

The IHC Advocacy Toolkit has been developed to help people in local communities advocate for people with an intellectual disability. Families, staff members, volunteers and IHC members regularly request a variety of information from the advocacy team based in Wellington. This toolkit is designed to be a community advocacy resource which is easily accessed by a range of people.

IHC Advocacy believes that everyone who cares for, supports or advocates for someone with an intellectual disability should have easy access to vital advocacy information. The IHC Advocacy toolkit has been developed in the knowledge that access to accurate information is a critical factor in successful advocacy.

The Advocacy Toolkit has been developed so that people (IHC members, families, staff volunteers etc) in all communities are able to access information which has the potential to create new possibilities for individuals with intellectual disability or assist in resolving difficulties, issues or concerns.

Advocacy can be about finding the right information or it can be about using the information to advocate on someone's behalf. This toolkit will help with both activities.

The toolkit contains a series of information sheets on topics and issues which are of common concern and interest in the lives of people with intellectual disability. These information sheets have been developed by the IHC Advocacy team. The team will develop further information sheets over time on new topics (on request or as needed) and will update information on existing sheets when required.

The toolkit also contains a selection of resources from other organisations on a variety of topics. These resources are known to be extremely helpful and reliable sources of information on a range of topics relevant to people with intellectual disability of all ages and stages.

The Toolkit has been designed so that there is ample space for adding local or personal information or resources.

Try to keep the contents of the toolkit all together, you may find it easiest to photocopy information sheets if you need to remove them from the toolkit for any period of time. You can order more copies of resources from the IHC Advocacy team or directly from the organisation that has created the resource.

Please feel free to advertise the IHC Advocacy Toolkit to other individuals or organisations in your community and encourage people to order one from IHC Advocacy for their own use.

IHC Advocacy would appreciate your feedback about the contents of the toolkit and any ideas you have for new information sheet topics or useful resources that can be added.

To contact IHC Advocacy

IHC National Office

Phone 0800 442 442

Level 14, Willbank House

Fax (04) 471 5759

57 Willis Street

PO Box 4155

Wellington

www.ihc.org.nz

Get Involved with IHC

Join us and support IHC to advocate for the rights, inclusion and welfare of all people with an intellectual disability and support them to live satisfying lives in the community.

About IHC membership

IHC members are very important to the organisation

Through our members IHC can:

- involve people with intellectual disabilities, their families and every New Zealander with an interest in intellectual disability, in how we run our organisation
- provide services and support that the Government doesn't provide
- speak on behalf of all people in New Zealand with intellectual disabilities and their families

As a member you can:

- vote on governance policy and issues
- get Community Moves – IHC's magazine – three times a year
- sign up for the monthly Hot Issues, with its mix of comment, opinion and news
- support our advocacy campaigns and submissions
- use the IHC library – the best library about intellectual disability in Australasia
- be part of the IHC forums and local events in your community
- be involved in local fundraising events

Best of all, being a member means you have access to other people who are interested in intellectual disability. Many members have a family member with an intellectual disability, so if you want advice, someone to listen, or want to be part of local networks, you'll know who to contact.

A message from Donald Thompson, President

Members are vital to the health and vitality of the organisation. They give the organisation its heart and focus.

Great Idea Volunteer!

Volunteering with IHC will challenge your ideas of what volunteering is about. No fundraising, no cake stalls. This is volunteering on your terms.

Have Fun, feel good, make a difference.

Spend time with a person with intellectual disability in the community doing things you both enjoy, make a new friend doing everyday things.

To join IHC or for more information on membership, branch committees

or volunteering phone 0800 442 442 or go to www.ihc.org.nz

Donate now! To make a donation to IHC please phone 0800 746 444
