

Advocacy for the people we support



What is advocacy?

Advocacy is acting, speaking or writing to promote, protect and defend the human rights of people.

Independent advocacy organisations are funded by government to help people who face complex challenges or are unable to advocate for themselves, and do not have family, friends or peers who can support them as informal advocates, to access advocacy support.

Who can be an advocate?

An advocate must be independent and act solely in the interests of the person who they are supporting.

An advocate is not independent if they, or the organisation they work for, might benefit in some way from influencing the outcomes of the advocacy – this would be a conflict of interest.

A conflict of interest can happen in many situations, for example, a support worker helping a person with disability to resolve a complaint about the disability service that employs the support worker.

Government-funded independent advocates can act solely on the side of the person and without a conflict of interest.

Can MIFWA be an advocate?

No. MIFWA is unable to advocate for the individuals we support, due to a conflict of interest.

However, MIFWA will support people to access an independent advocate organisation to assist in exercising choice and control and to have their voice heard in matters that affect them.

If you have any questions about advocacy, please speak to your support worker or contact MIFWA head office on 9237 8900 or info@mifwa.org.au

Advocacy services in Perth metro

Uniting WA (Your Say): Promotes and protects the rights of people with disability and those who identify as having a mental health issue. Call 1300 663 298 or [visit website](#)

People with Disabilities WA: Advocates for the rights and empowering the voices of people with disability in Western Australia. Call 9420 7279 or [visit website](#)

Youth Legal Services: Confidential legal advice, financial counselling and representation in Children's Court for young people (up to 25 years old). Call 9202 1688 or [visit website](#)

Sussex Street Community Law Services Inc. Individual Disability Advocacy Service (IDAS): Provides an NSDS-accredited advocacy services to people with disabilities, their family members and carers. Call 6253 9500 or [visit website](#)

Mental Health Advocacy Service: A free service supporting people who are receiving or referred for involuntary mental health treatment. Call 1800 999 057 or [visit website](#)

Southern Communities Advocacy Legal Education Service Inc. (SCALES): Provides free legal advice, information and representation to low-income people living in the Kwinana and Rockingham areas. Call 9550 0400 or [visit website](#)

Midlas: Community legal centre based in Midland, providing financial counselling, tenancy advocacy, disability advocacy and legal services to people in the North East Metro region of Perth. Call 9250 2123 or [visit website](#)

CoMHWA: Helps people with mental health challenges who face complex issues or unable to advocate for themselves (and do not have family, friends or peers who can support them as informal advocates) to access advocacy support. Call 08 9477 2809 or [visit website](#)

Helping Minds: Provides advocacy services for carers, ensuring their voices are heard when decisions are being made about the person they care for. Call 9477 2809 or [visit website](#)

Explorability: Advocacy for people with disability, their family and carers. Call 1800 290 690 or [visit website](#)

Kin Disability Advocacy: For people with disability from a culturally diverse background. Call 1800 659 921 or [visit website](#)

Mental Health Law Centre: Legal advice and representation for help people with chronic mental illness. Call 1800 620 285 or [visit website](#)

Health Consumers Council of WA: Supports anyone who has an issue in the WA Health System. Call 9221 3422 or [visit website](#)

