



RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOC SA INC

215 Portrush Road MAYLANDS SA 5069

PHONE : (08) 8331 1833

FAX : (08) 8331 1188

WEB : www.rdasa.org.au

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Policy 32

ADVOCACY POLICY

<i>Policy Established:</i>	<i>May 2004</i>	<i>Version:</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Reviewed:</i>	<i>July 2006, June 2009</i>	<i>Next Review Date:</i>	<i>June 2010</i>

Introduction

RDA SA is committed to ensuring its clients are aware of their right to be supported by advocates who may intercede on the client's behalf in their dealings with the organisation.

Authorisation

State Manager
Riding for the Disabled Association SA Inc

Policy

RDA SA clients have a right to appoint advocates who may intercede on the client's behalf in their dealings with the organisation.

RDA SA will ensure its clients are aware of and able to access information about advocacy, are regularly informed of their right to use an advocate, and are encouraged to exercise this right.

Procedure

What is an Advocate?

An advocate is a person who, with the authority of the client, represents the client's interests. Clients may use an advocate, of their choice, to negotiate on their behalf. This may be a family member, friend, teacher, caseworker or advocacy service.

Advocates will be accepted by RDA SA as representing the interests of the client, and may be used during assessments, reviews, complaints or for any other communication between the client and RDA SA.

Appointing an Advocate

- Staff/volunteers will inform clients they have the right to use an advocate, and will regularly remind clients of this option.
- Clients wishing to use an advocate should inform RDA SA (either the Centre Management or State Office) in writing of the name of the person they wish to negotiate on their behalf.
- Clients may access information about advocacy from service agencies including:
 - **Disability Information Resource Centre** – www.dircsa.org.au
or Free call 1300 305 558



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- The client has a right to change their advocate at any time and should inform RDA SA in writing of any change.
- RDA SA understands a client may choose to self-advocate, change advocates, or revoke an advocate's authority to act on their behalf at any time.
- This information is available in the Client's Handbook and on the RDA SA website (www.rdasa.org.au) and should be explained at formal assessments, reviews and through informal discussion.
- RDA SA staff/volunteers will receive training in the use of advocates.

Responsibility

The RDA SA Board is responsible for the implementation and review of this policy.

All RDA SA Board members, casual, permanent and contract staff and volunteers are responsible for adhering to this policy.

Acknowledgments

Nil

Authorised: Date:.....
State Manager