

Advocacy is about making sure that you have a choice, providing support to ensure you can exercise your rights.

RIAC provides information and Advocacy support to people with all types of disabilities, their families and carers, including

- The aged;
- The culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD); and
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

RIAC is accredited by the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs as a quality organisation that complies with the National Disability Advocacy Standards.

INFORMATION AND INTAKE

Freecall

1800 221 944

(not available from mobiles)

or

(03) 5822 1944

* Ask for a call back if you are on a mobile

National Relay Service:

133 677 - Voice Calls

1300 555 727 - Speak & Listen

Email: admin@riac.org.au

Website: www.riac.org.au

RIAC Offices are in:

SHEPPARTON

BENDIGO

MILDURA

GEELONG

RIAC 's Advocacy program is supported by the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and the Victorian Government.

ADVOCACY



RIAC

A FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL
SERVICE SUPPORTING PEOPLE

**'SPEAKING UP FOR
THEIR RIGHTS'**



advocacy

What can an advocate do?

An advocate is someone who will support you to make a decision or have your opinion heard, so that you are treated fairly.

An Advocate might:

- Speak on your behalf;
- Write a letter with you;
- Assist you to understand and resolve problems or complaints;
- Sit beside you in meetings to support you in the decisions you want to make;
- Gather information about other agencies / services that may be of assistance to you;
- Provide referral support to other services; and / or
- Assist you to advocate for yourself.

Understanding advocacy

ADVOCACY – to stand up for your rights or the rights of another person or group of people.

SELF ADVOCATE – to act as your own advocate to stand up for your rights.

ADVOCATE – to give the level of support required to enable a person to stand up for his or her rights.

INDIVIDUAL ADVOCACY – advocacy which focuses on upholding the rights of an individual.

SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY – advocacy which involves changes in systems and focuses on upholding the rights of a group of people.

EMPOWERMENT – a process whereby people are able to make decisions about their own lives.

SOCIAL JUSTICE – a concept of equity whereby individuals in society have access to goods and services regardless of race, gender, disability, age, culture or socio-economic status.

RIAC Advocates service these local government areas (LGAs):

Victoria

- Greater Shepparton
- Moira
- Strathbogie
- Mitchell
- Murrindindi
- Mildura Rural City
- Swan Hill Rural City
- Gannawarra
- Campaspe
- City of Greater Bendigo
- Mount Alexander
- Macedon Ranges
- Central Goldfields
- Loddon
- Buloke
- Greater Geelong
- Borough of Queenscliffe
- West Wimmera
- Hindmarsh
- Yarriambiack

New South Wales

- Wentworth Shire
- Balranald Shire



The history, culture, diversity and value of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, their Elders and Respected Persons are recognised and acknowledged.