



REF: # \_\_\_\_\_

**Rights In Action Inc**

*Independent advocacy for people with disabilities*

**REQUEST FOR ADVOCACY ASSISTANCE**

**PART A:**

**Date:**

<b>REFERRING AGENCY OR PERSON</b>
<b>Name :</b>
<b>Name of Organisation</b> <i>(if applicable):</i>
<b>Mailing / Email address:</b>
<b>Telephone / Mobile:</b>

**Eligibility Criteria: The person seeking advocacy must meet all (5) criteria outlined below:**

1. Meet Australian citizenship or permanent residency requirements.
2. Reside in Cairns, Yarrabah, Atherton or Mareeba.
3. Have a disability due to an intellectual, psychiatric, cognitive (including both congenital and acquired impairments), neurological, sensory or physical impairment or a combination of impairments.
4. The disability is permanent or likely to be permanent,
5. The disability results in substantial reduction in capacity for communication, social interaction, learning, mobility or self-care/management with a need for support due to their vulnerable circumstances.

**PART B:**

**Personal Information Privacy Notice:** Rights In Action collects personal information to assist our clients with their advocacy issue(s). Our funding organisations; The Commonwealth Department of Social Services, the Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, and the Queensland Department of Health require us to provide non identified personal information to them for auditing, census and statistical purposes. Unless authorised or required by law, your personal information will not be passed on to any other third party without your consent. Personal Information will be held securely for minimum of five years.

**Do you have consent to exchange information about the person seeking advocacy assistance?**      **Yes**                       **No**                       **N/A**

<b>PERSONAL DETAILS</b> <i>(person requiring advocacy assistance).</i>	
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Male / Female</b>
<b>Date of birth:</b>	<b>Age:</b>
<b>Street address:</b>	
<b>Mailing / Email address:</b>	
<b>Telephone / Mobile:</b>	<b>Alternate Contact:</b>

**Disability:** (DSS Definitions/Descriptors)

**Tick primary disability and**  **cross any other significant disability group**

**Acquired Brain Injury** (Characteristically, multiple disabilities arising from damage to the brain acquired after birth. Results in deterioration in cognitive, physical, emotional or independent functioning. May be as a result of accidents, stroke, brain tumours, infection, poisoning, and lack of oxygen or degenerative neurological disease.)

**Autism** (A pervasive developmental disorder involving disturbances in cognition, interpersonal communication, social interactions and behaviour (in particular obsessive, ritualistic, stereotyped and rigid behaviours).

**Developmental Delay** (only valid response for children aged 0 – 5 where conditions have appeared in the early development period, but no specific diagnosis has been made and the specific disability group is yet known).

**Intellectual Disability** (Effects appearing in the developmental period (age 0–18 years) associated with impairments of mental functions, difficulties in learning and performing certain daily life skills and limitations of adaptive skills in the context of community environments compared to others of the same age. Includes for example, syndromes arising from chromosomal abnormalities and developmental processes)

**Neurological Disability** (Applies to impairments of the nervous system occurring after birth, includes epilepsy and organic dementias (e.g. Alzheimer's disease) as well as such conditions as multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease).

**Physical Disability** (Conditions attributable to a physical cause or impact on the ability to perform physical activities, such as mobility. Physical disability often includes impairments of the neuro-musculo-skeletal systems including, for example, the effects of paraplegia, quadriplegia, muscular dystrophy, motor neurone disease, neuromuscular disorders, cerebral palsy, absence or deformities of limbs, spina bifida, arthritis, back disorders, ataxia, bone formation or degeneration, scoliosis).

**Psychiatric** (Includes recognisable symptoms and behaviour patterns, frequently associated with distress, which may impair personal functioning in normal social activity. Includes the typical effects of conditions such as schizophrenia, affective disorders, addictive behaviours, personality disorders, stress, psychosis, depression and adjustment disorders).

**Sensory & Speech** (Deafblind refers to dual sensory impairments associated with severe restrictions in communication, and participation in community life. Vision disability encompasses blindness and vision impairment (not corrected by glasses or contact lenses). Hearing disability encompasses deafness, hearing impairment, hearing loss. Speech disability encompasses speech loss, impairment and/or difficulty in being understood).

