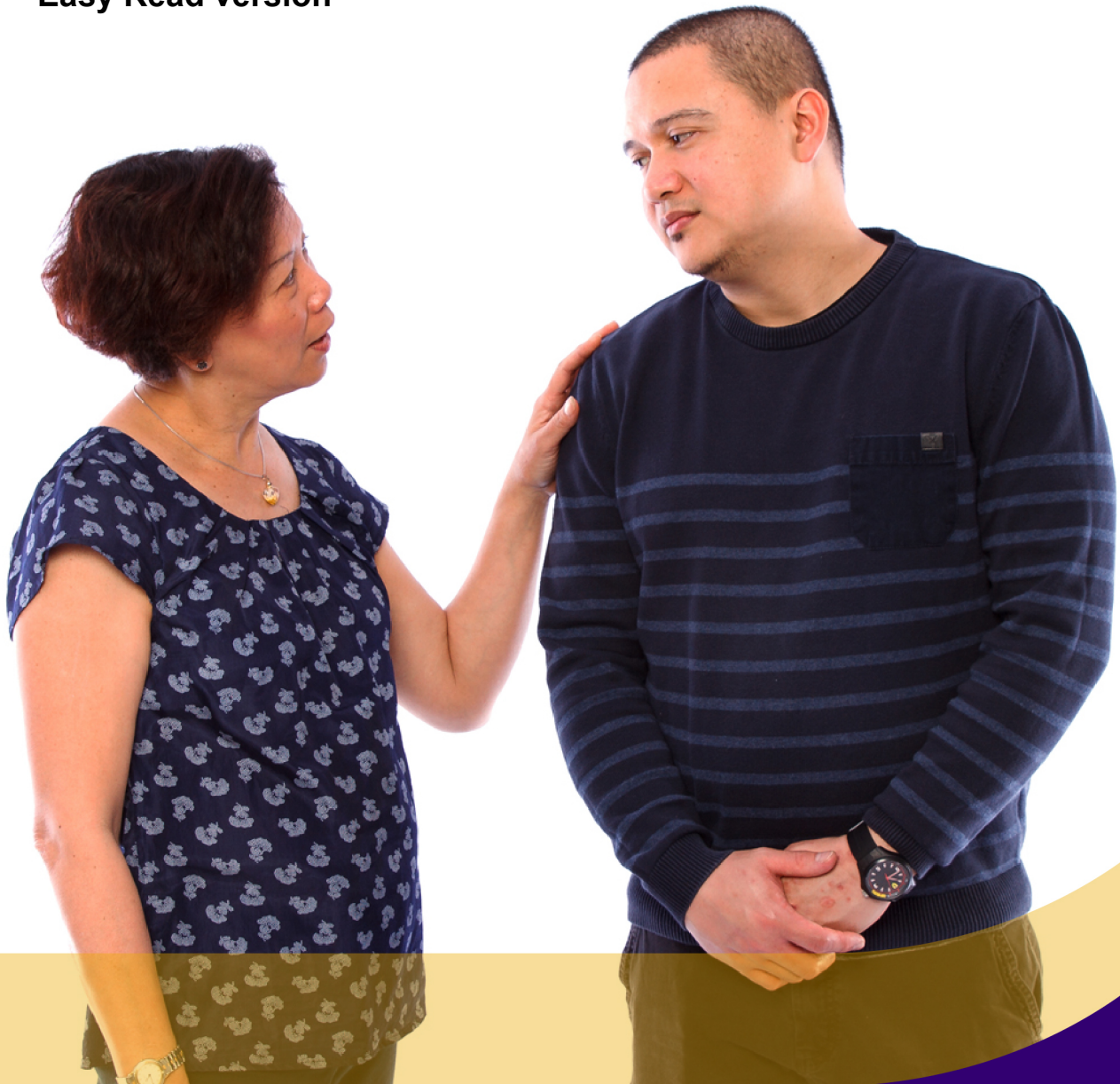


Independent Advocacy NQ

Brochure

Easy Read version



How to use this document



Independent Advocacy NQ wrote this document. You might know us as IANQ. When you see the word 'we', it means IANQ.



