

Hi,

I would like to make a submission for consideration by the Law Reform Commission.

I am presently a private guardian for two men and an advocate for another two.

One of the men I am advocate for, I was his temporary guardian which allowed me to move him away from an organisation that stripped him of all his rights, wants and needs.

Prior to becoming a private guardian for 3 men, I was an advocate who was supported by Citizen Advocacy Western Sydney (CAWS).

Some poor service providers do not fully recognise the role of advocates and see them as 'busy bodies' who are out to create waves and meddle in the functioning of their or organisation and the institutionalised ways they operate.

If a person is unable to make informed decisions, they need an independent 'body' to help them.

A volunteer advocate can do this, but because there is no legality associated with an advocate, they are ignored.

In my experience I have been 'stone walled' and, in one instance, even banned from seeing my protégé. This led me to becoming a private guardian where I have legal rights to ensure that the service providers act appropriately in the best interests of their clients.

I have recently submitted a complaint to the NSW Ombudsman for the way I was treated as an advocate by one particular organisation.

I am happy to discuss my experiences as both advocate and guardian.

Any problems, please advise.

Thanks

Regards

William Kinnaird