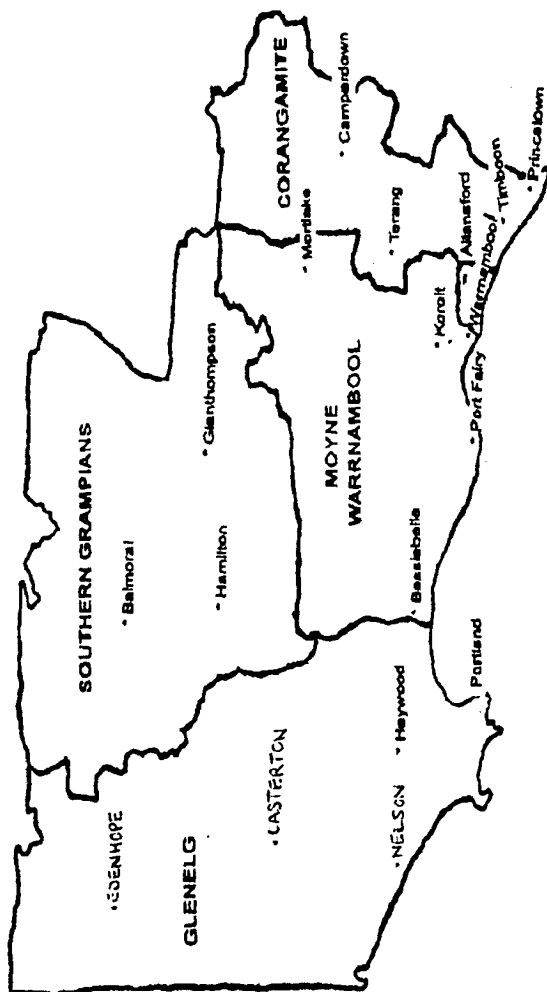


## THE REGIONS AND TOWNS SERVICED BY SOUTHWEST ADVOCACY ASSOCIATION



## MISSION STATEMENT

Southwest Advocacy Association Incorporated aims to provide an advocacy and information service that empowers and gives a voice to people with disabilities, strives to ensure that the rights of people with disabilities are respected and advanced, fosters positive and full inclusion and participation of people with disabilities in the community and practices non discrimination in respect of age, gender, race, culture, religion, disability or living arrangement.

## AIMS OF S.W.A.A.

- Provision of advocacy on behalf of individuals with disabilities in south western Victoria.
- Provision of group/systemic advocacy with regard to services and opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Promotion of community awareness of the rights, needs and difficulties faced by people with disabilities.
- Assistance in the establishment and support of disability self-help groups.

*(Views and practices of Southwest Advocacy Association do not necessarily reflect those of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services or the Victorian Government, through the Department of Human Services)*



S . W . A . A .

## SOUTHWEST ADVOCACY ASSOCIATION INC.

*Registered under the Associations Incorporation Act (1981)  
Registration No A0025914Y*

*An Independent Advocacy & Information Service  
for People with Disabilities*

*(Funded By the Australian Government through the Department  
of Social Services and the Victorian Government, Department of  
Human Services)*

*A member of the Victorian Rural Advocacy Network , and  
Disability Advocacy Network of Australia*

### Office Location:

45 Hider Street, Warrnambool 3280

### Postal Address:

P.O. Box 480, Warrnambool 3280

**Phone:** (03) 5561 4584

**Fax:** (03) 5561 4371

**National Relay Service:** 133 677

**Email:** [admin@swadvocacy.com.au](mailto:admin@swadvocacy.com.au)

**Web:** [www.southwestadvocacy.org.au](http://www.southwestadvocacy.org.au)

## **WHAT IS SOUTHWEST ADVOCACY?**

Southwest Advocacy is an independent, not-for-profit, community based organisation. The purpose of the organisation is to provide advocacy and information to people with all types of disabilities and of all ages throughout south western Victoria.

## **WHAT IS ADVOCACY?**

Advocacy is speaking out on an issue, speaking up for yourself, or for someone else. Some people are able to do this more effectively than others. SWAA can often help those who need assistance to resolve problems or obtain services through its advocacy work.

## **WHO CAN WE HELP?**

People of any age with any type of disability:

- physical
- sensory (vision, hearing, speech)
- intellectual
- learning
- psychiatric or psychological
- acquired brain injury
- neurological

who live within south western Victoria.

## **COST FOR SERVICE?**

There is no cost for using our service.

People who have used the service may become members if they wish to.

## **WHAT S.W.A.A. DOES**

- Individual Advocacy
- Systemic Advocacy
- Community and Self Advocacy Education
- Support Group Development

## **INDIVIDUAL ADVOCACY**

S.W.A.A. aims to help people with disabilities resolve problems by –

- Providing individuals with information and support to enable them to advocate for themselves.
- Referring people to appropriate services.
- Representing people with a disability who are in dispute with government and non-government service providers.
- Helping people with a disability utilize their rights and to instigate proceedings in the Equal Opportunity Commission, VCAT, etc.
- Assisting with complaints and concerns in a wide variety of areas.

## **SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY**

S.W.A.A. makes representations on behalf of people with disabilities to service providers, government and non-government bodies on specific issues affecting people with disabilities including:

- Home and Community Care Services
- Housing
- Education
- Transport
- Employment
- Health

## **COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

S.W.A.A. aims to promote the positive aspects of people with disabilities living in the community by participating in and conducting regional community education. Activities include –

- Speaking to school groups, support groups and interested community groups.
- Addressing the media
- Participating in and delivering workshops on disability issues.

## **SUPPORT GROUP DEVELOPMENT**

S.W.A.A. can support existing disability self-help groups and assists to establish new support groups in the region through the provision of information and support.

S.W.A.A. also actively encourages metropolitan and statewide disability groups to establish branches in south western Victoria.