

WHAT IS CITIZEN ADVOCACY?

Citizen Advocacy is a community based movement. It to recognise, promote and protect the welfare and interests of people who have disabilities.

Citizen Advocacy recruits and supports ordinary members of the community, caring and responsible citizens, who are prepared to act in an unpaid capacity, to make a positive difference in the life of a person with a disability. People who may be alone, face difficult challenges or be in a risky situation.

Each Citizen Advocacy relationship is unique. A citizen advocate may offer a person with disability spokespersonship and protection, the experience of family, new experiences and opportunities and friendship.

Citizen Advocacy establishes and supports one-on-one relationships between a person who has a disability, who has unmet needs in one of more important life areas with a citizen, who is resourceful, principled and free from conflicts of interest.

The citizen advocate makes a voluntary personal commitment to the person to provide some of the practical and emotional support required to help meet that person's needs.

Advocates are recruited matched, orientated and supported by a Capricorn Citizen Advocacy program.

"Its a little embarrassing that after 45 years of research and study, the best advice I can give people is to be a little kinder to each other."

Aldous Huxley 1894-1963

Call in, email or ring us to find out more, or to let us know about somebody who would benefit from having a citizen advocate.

You may even wish to be that person yourself.



A way for ordinary people to make a positive difference in the life of a person with disability.



Capricorn Citizen Advocacy Inc is funded by the Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services.



WHO IS CAPRICORN CITIZEN ADVOCACY?

We are a small state government funded Not-For-Profit organisation based in Rockhampton established in 2000. We facilitate 'matches' to help people with disabilities. A match is an everyday relationship carefully recruited between a person with disabilities;

- Who is vulnerable; and
- Has significant unmet needs.

With...

An everyday citizen who is;

- Competent, principled and resourceful.
- Committed to the person with disability.

Citizen advocates work in an unpaid capacity. They aim to meet some of that person's needs as if they were their own.

HOW CAN I BECOME INVOLVED?

Community support and involvement are at the core of what we do.

You can become personally involved in Capricorn Citizen Advocacy by;

1. Becoming a Citizen Advocate.
2. Joining our organisation as a member.
3. Joining the Management Committee.
4. Becoming an Advocate Associate - someone with skills and knowledge in particular areas who can support Citizen Advocates by providing advice.
5. Bringing to our attention the situation of a person with a disability who is vulnerable and who has unmet needs.

Capricorn Citizen Advocacy

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WHO ARE CITIZEN ADVOCATES?

They are people who:

- believe in the right of all people to be treated with dignity and respect.
- Don't look for material rewards for helping someone in need.
- Genuinely make a commitment to a person with disability.
- Have high expectations about what people with disabilities can achieve with the right support.
- Demonstrate by their actions and attitudes that people with disability have the same needs and interests as any other person.

Citizen advocates come from all walks of life.

Each brings with them a very individual range of life experiences and expertise. Citizen Advocates can make a positive difference in their community.

Bad things happen when good people remain silent. "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

Edmund Burke 1729 - 1797