Making disability advocacy better in the future

Victorian disability advocacy futures plan 2018–2020: Easy read summary

# A message from the Minister

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| Minister Martin Foley is wearing a blue suit and smiling | My name is Martin Foley.  I am a member of **Parliament.** |
| Inside a circle is a woman in a wheelchair, an older man smiling and a house. | I am the Minister in charge of:   * housing * disability * ageing. |
| An excited woman using a wheelchair raises her hands in the air and smiles | I believe **disability advocacy** and **self advocacy** are really important. |
| A woman stands and speaks into a megaphone. | Advocacy and self advocacy can help people with disability to have their say about things that are important to them. |
| A man pumps his left fist in the air to show he likes having a plan | This book is an easy read summary of the ‘Victorian disability advocacy futures plan 2018-2020’. |
| [A person giving a thumbs down and holding a card with a red X. Then the same person is giving a thumbs up and holding a sign with a green tick to show things getting better](https://www.photosymbols.com/products/improve) | In this book we will tell you all the things we are going to do to make advocacy and self advocacy better. |
| A man with a blue shirt is giving two thumbs up to show happiness | Thank you to everyone who shared their ideas that helped make the book. |
|  | **Martin Foley**  **Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing** |

# About this book

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| A man pumps his left fist in the air to show he likes having a plan | In this book we will call the Victorian disability advocacy futures plan ‘the plan’ |
| Victorian Government Logo | In this book the word ‘we’ means the **Victorian Government.** |
| A group of people whose families come from different countries | In this book we say **‘disability advocacy groups’**.  This includes people in self advocacy groups. |
| Big words | In this book hard words are in **bold.**  On pages 26, 27 and 28 we have a list of hard words and what they mean. |

# What is disability advocacy

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| An excited woman using a wheelchair raises her hands in the air | **Disability advocacy** is about helping people with disability to get their rights. |
| A woman stands and speaks into a megaphone. | Disability advocacy groups also help people with disability by doing self advocacy.  **Self advocacy** is:   * speaking up for your rights * helping other people speak up for their rights. |
| two people talking and listening | Disability advocacy groups help people with disability by doing individual advocacy  **Individual advocacy** is:   * supporting people with disability about problems they are having. |
| 3 protesters hold signs to stop abuse | Disability advocacy groups help people with disability by doing systemic advocacy.  **Systemic advocacy** is:   * making bigger changes by doing things like changing **policy** or the **law**. |

# How we made the plan

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| A woman rests her index finger on her chin while thinking. Two thought bubbles float above her head like clouds | To make the plan we asked people how to make **disability advocacy** better. |
| A young man in a red t-shirt raises his arm to ask a question | We asked people lots of questions to get their ideas. |
| Two women are sitting together at a table. One is helping the other to complete a form | Lots of people and groups sent us their ideas. |
| Self Advocacy Resource Unit (SARU) logo | The Self Advocacy Resource Unit spoke to self advocates to get their ideas. |
| Disability Advocacy Resource Unit (DARU) logo | The Disability Advocacy Resource Unit spoke to individual advocates to get their ideas. |

# Making advocacy better in the future

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| Two people sitting down and talking to each other | When we made the plan we asked people to tell us why we need **disability advocacy.** |
| A woman rests her index finger on her chin while thinking. Two thought bubbles float above her head like clouds | People gave us lots of ideas.  We used these ideas to make a **vision statement**.  A **vision statement** is what we want to see in the future. |
| A person giving a thumbs down and holding a card with a red X. Then the same person is giving a thumbs up and holding a sign with a green tick to show things getting better | Our vision statement says we want things to happen to make disability advocacy better in the future. |
| A man raising his left fist in the air for rights | We want people with disability to be leaders in **disability advocacy** groups. |
| A group of people whose families come from different countries | We want **disability advocacy** to include everyone. |
| A group of four excited people from different backgrounds with different disabilities. Four empty speech bubbles are in the background behind them. | We want **disability advocacy** to make sure people with disability:   * have rights |
| A smiling man waves to show he is okay | * have a good life. |
| Ivan stands with his back to Rupert who points at him with his finger | We want disability advocacy groups to be **independent**.  **Independent** means having control of what you say and do. |

# More money for disability advocacy

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| NDIS logo | More people need disability advocacy because of the NDIS. |
| A group of people sitting around a table | This means **disability advocacy** groups are very busy. |
| A bag of money with a dollar symbol on the front | We will give extra money to **disability advocacy** groups. |
| A man holding up a checklist | This plan will tell you how we are going to use the extra money. |

# How the plan works

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| Three calendars for three years: 2018, 2019 and 2020 | The plan will start this year in 2018.  The plan will keep going in 2019. |
| 31 december | The plan will finish on  31 December 2020. |
| A bag of money with a dollar symbol on the front | The plan has 22 actions.  The actions include money we will give to **disability advocacy** groups. |
| two people talking and listening | The actions also include things we will do to help **disability advocacy** groups. |
| A woman points at a board with four different coloured squares on it | The plan has 4 parts.  Each part is about a different thing.  Each part has actions.  Every action has a number. |

