their requirement.

WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

Advocacy can be broadly broken into three categories:-

Self-Advocacy is when you speak, act or write on behalf of yourself and circumstances.

Individual or Personal Advocacy is when a person speaks, acts or writes on behalf of another person with regard to their personal circumstances.

Systemic Advocacy is speaking, acting or writing on behalf of a group eg 'children with disabilities' or 'carers'. This type of advocacy is aimed for example, at increasing public awareness, changing public policy, or improving both government and non-government services.

You may consider the use of an advocate at times when you feel unable to express your opinion, where you feel someone else may have better knowledge, or where you feel the relationship with the person with whom you normally liaise at Xavier has broken down or become difficult for you.

On any of these occasions you have a personal and legal right to request the use of an advocate and Xavier supports your right to do so.

ACHIEVING ADVOCACY

Self-advocacy: If you wish to advocate on behalf of yourself but are feeling a little hesitant, speak with your Keyworker. They will provide encouragement as you work through the process and offer helpful hints.

Individual or Personal Advocacy: Should you wish to obtain the services of an individual or personal advocate (second party) you may wish to consider in the first instance contacting a friend or someone known to your family whom you respect eg. your local priest, family doctor.

If you wish to obtain the services of an experienced advocate, there are numerous organizations who can assist you, many at no cost. Within Brisbane the following organizations can offer you assistance:-

Qld Aged & Disability Advocacy

Ph: 36376000

Citizen Advocacy South West

Ph: 33683815

Speaking up for yourself

Ph: 3255 1244

Queensland Advocacy Incorporated

Ph: 32361122

Qld Parents for people with Disability

Ph: 33683055

Amparo Multicultural Advocacy

Ph: 33949304

REMEMBER.....

Although Xavier is a support organization whose primary interest is in meeting your child's and family's needs, sometimes you may feel that your message is not being heard or that you are simply just not able to say what you require in a way that achieves outcomes suited to your needs.

In these instances Xavier still has a primary interest in you being able to achieve your personal goals based on your family's need and individual circumstances. It is for this reason that Xavier would encourage you to use an advocate as it upholds our principles of empowering families and achieving the right type of supports for your family and child.

Using an advocate when required should always be seen as a positive action.

**YOU AND YOUR ADVOCATE CAN ACHIEVE TOGETHER OUTCOMES THAT
YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE ON YOUR OWN!**

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