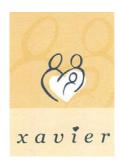
### INFORMATION FOR PARENTS on

## **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!

#### Produced by: XAVIER CHILDREN'S SUPPORT NETWORK

#### Southside

284 Pine Mountain Road MT GRAVATT EAST QLD 4122

Ph: 32168811 Fx: 32168778

e-mail: postmaster\_s@xcsn.org

#### **Northside**

1935 Gympie Road BALD HILLS QLD 4036

Ph: 32616950 Fx: 32616055

e-mail: postmaster\_n@xcsn.org