

# Individual advocacy

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# Individual advocacy

## Identifying and definitional attributes

**Metadata item type:** Glossary Item

**METEOR identifier:** 494982

**Registration status:** [Health](#), Superseded 16/01/2020

**Definition:** Individual advocacy includes services that seek to represent the rights and interests of people with a mental illness, on a one-to-one basis, by addressing instances of discrimination, abuse and neglect.

Individual advocates work with people with mental illness on either a short-term or issue-specific basis.

Individual advocates:

- work with people with mental illness requiring one-to-one advocacy support
- develop a plan of action (sometimes called an individual advocacy plan), in partnership with the person with a mental illness, that maps out clearly defined goals
- educate people with mental illness about their rights
- work through the individual advocacy plan in partnership with the person with a mental illness (FaHCSIA 2012).

**Context:** Mental health non-government organisation establishments service type taxonomy.

## Collection and usage attributes

**Guide for use:** *Distinguishing features:*

- One-on-one services
- Primary service provided is advocacy
- Development of a plan of action
- Educate people with a mental illness about their rights

*Inclusions:*

- Individual advocacy
- Legal advocacy

*Exclusions:*

- Systemic advocacy (these are reported under [Sector development and representation](#))
- Individual advocacy in the context of delivery of other mental health support services to the consumer

*Example services:*

- Mental Health Advocacy Service, New South Wales
- Mental Health Legal Centre, Victoria
- Mental Health Law Centre, Western Australia

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:**

Has been superseded by [Individual advocacy](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 16/01/2020

See also [Mental health non-government organisation service type code N\[N\]](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 13/11/2014

**Metadata items which use this glossary item:**

[Individual advocacy mental health service type cluster](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 13/11/2014

[Mental health non-government organisation establishments NBEDS 2015-](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 13/11/2014

[Mental health non-government organisation grants cluster](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 16/01/2020

[Sector development and representation](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 16/01/2020