



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Communities**

# Have your say!

## Get heard!

If **you** are  
a child or young  
person in care,  
the **Advocate for  
Children in Care**  
is just  
for **you**



# The Advocate for Children in Care

The Department of Communities wants to protect and promote the interests of children and young people in care, and the Advocate for Children in Care is there especially for you.

## Values:

- You're important.
- It's your right to be heard.
- It's your right to have a say in decisions that affect your life.
- It's your right to challenge things if you think they're wrong.
- It's your right to complain when you're not happy with the Department.
- Your experience and suggestions can help the Department to develop policies and programs that give the best results for children and young people in care.

# Who or what is the Advocate for Children in Care?

The Advocate for Children in Care is there especially for children and young people in the care of the Department.

Judith Garsed is the Advocate, and is available to talk with you by phone or email, or to meet with you - whatever you prefer.

You can bring someone you trust with you if you want to, and if you need an interpreter, it can be arranged.

# have your say...



# What can the Advocate for Children in Care do for me?

The Advocate is there to help when you have problems or worries you can't sort out with your case worker.

Do you want help to have your say, get information, or have a departmental decision reviewed?

Maybe you want to know more about your rights or how you can participate in making decisions about your life?

Maybe you want to make a complaint?

Maybe you have ideas and suggestions about how the Department can do things better for children and young people in care?

get  
**heard!**



## Whatever you're concerned about, the Advocate will:

- **Listen** to you, help you say what you want to say and help get adults to listen.
- **Give information & advice** about what you are entitled to, and how you should be treated.
- **Support** you if you want to have a decision reviewed or complain about things you believe are wrong.
- **Speak** to people in authority about what you think works or doesn't work for children and young people in care.

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# How do I contact the Advocate for Children in Care?

## Office hours

(9am - 5pm Monday to Friday)

Freecall\* 1800 460 696

0429 086 508 (you can call, text or leave a message).

## Email:

advocate@communities.wa.gov.au

\*freecall number - charges may apply for some mobile plans.

## What if I need urgent help?

If you need urgent help and you can't get hold of your District Office or the Advocate for Children in Care, there are other options:

### **Crisis Care** (24hours/7days)

Telephone (08) 9223 1111

Free call 1800 199 008

### **Kids Helpline** (24hours/7days)

Free call 1800 55 1800

**Police** 131 444 or 000 (emergency only)