

Participants benefit from:

- A greater knowledge of advocacy concepts and principles
- A deeper understanding of personal values
- A stronger appreciation of the disability standards and legislative principles
- A stronger framework for dealing with advocacy-related issues
- A “tool box “ full of practical ideas/strategies



The Advocacy for Inclusion Training can be used as part of staff's professional development program.



The training program can be tailored to suit your requirements.



If you would like more information about the To Stand Beside: Advocacy for Inclusion Training course please contact the VALID office.



TO STAND BESIDE: Advocacy for Inclusion Training Program



VALID

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Victorian Advocacy League for Individuals with Disability Inc

VALID

The advocacy training program is a two day intensive workshop aimed at disability support workers, family members, planners, coordinators, managers and paid or unpaid advocates who are involved in supporting, assisting or representing people with disabilities.

Supporting the training and development of effective advocates for people with disability.

Feedback from staff at Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service

"I thought it was fabulous, I learned about the different styles of advocacy. It's given me more confidence and understanding of what kind of advocate am I today? What does that person need from me now to help them?"

"A really good course, very informative. Looking at it from legal training, we have to be very careful about advocacy for a number of people. In short I thought it was really good -- as we got into it, I found it more informative and substantive."

"It was good. If you are going to do (advocacy) really well, this training is invaluable, really interesting, useful, inspiring. The inspiration gives you a new impetus or motivation -- it affects the attitude you do your job with this, because you get a bit, not stale, but you think what you are doing is the right thing; it's nice to have that reinforced. It reinvigorates you."

"I loved it, thought it was brilliant... This training needs to be mandatory for every disability worker in the world; no, make that every human being in the world - and beyond..."

The training program comprises six modules:

1 Power

What do we mean when we talk about "empowerment"? Why are some people considered to be "disempowered"? Why is it important that parents, direct care workers and professionals be conscious of the "power differential" in their relationships with vulnerable people? The program identifies potential conflicts of interest and proposes strategies for minimising them.

2 Mission

What is the history of advocacy? What are the different models of advocacy, both formal and informal? The program identifies the values and principles underpinning current advocacy practice, and encourages participants to reflect on their own values and principles.

3 Vision

What is advocacy trying to achieve? Why is it important that parents, direct care workers and managers have a good understanding of their own personal values? What are the values that underpin legislative principles and service standards?

4 Roles

The VALID model of advocacy is focused on the empowerment of the individual with a disability. In pursuing this aim, the effective advocate needs to have a clear understanding of the various roles they might play as Ally, Defender or Champion.

5 Skills

What are the skills and qualities displayed by effective advocates? Why do some people seem to have more power and influence than others? The program leads participants to reflect on their own qualities, attributes and skills, and highlights the need for flexibility, creativity, diligence and integrity.

6 Method

This module draws together elements from each of the previous discussions, and leads participants through an eight-step decision making process. This process is designed to equip participants with a method for sorting out problematic issues, and for developing a firm, clear advocacy action plan.