



Queensland Advocacy Incorporated

Our mission is to promote, protect and defend, through advocacy, the fundamental needs and rights and lives of the most vulnerable people with disability in Queensland.

Systems and Individual Advocacy for vulnerable People with Disability

Are you interested in Human Rights and Disability issues? Then a membership with Queensland Advocacy Incorporated (QAI) could be for you.

A membership would broaden your knowledge around these issues and provide an opportunity to become involved with the advocacy efforts of this organisation.

QAI's advocacy efforts, whether individual or systems, seeks to and achieves great improvement in the lives of vulnerable people with disability through promoting, protecting and defending their fundamental needs rights.

Our members have helped us achieve a lot in the past year as these highlights below show!

- Active partnership in the Campaign for a Human Rights Act for Queensland - Our government has now passed this legislation and the Anti-Discrimination Commission will soon become the Human Rights Commission of Qld.
- National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018.
- We held a forum to launch our pamphlets that were illustrated by a young woman with disability and the videos that were filmed with actors with disability to raise awareness of violence and abuse and other forms of control and power over people with disability
- We have advocated to change the inaccessibility of the NGR trains
- QAI has continued to have the criminal code changes to ensure that parents with disability are supported to keep their families together, and to maintain their rights to relationships
- Produced factsheets on My Health Record
- Held a stall for two days at the Care Expo and provided information and advice to those who attended
- Assisted students with disability and their families towards better outcomes at schools
- Advanced a collaborative effort for a national Human Rights Act
- Made submissions to ensure that the DSP was still provided to prisoners with disability
- Gave oral and written submissions to the state government about the reshaping of the Disability Services Act

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QAI endorses the objectives, and promotes the principles, of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Patron: His Excellency The Honorable Paul de Jersey AC

- Our advocacy with allies resulted in the ratification of OPCAT and continued advocacy to ensure that inspectorates will be held wherever people with disability are subjected to detention, and forms of restrictions and control
- Held the State conference of Combined Advocacy Groups of Qld
- Participated in actions to improve the Mental Health Tribunal processes to ensure better and fairer outcomes for people with mental illness
- Continued to advocate for review and changes to the Forensic Disability Service
- With partner ADA Australia delivered training
- Provided input to the state government regarding advocacy in Queensland
- Continued to advocate and agitate for changes to the NDIS particularly in relation to SDA and SILS, boarding houses and hostels. This has been directed at a national and state level across many government departments
- Continued to agitate for improved access to state funded supports and services for non-NDIS participants or for needs outside the NDIS.
- Advocated for a Royal Commission into the abuse and neglect of people with disability
- Applied for and received funding to attend the Convention of State Parties in New York 2019 along with two emerging leaders with disability
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Our individual advocacy engages with issues of guardianship, involuntary treatment and detention, criminal justice system and NDIS Appeals and Reviews.

We are proud of what we have been able to do and we could not have done it without the support of our members!

2019 and 2020 is gearing up to be full of exciting work!

A project QAI is currently working is to:

- Develop a website to raise awareness of and provide information about authentic supports and advocacy for people experiencing forms of violence, abuse, coercion, control and neglect. We aim to create this user-friendly website and to enlist our allies to help us make this a national platform so that no matter where you live you will find the help you need.
- Prepare to support people with disability in having their say about their experiences in the Royal Commission into abuse, neglect of people with disability.



As a member of QAI, you will receive a quarterly newsletter, notifications about current work, media releases and invitations to upcoming events.

In the next few months we hope to bring people with disability together in discussion groups to be part of the QAI advocacy around the issues that affect their lives.

Our systems advocacy team regularly write submissions on various topics and these are uploaded to our website as well as through our social media on Twitter (@QldAdvocacy) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/queenslandadvocacy)

If you would like to become a member, please fill out the attached membership form and return it to qai@qai.org.au .

Membership is \$30 for people in full-time employment and free for people who aren't working.

Usually our members renew their membership every July; however for people who join before July this year, a fee will not be incurred again until July 2020.

Thank you for your support,

B.C. ALBURY

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