# Part 1 – Including everyone

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| Three people from different backgrounds in a circle the an arrow at the top | Part 1 is about making sure that **disability advocacy** includes everyone. |
| A bag of money with a dollar symbol on the front | **Action 1.1**  We will give money to **disability advocacy** groups to do projects. |
| A group of six people from different backgrounds | Projects could help give different groups better advocacy including: |
| An Aboriginal woman sitting on a bench with an Aboriginal flag in the background | * Aboriginal people |
| A younger woman and an older man seated on two chairs and reading | * people who are hard to get to, for example people in homes for older people |
| 2 men embracing each other | * people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender |
| A mother sits in an armchair and holds her child's hand | * parents with disability.   This includes parents with intellectual disability. |
| A man and woman stand next to a flip chart and point at the page while facing the front and smiling. | **Action 1.2**  We will help **disability advocacy** groups tell other groups about their work.  This will help groups to learn from each other. |
| Photo of 6 people at work in a house-shaped frame with the word 'Workplace' underneat. One has a tray of cupcakes, one wears a builder's vest, another is sitting at a computer. There are 3 others in the background. | **Action 1.3**  We will help **disability advocacy** groups give paid jobs to all people with disability. |
| Man leading a discussion and pointing to the whiteboard he is leaning on | We will help disability advocacy groups support people with disability to be leaders.  This is so people with disability can make important decisions about what advocacy groups do. |
| A group of six people from different backgrounds | **Action 1.4**  We will do other things to support disability advocacy groups include everyone. |
| Two women are high fiving. Above them there are speech bubbles with different langauges | For example we will give people information about disability advocacy in different languages. |

# Part 2 – Working together

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| Group of people taking with man listening | Part 2 is about **disability advocacy** groups working together.  It is also about supporting different kinds of **disability advocacy**. |
| A bag of money with a dollar symbol on the front | **Action 2.1**  We will give money to **disability advocacy** groups to do projects about: |
| 3 protesters hold signs to stop abuse | * doing systemic advocacy to make big changes |
| Group of people taking with man listening | * working with other groups. |
| A woman stands and speaks into a megaphone. | **Action 2.2**  We will help **disability advocacy** groups tell people about important issues for people with disability. |
| Three men sit around a table in a meeting room | **Action 2.3**  We will help disability advocacy groups find places to meet that are:   * free * do not cost much money to use. |
| 3 protesters hold signs to stop abuse | **Action 2.4**  We will tell government departments about   * advocacy projects which are trying to make bigger changes to **policy** or the **law** |
| A woman stands and speaks into a megaphone. | * advocacy projects which are supporting people to speak up for their rights. |

# Part 3 – Advocacy when and where people need it

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| Woman looking at her watch to check the time | Part 3 of the plan is about giving disability advocacy to people:   * where they need it * when they need it. |
| A bag of money is on the left. An arrow points from the money to a group of self advocates | **Action 3.1**  We will give extra money to 24 groups supported by the Victorian Disability Advocacy Program.  This will be 25 per cent more money than they are getting now.  This will be for 2 years. |
| A bag of money with a dollar symbol on the front | **Action 3.2**  We will give money to disability advocacy groups to do projects about: |
| A group of around 20 people from different background and with different disabilities. There is also a guide dog in the front. | * helping people get more advocacy * telling more people about disability advocacy |
| A women points to a white board as she teaches people. Underneath is written 'Training room' | * helping disability and self advocates to learn new things. |
| magnifying glass focuses on a man standing and talking to another man using a wheelchair | **Action 3.3**  We will ask someone to do some **research**. |
| man talking on a mobile phone | **Research** is when you find out more about something. |
| woman interviewing a man | The **research** will try and find out:   * an easier way for people with disability and families to find disability advocacy groups * how to give people looking for advocacy more information.   This could be about things like waiting lists. |

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| two people talking and listening | **Action 3.4**  We are doing work to change attitudes about people with disability.  When we do this work we will: |
| Two people sitting down and talking to each other | * talk about the work disability advocacy groups do to change attitudes * ask government departments to include disability advocacy groups in their work to change attitudes. |
| A ring-bound book with the word 'rules' and purple tick on the front cover | **Action 3.5**  We will make sure that disability advocacy groups know important rules. |
| A woman raises her right index finger as she complains to a man wearing a suit. | For example rules about people making complaints. |
| A certificate with a fancy border | **Action 3.6**  We will we find out more about qualifications for disability advocates.  A **qualification** proves you can do something. |
| A woman on her mobile phone. Around her is an empty speech bubble and a speech bubble with a question mark | **Action 3.7**  We will work with disability advocacy groups to find better ways to help people when they call them. |
| Group of people taking with man listening | This could be to:   * work out what people need from their group * give people the help they need. |

