

# GUARDIANSHIP AND ADVOCACY

Helping you make informed decisions.



*Making life better*

## We can support you in caring for a person with impaired decision-making capacity.

Advocates are available to support carers throughout Queensland and assist in resolving issues prior to, or within, the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT).

The Guardianship and Advocacy Program (GAP) can conduct educational seminars and workshops on working within Queensland's guardianship system. Workshops can be held throughout the state and are open to any carers, businesses, or service providers.

The program can provide free advice to anyone in the community.

### How can we help?

- Providing advice on applications for the appointment of a guardian and/or administrator for an adult.
- Assisting with the preparation of applications for the appointment or review of a guardian and/or administrator.
- Providing advice on the completion and use of enduring documents
- Advocating/representing you before QCAT.
- Supporting you in negotiating and working with the Office of the Public Guardian and the Public Trustee of Queensland.
- Assisting and supporting you in working with service providers

### Consent

We will not take over, discourage, or intercede in your affairs. Our role is to be on your side and safeguard your role as a family carer.

We will seek your informed consent and written permission before any work is started.

## Frequently asked questions

### What is an advocate?

A GAP advocate can assist you with information, planning, applications and representations before QCAT. Advocates have skills in helping a carer to gather relevant information, organise documents and to speak up for themselves. GAP advocates come from a range of professional backgrounds, including community & human services and law.

### Does GAP charge any fees for their service?

No. There are no fees or charges for any assistance provided by Carers Queensland's Guardianship & Advocacy Program.

### Does GAP only support a carer when they have been asked to make an application to QCAT?

No. GAP focuses on issues of incapacity. We may assist at any point throughout the guardianship or substitute decision-making process.

### If a carer is unhappy with a QCAT decision can an advocate assist a carer in seeking a review of that decision?

Yes. An advocate could help to collect supporting evidence and other documents to seek a review as well as supporting you at the review hearing.

### Can an advocate assist me with liaising with the Office of the Public Guardian or the Public Trustee of Queensland?


Yes. An advocate can assist a carer in resolving problems with both agencies.



Funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Visit the Department of Social Services website ([www.dss.gov.au](http://www.dss.gov.au)) for more information.

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