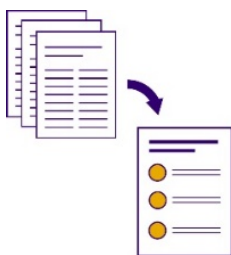
We wrote this information in an easy to read way. We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Not bold
Bold

We have written some words in **bold**. This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean. There is a list of these words on page 15.



This Easy Read document is a summary of another document. This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other document on our website at www.ianq.org.au



You can ask for help to read this document. A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

What's in this document?

What is advocacy?	4
What do we do?	5
How can we support you?	8
Who can use our services?	10
Where can you use our services?	13
Help with the NDIS	14
Word list	15
Contact us	18

What is advocacy?



Advocacy is when we speak up for another person.



Sometimes, people with disability need someone to speak up for them.



Advocates are people who speak up for others.



Self-advocacy is when you speak up for yourself.



Sometimes, we speak up about:

- unfair systems
- decisions the government makes.

We call this **systemic advocacy**.

What do we do?



Many people with disability experience **abuse**.

Abuse is when someone treats you badly.



Many people with disability experience **exploitation**.

Exploitation is when someone takes advantage of you.



Many people with disability experience **neglect**.

Neglect is when someone doesn't give you care and support you need how they are supposed to.



Many people with disability experience **discrimination**.



Discrimination is when someone treats you badly because of something about you that you can't change.

This might be your:



- age
- culture – your way of life or how you think or act because of how you grew up.
- disability
- sexuality – who you are attracted to.



We want our advocacy to stop these things.



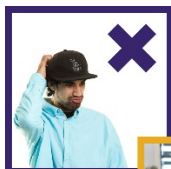
Rights are rules about how everybody should be treated fairly.



We stand up for people's rights.



Every person with disability is valuable.



People with disability should not be kept:

- on their own
- away from other people.

How can we support you?

To support you, we can:



- listen to you



- be your advocate



- make sure you are treated fairly



- make sure your rights are respected.

We are here to:



- guide you



- give you the information you need to make decisions that are right for you.



We can support you when you have problems with:

- services
- businesses
- government departments.



We can support you if you need to deal with the **justice system**.

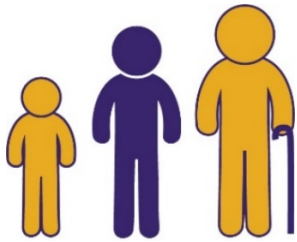


The justice system includes:

- police
- courts
- legal services
- prisons.

Who can use our services?

Our services are for people with disability of any:



- age



- background



- race or culture.



Your culture is how you:

- live your life
- think or act because of how you grew up.



It doesn't matter what type of disability you have.



Our services are also for people with mental illness.

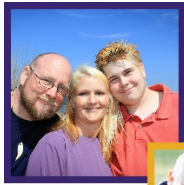


Our services are free.



You can contact us yourself.

Our contact details are on page 18.



Someone else can contact us for you, such as a:

- family member
- carer or support person
- support worker
- service provider.



If someone else contacts us for you, you can still choose if you want to use our services.

Where can you use our services?



We offer services across the north and north-west parts of Queensland.



If you live in different parts of Queensland, we might be able to help you.

Help with the NDIS



We can help you use and understand the NDIS.



We can help you if you don't agree with a decision the NDIS makes.



Sometimes, the NDIS reviews their decisions.

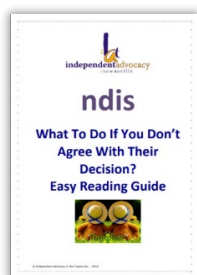


Or, sometimes, we need to go to the **Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT)**.



The AAT is a government organisation that makes some decisions about:

- NDIS plans
- who can use the NDIS.



We explain this in more detail in our Easy Read guide called 'What to do if you don't agree with their decision?'

Word list



Abuse

Abuse is when someone treats you badly.



Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT)

The AAT is a government organisation that makes some decisions about:

- NDIS plans
- who can use the NDIS.



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- disability
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- courts
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- prisons.



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Rights

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Self-advocacy is when you speak up for yourself.



Systemic advocacy

Sometimes, we speak up about:

- unfair systems
- decisions the government makes.

We call this systemic advocacy.

Contact us



1800 887 688 – this is a free call



reception@ianq.org.au



www.ianq.org.au



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