# Part 4 – Planning for the future

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| A person sits at a desk writing. In the background are shadows of other people. Underneath is written, 'Plan' | Part 4 of the plan is about planning for the future. |
| A bag of money with a dollar symbol on the front | **Action 4.1**  We will give money to disability advocacy groups to do projects about: |
| 3 people planning | * helping disability advocacy groups plan for the future |
| A group of people sitting around a table | * finding better ways to see if disability advocacy is working. |
| magnifying glass focuses on a man standing and talking to another man using a wheelchair | **Action 4.2**  We will ask someone to help us find better ways to measure:   * how well advocacy is working * how advocacy makes a difference to people with disability. |
| Woman holds her hands above her head in a fist. A banner in front of her reads 'strong' | **Action 4.3**  We will work with the **Commonwealth Government** to help them make sure advocacy is strong all over Australia. |
| A group of people sitting around a table | **Action 4.4**  We will talk to disability advocacy groups about this plan.  We will ask them if the plan is working.  We will do this at forums and meetings. |
| A woman and man are facing each other and speech bubbles are coming out of their mouths to indicate talking. | **Action 4.5**  We will ask people what they think about this plan.  We will ask them what we should put in the next plan. |
| A man holding up a checklist | **Action 4.6**  We will make it easier for disability advocacy groups collect information about the work they do. |
| A woman using a desktop computer | **Action 4.7**  We will make it easier for disability advocacy groups to give us information about the work that they do. |

# More information

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| A laptop with a link on its screen. The hand-shaped pointer hovers over the link. | You can get this book on the [disability advocacy futures webpage](http://www.statedisabilityplan.vic.gov.au/advocacy-futures).  <http://www.statedisabilityplan.vic.gov.au/advocacy-futures> |
| hand writing address on a postal envelope | We can send you this book by in the post. |
| woman on phone | You can phone the Office for Disability on:  **1300 880 043**. |
| Email icon on a laptop screen | You can [email the Office for Disability](mailto:disabilityadvocacy@dhhs.vic.gov.au)  **<disabilityadvocacy@dhhs.vic.gov.au>** |
| The national relay service logo | You can phone using the National Relay Service on:  **133 36 77**. |
| The symbol for interpreters | You can phone using the Telephone Interpreter Service on:  **131 450**. |

# Hard words

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| A group of around 20 people from different background and with different disabilities. There is also a guide dog in the front. | **Parliament** is a group of people who have been voted to represent everyone.  Parliament make laws and decisions about how to spend public money. |
| An excited woman using a wheelchair raises her hands in the air and smiles | **Disability advocacy** is about helping people with disability to get their rights.  **Disability advocacy** includes self advocacy, individual advocacy and systemic advocacy. |
| A woman stands and speaks into a megaphone. | **Self advocacy** is:   * speaking up for your rights * helping other people speak up for their rights. |
| two people talking and listening | **Individual advocacy** is:   * supporting people with disability about problems they are having. |
| 3 protesters hold signs to stop abuse | **Systemic Advocacy** is:  • making bigger changes by doing things like changing policy or the law. |
| Victorian Government Logo | The **Victorian Government** is the government in change of Victoria. |
| A woman rests her index finger on her chin while thinking. Two thought bubbles float above her head like clouds | A **vision statement** says what we want something to be like in the future. |
| Ivan stands with his back to Rupert who points at him with his finger | **Independent** meanshaving control of what you say and do. |
| A person sits at a desk writing. In the background are shadows of other people. Underneath is written, 'Plan' | A **policy** is a plan that says what the government is going to do about something.  **Policy** can also mean what the government thinks about something. |
| A ring-bound book with the word 'rules' and purple tick on the front cover | A **law** is a rule made by the government. |
| magnifying glass focuses on a man standing and talking to another man using a wheelchair | **Research** is when you find out more about something.  **Research** can mean learning from books. It can also mean talking to people to find out more. |
| A map of Australia | **Commonwealth Government** is the government in charge of the whole of Australia. |
| A certificate with a fancy border | A **qualification** proves you can do something. |

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| To receive this publication in an accessible format phone  1300 880 043, using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or [email the Office for Disability](mailto:disabilityadvocacy@dhhs.vic.gov.au) <disabilityadvocacy@dhhs.vic.gov.au>  Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.  © State of Victoria, Department of Health and Human Services, October 2018.  Except where otherwise indicated, the images in this publication show models and illustrative settings only, and do not necessarily depict actual services, facilities or recipients of services. This publication may contain images of deceased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.  Where the term ‘Aboriginal’ is used it refers to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Indigenous is retained when it is part of the title of a report, program or quotation.  ISBN 978-1-76069-692-4 (pdf/onlineMS word)  Available on the [Advocacy futures webpage](http://www.statedisabilityplan.vic.gov.au/advocacy-futures). <http://www.statedisabilityplan.vic.gov.au/advocacy-futures>  Pictures by Photosymbols, State of Victoria and the Commonwealth Government.  Made with photosymbols |