**Specific Learning/ADD/ADHD** (A general term referring to a group of disabilities, presumed due to central nervous system dysfunction rather than an intellectual disability, covering significant difficulties in the acquisition and use of organisational skills, listening, speaking, reading, writing, reasoning or mathematical skills).

Other (*specify*) \_\_\_\_\_

**Residential Setting:** (*tick one only*)

**Homeless** (Having no shelter and living in public spaces or out of a car, short term crisis or emergency or transitional shelter)

**Risk of Homelessness** (No permanent shelter and sleeping on the floor or couch of family, friends or crisis shelter or living in domestic violent household)

**Living in Segregated Setting** (Aged Care facility/Mental health facility/Hospital/Institution/Supported accommodation, Correctional facility)

**Disadvantaged Social Setting** (Living in Caravan Park/Boarding house, overcrowded conditions)

**Queensland Housing or Other Community Housing**

**Private Rental**

**Private Accommodation**

**Other (*specify*)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Background:**

**Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander**

**Culturally & Linguistically Diverse**

**English Speaking**

**Deaf Culture**

**Other (*specify*)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Not disclosed**

**Has the person being referred given Rights In Action permission to contact them?**  Yes  No

**Does the person have decision making capacity in relation to the issue/enquiry?**  Yes  No

(A person who is capable of making a decision by understanding the nature and effect of the decision; and freely and voluntarily making the decision; and communicating the decision in some way)

**Is there a Public Guardian Appointed?**  Yes  No

If a Public Guardian is in place for service provision, we will need their consent to provide advocacy.

**Is the Public Trust appointed for financial administration?**  Yes  No

Copy of QCAT Order/s attached

**Is there a Power of Attorney or Enduring Power of Attorney?**  Yes  No

Copy of EPA or EPOA attached

**Is there an informal decision-maker, family member, friend, carer that the service should know about?**  Yes  No

Name:

Relationship:

Contact Details:

**List supports or other services currently involved:**

- Nil supports
- Informal supports: friend, family/ carers, other \_\_\_\_\_
- Disability or Community Service Providers \_\_\_\_\_

**Has the person being referred given Rights In Action permission to contact them?**

- YES  NO

**Who do we contact to follow up the enquiry?**

- Referrer  Individual  Both  Decision-maker

**What is the best mode of communication?**

- Letter  Email  Telephone  In person  Interpreter required

**Income:**

- Nil Income  DSP  Centrelink Payment \_\_\_\_\_
- Compensation  Employed

**Priority & Vulnerability:** Not limited to:

NOTE: RIA prioritise advocacy assistance to the most vulnerable people with a disability and criteria may include the following:

- Breach of the persons Human Rights (under the United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities);
- Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation;
- Disability Discrimination; (person has been treated less favourably because of their disability)
- Conflict of Interest; (for other service or carers to assist)
- Isolated and Vulnerable; (no carers, services in the person life, decision makers & financial administrators making all choices)
- Complex issues related to Queensland Civil & Administration Tribunal (QCAT), Mental Health Review Tribunal (MHRT), Restrictive Practise, people living in a segregated or institutionalised settings.

**Issue(s)/Types of advocacy assistance:** (Summarise

the main issues – List any information that RIA needs to know to assist the person? The more relevant information we know the quicker the enquiry can be dealt with  
RIA adopts the definitions used under the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP)

- Abuse, Neglect &/or Exploitation
- Discrimination or Rights
- Employment
- Finances (including subsidies/entitlements)
- Independent Living Support
- Legal (not legal advice or representation) - QCAT, MHRT, Restrictive Practise
- Physical Access
- Transport

- Accommodation
- Education
- Equipment and Aids
- Health
- Isolated/Vulnerable
- NDIS
- Recreational, Social or Family
- Services (gaps, access, policy, reduction of service or complaints)
- Other:

**Description of each issue:** eg:  Abuse, Neglect &/or Exploitation – referrer alleges that people are accessing the persons (individual with disability) bank

account taking entire DSP and leaving him with no money on a regular basis. Person has no informal supports to help.


