



About ADEC

ADEC is the leading agency in the field of disability and ethnicity. It is the only agency that combines advocacy with the provision of support directly to people with a disability. Our ultimate vision is equality in all areas for people with a disability. We know that isolation, stigma and lack of information and knowledge prevent many people from taking their full place in our community. ADEC connects people with disability from diverse backgrounds to services and the overall community. We need to do more to achieve equality, so we work with government, service providers and other organisations so they are in a better position to include and engage with people with a disability from different backgrounds into their service systems. After all, we are all working with the same people.

What is Advocacy?

Advocacy is an intrinsic part of what we do at ADEC and takes many forms. To achieve equality, ADEC works with people with a disability and their families, empowering them to make their own decision, and ensuring they develop the confidence to include themselves in society and the various systems and processes. The second part of ADEC's advocacy is to work with agencies, government and other decision-making bodies to ensure the delivery of culturally-appropriate services and that people with a disability from different cultural backgrounds are included in decision-making processes.

Who can be assisted by ADEC Advocacy?

- The person with a disability or their direct family must come from a non-English speaking background.
- The level of English is no barrier to accessing ADEC staff or activities.
- We work with people and families from a broad range of ethnic backgrounds and who may experience any one or more recognised disability. You or a family member may have a physical, intellectual, sensory disability, may suffer from an acquired brain injury or experience developmental delay or autism spectrum disorder, or may experience mental ill health.
- There is no cost to the person or their family.

How to get to ADEC?

We can visit you in your home or other preferred venue. However, if you come to ADEC, you can use public transport:

Tram: Plenty Road route, tram No. 86, stop No. 45.

Train: Epping line, get off at Bell Station.

Bus: Stop No. 513 on Bell Street.

You will find ADEC on the corner of Plenty Road and Garnett Street, Preston. We are a very short walk south of Bell Street.

Do you want more information?

If you would like to know anything else about ADEC's Advocacy program, contact:

The Intake Officer

ADEC

175 Plenty Road, Preston, Vic. 3072

Ph. (03) 9480 1666 Fax. (03) 9480 3444

Toll free: 1800 626 078

Web: www.adec.org.au



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Advocacy



ADEC Advocacy:



Individual Advocacy

A person with a disability from a diverse cultural background may need support and assistance for a short time from an Advocate in situations where the person believes their rights have been breached. The person may not understand the service system, they may believe they are being denied access to a service, not treated with respect, they may believe they are being given incorrect or incomplete information or just given the “run-around.” Sometimes, a person with a disability may be unsure about what are the implications of certain decisions they are being asked to make.

The Advocate's role is to stand with the person with a disability to make sure they can assert their rights and make their own lifestyle choices and decisions.

Family Advocacy

The Advocate may be asked to assist a family or parents of a person with a disability to help them act as advocates on behalf of the family member with a disability. The ADEC advocate works with family members for a short time on particular issues. Family members work with the Advocate on the principle that it is the rights and interests of the person with a disability that is to be upheld at all times.



Self Advocacy

This is where an ADEC Advocate works with one or a group of people with a disability to foster the development of the personal skills and self-confidence needed to enable them to advocate on their own behalf. The Advocate educates people with disability about their rights so they know how to stand up for themselves and be better skilled to identify instances of discrimination, abuse or neglect, and even what to do about it.

What should you do if you need the support of an Advocate?

1. Telephone ADEC and ask to speak to the Intake Officer. This person will talk to you about what is happening to you and will also ask to meet you either at ADEC or in your preferred place. We call this the Intake procedure.
2. The Intake Officer will ask you some questions and if you agree to become a client, you will fill out some forms. You will be asked to sign a number of forms, including consent forms.
3. The file containing information about your situation will be given to one of the Advocates, who will make contact with you to make an appointment.

4. You and the Advocate will meet and together, develop a plan for the type of Advocacy or support you need to achieve what you want.
5. If you need an interpreter, we will arrange for one at no cost to you. We can organise an interpreter either for telephone discussions or face-to-face meetings.
6. You are welcome to withdrawn from ADEC at any time, even before your issues are resolved.
7. If ADEC does not meet your expectations or if you want to complain, you are most welcome to talk to the Advocate or someone else at ADEC to lodge a complaint or talk about your dissatisfaction.

How to make a referral for someone to see an Advocate

If you are a person with a disability, friend or family member, service provider or professional worker, and either you or someone you know or care for needs Advocacy support, you are most welcome to telephone the Intake Officer to have a general discussion about your concerns. We call this a referral. If the Intake Officer believes we can support this person, the officer will contact him/her to see what we can do and if she/he wants our support. We only work with individuals if that person wants ADEC to support them.

