

*family*

A D V O C A C Y

PO Box 502  
Epping NSW 1710

305/16-18 Cambridge St  
Epping NSW 2121

Phone: (02) 9869 0866  
Facsimile: (02) 9869 0722

Record

221

File Number

10196

Author: Unknown

Title: Parent Advocacy

Original source: Unknown

Resource type: Written

Publication Date: N/A

Publisher info: -

### Abstract

This brief information sheet provides a definition of parent advocacy and what it is not, and some of the things a parent advocacy group can do. Addresses of two Queensland and New South Wales advocacy groups are given. **Keyword: Advocacy**

## PARENT ADVOCACY

### ***PARENT ADVOCACY IS:***

- : Supporting parents and encouraging them to be independent rather than dependent on an advocate.
- : A partnership - sharing of knowledge and skills
- : Assisting parents to identify a problem, and ways to go about solving it
- : Assisting parents to develop strategies and negotiation skills.
- : Linking parents with appropriate support services and regional personnel
- : Networking with other disability groups, parent organisations and support groups.

### ***PARENT ADVOCACY IS NOT:***

- : Legal advocacy
- : Making decisions for parents
- : Doing all the talking
- : Making them dependent

### ***PARENT ADVOCACY ORGANISATIONS***

e.g. **Action for People with Disabilities (NSW);**  
Mona Vale Rd (cnr Rosedale Rd) St Ives 2075 (02) 9449 5355

### **QPPD (Queensland Parents of People with Disabilities)**

169 Given Tce Paddington 4064 (07) 3368 3055

Parent advocacy in this context, is advocacy by groups of parents, it is group advocacy or issue advocacy, by parents.

Naturally, parents do a lot of advocacy for themselves and their children - all parents have to do this - the difference when the child has a disability is largely one of degree, given the special difficulties and needs and the lack of resources with which they may be addressed.

Other parents see that strength lies in numbers, that groups may be able to effect change where individuals cannot.

*Some things parent advocacy groups can do are:*

- Lobby governments
- Write submissions
- Represent parents on inter-departmental consultancy committees
- They sometimes conduct or become embroiled in media campaigns.