

## WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

The Latin word *advocare* means “to be called to stand beside”. Advocacy may be defined as the act of pleading for or supporting the cause of a vulnerable person.

Advocare has been funded to support residents in aged care facilities (nursing homes and hostels) and people who are entitled to receive support from Government funded community care services to exercise their rights.

While family members and staff may act as advocates, there are circumstances in which having an independent advocate may be helpful.

### **Advocacy:**

- Supports people to speak out for their own interests and rights
- Supports people to work together to ensure their rights are respected
- Protects human rights which may be at risk due to a person’s vulnerability, particularly when the person is frail or has a disability
- Stands by someone and speaks out with them or on their behalf
- Ensures appropriate service delivery and responses
- Supports and strengthens the communities and environments in which people live and interact
- Educates service providers and the community about rights

### **Advocates assist by:**

- Informing people of their rights
- Providing information
- Assisting people to identify options and make choices
- Discussing concerns with service providers
- Referring to appropriate agencies

**Advocare can be contacted on 9479 7566 1800 655 566 (Country callers)  
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