



**Disability
Advocacy
Complaints
Service of
South
Australia
Incorporated**

Welcome!

Our contact details are:

Unit 3, 178 Henley Beach Road (enter from Jervois Street)

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Website: **www.dacssa.org.au**



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What We Offer:

Individual Advocacy

Systemic Advocacy

Advocacy Training and Support



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What role does advocacy play in social inclusion for people with disabilities?

The purpose of our service is to increase awareness in the community about the disabling conditions society creates for people with impairments.

How successful have we been in regard to social inclusion?

Have we been able to make any contributions at all to the Social Inclusion movement in South Australia?



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Our Mission

Disability Advocacy Complaints Service of South Australia Inc. is a community service, which is driven and informed by people with disabilities, their families and friends.

It is our mission to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities, to advocate for the removal of barriers to full participation and to proactively eradicate the social exclusion many still face.



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Reality

Our purpose and mission clearly indicates that we ought to play a role in Social Inclusion.

Are we asked to participate?

Partly

Are we invited to make contributions?

Partly

Are we resourced to assist people with disabilities to be socially included in all aspects of life?

NO

Is disability on the agenda of the Social Inclusion Unit?

Only in a very limited way (Mental Health Reference Group. Transition from school to employment)



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The Good

Intervention in the early 1990's by numerous disability advocacy organisations in the Supreme Court guaranteed that all South Australian buses will be fully accessible.

Persistent applications to the HREOC/EOC has changed the way our society view people with disabilities, building codes and standards have been developed to enshrine access and non discrimination.

Australia signing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Finally moving towards adopting a workable model for Self Managed personal support.



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The Bad

South Australian Disability Advocacy and Information Services were defunded in South Australia in the 2007 State Budget. (\$700,000)

Since January 2007 hardly any new funding has gone to people with disabilities. Disability SA Unmet Need Handbook states for clients to attain Category 1 status or category 2, if people with disabilities or their carer's commit/attempt or threaten to commit suicide. and are at risk of homelessness, then new services will be available to them.



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The Ugly

We have politicians who believe that people with mental illnesses should not be employed

Employment of people with disabilities in the public sector needs to be a priority, participation rates have fallen and no action is being taken to address this.

People with disabilities are forced to have breakfast on the toilet.

People with disabilities cannot leave acute care in hospital or they live in nursing homes due to a distinct lack of funding for personal home support.

Is this Social Inclusion?



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What Does Advocacy Achieve?

Advocacy is undertaken to:

- correct power imbalances,
- access resources and options,
- be heard and informed,
- exercise rights and entitlements,
- overcome injustice,
- stand up against retribution.

So do we have a role in Social Inclusion?

Surely we do, we just have to be included too!



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What do we need to be socially included?

- We need to be invited to make contributions to the social inclusion network/unit/taskforce.**
- We need to be resourced to assist people with disabilities to have a voice and participate in social inclusion work.**
- We need to be resourced to assist people with disabilities to monitor and assess outcomes of social inclusion projects.**



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Social Exclusion ?

Social Inclusion cannot happen without those who are supposed to be included.

Nothing About Us Without Us

It seems the social inclusion movement has a long way to come yet.

Do advocacy groups have a role to play?

YOU BET!!



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