# Advocacy for Disability Access and Inclusion Mission Statement

## Mission Statement

Advocacy for Disability Access and Inclusion (ADAI) advance the rights of people with disability through quality advocacy services underpinned by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

## Background

ADAI advocacy support is independent, person centred and directed with the person with disability always at the centre of the advocacy process. Advocates adopt a supported decision-making approach and walk alongside the client. Since 1986, ADAI has delivered high-quality, person-centred supports and services to South Australians with disability, their families, carers and kin in supporting a person with disability to exercise their rights, access services and resolve disputes or complaints. ADAI delivers in-person advocacy supports statewide across South Australia (SA). ADAI respectfully acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the traditional owners of this land and recognises their role in our work, in the disability community and in society.

ADAI's Mission Statement is a document that draws upon ADAI's Strategic Plan 2025 – 2028, ADAI's Constitution, ADAI's Advocacy Policy and Procedure, ADAI's Principles of Consent Guideline and other relevant ADAI Policies, Procedures, Guidelines and Work Instructions.

## Purpose

We advocate to promote and strengthen autonomy and self-determination for people living with disability, their families and carers through the provision of quality, professional, issues-based advocacy services.

## Vision

All South Australians living with disability have access to the advocacy support they need to build their capacity to represent themselves and fully participate in decision making that affects their lives.

## Values

- Inclusive
- Collaborative
- Resourceful

## Principle

"'Nothing about us, without us"

## Strategic Objectives

1. Be the most valued provider of independent disability advocacy services in SA
2. Reach more people with disability more sustainably
3. Improve client outcomes through building employee capability and resilience
4. Be an employer of choice for professionals with lived experience of disability

## Guiding Principles

1. People identify their specific advocacy issues and jointly develop strategies for action, promoting self-advocacy and self-determination using supported decision-making principles.
2. Clear guidelines for advocacy are followed, ensuring a high standard of service quality focusing on the prevention of harm, including violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.
3. ADAI adhere to relevant legislation and standards relating to safeguarding and participant safety, including the National Standards for Disability Services and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability.
4. ADAI is committed to contributing to Closing the Gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people know what is best for their people and their communities.
5. ADAI understands the interconnected nature of social categorisations, such as; gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, language, religion, class, socioeconomic status, gender identity, ability or age, which create overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage for either an individual or group.
6. People are presumed to have capacity to make decisions about their advocacy pathway and to give informed consent.
7. Advocates make decisions and approve actions with the person's active, informed agreement and advocates gain explicit authority before acting, speaking, or sharing information on behalf of an individual.
8. People are supported to understand their rights, the options available to them, and the potential consequences of their choices. Accessible language and culturally appropriate communication are used to ensure genuine comprehension.
9. ADAI work collaboratively with stakeholders to share resources, develop strong relationships and maintain clear referral pathways.
10. All advocacy efforts are conducted with a constructive, conciliatory, collaborative approach, which promotes a positive image of people with disability and promotes their rights.
11. ADAI are committed to professional advocacy practice and views the complaints process as a consumer right and a means of improving service delivery.