



What is an Advocacy Group?

While support groups and advocacy groups do have some characteristics in common, in that they are both involved with improving the experience of a person affected by a genetic condition, they do differ in several ways.

In general, advocacy groups:

- Represent and work with a person or group of people who may need support and encouragement to exercise their rights, in order to ensure that their rights are upheld
- May speak, act or write on behalf of another person or group
- May have no prescribed or clearly determined method. What constitutes advocacy will differ in different circumstances and according to the skills and needs of the individual or group
- May involve commenting on established or entrenched values, structures and customs, and therefore needs to be independent of service providers and authorities

Direct advocacy can be anything from the development of a position statement, a petition, a letter of support or condemnation, approaches to government and issues awareness.

GSNV can provide advocacy on your behalf

In the past we have been involved in:

- Writing letters in support for groups seeking funding
- Lobbying alongside a number of groups in support of drugs and therapies being listed on the PBS and Lifesaving Drugs Program
- Rallying a number of key people and their opinions to put together a formal submission to the Productivity Commission on a National Disability Insurance Scheme ([NDIS](#))
- Advocating on behalf of individuals
- Getting access to better start program
- Access to services
- Publishing your views in our newsletter
- Press releases to educate public on your issues
- Providing position statements on government policies
- Representation on external committees and reference groups, including AGA and COSHG
- Putting forward submissions to government

If you have an individual or systemic issue you would like the GSNV to assist with contact us.

References

<http://www.agedrights.asn.au/rights/whatis.html>