

# Justice and Community Safety Directorate

## Public Advocate

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An advocate is one who speaks on behalf of another person, especially in a legal context. Broadly, the role of the Public Advocate is one that promotes and protects the rights and interests of adults with impaired decision-making capacity.

The functions include:

- promoting and protecting the rights of adults with impaired decision-making capacity
- promoting the protection of the adults from neglect, exploitation or abuse
- encouraging the development of programs that foster and maximise the adult's autonomy
- promoting service and facility provision for the adults, and
- monitoring and reviewing service and facility delivery to the adults.

An adult has capacity for a matter when they are capable of:

- understanding the nature and effect of decisions about the matter
- freely and voluntarily making decisions about the matter, and
- communicating the decisions in some way.

Adults with impaired capacity may include adults with a mental illness, intellectual disability, acquired brain injury or dementia.

The work of the Public Advocate is to protect the rights and interests of adults with impaired decision-making capacity

The [Public Advocate for the ACT](#) looks to identify issues that impact on adults and work towards influencing appropriate change. This may include policy, service and legislative systems across government and non-government sectors. Advocacy may be conducted through a variety of channels including discussions, correspondence, committee representation, submissions, discussion and issues papers, forums and conferences.

The Public Advocate may also intervene in proceedings involving the protection of the rights or interests of the adults in a court, tribunal, or official inquiry.

## Contact

### OFFICE LOCATION

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[All contact information and access to publications.](#)