



Advocacy Policy

Scope

This policy applies to Brook RED Community Members, Nominated Support People, Board Members, employees, volunteers, and students on placement.

Purpose

To outline Brook RED's policy on providing advocacy for the people we work with and engaging with advocates for them and their Nominated Support People.

Principles

Brook RED believes that everyone should be able to have the help of an independent advocate where they need assistance to help them ensure that their interests are advanced, to protect and defend their welfare, and to make certain that their human rights are respected.

Policy

1. Brook RED does not formally provide advocacy services. However, from time-to-time we will by necessity and circumstance be required to assist the people we provide supports to in the provision of informal, discrete, and ad hoc advocacy where another option to access an advocate does not exist. Advocacy does not make up a material portion of Brook RED's work.
2. Brook RED acknowledges that advocacy takes many forms and may include:
 - Personal advocacy – A person advocates on behalf of their own rights and interests.
 - Nominated supporter advocacy – When a Nominated Support Person, who may be a family member or friend advocates with and on behalf of a person.
 - Individual advocacy – Where the focus of advocacy is on one individual's rights and interests.
 - Group advocacy – For a group of people's rights and interests.
 - Systemic advocacy – To influence systems or policy and advance collective rights and interests.
 - Legal advocacy – Where a legal practitioner provides legal representation, pursues changes to legislation, or gives legal advice to a person or group of people about rights or interests.
3. Brook RED will assist the people we provide support to in accessing advocacy where this is appropriate or where such services have been requested. Brook RED employees are aware of locally based advocacy organisations who can provide advocacy services for the people we provide support to. Brook RED will publish the details of local advocacy services in our Community Member Handbook.
4. Brook RED will work in collaboration with advocates at the request of the people we provide support to.

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5. Should an individual we provide support to advocate or seek advocacy in response to an action or position Brook RED has taken, Brook RED will ensure (consistent with our Complaints Policy) that we act to ensure that individuals are able to do so without fear that doing so will result in retribution or a loss of access to service or other benefit.

References

Brook RED Community Member Handbook
Brook RED Complaints Policy

Document Control and Record of Changes

Version	Effective Date	Approved by	Summary of Change	Date of Next Review
Version 01	September 2019	Eschleigh Balzamo	Introduction of new policy	January 2021
Version 02	June 2021	Eschleigh Balzamo	Review and Update	June 2023
Version 03	August 2023	Eschleigh Balzamo	Review and Update	August 2024

The General Manager has overall responsibility for this policy. If there are any questions regarding this policy, please direct these to the Business Services Manager or General Manager.