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**Adequate disability advocacy funding is crucial**

Disability Advocacy Victoria welcomes the report by the Victorian Ombudsman *Reporting and investigation of allegations of abuse in the disability sector: Phase 1 – the effectiveness of statutory oversight*.

We believe that people with disabilities will be encouraged by recommendation two of the report: an increase in funding for advocacy, including individual disability advocacy and self-advocacy models.

Independent disability advocacy is an important element in the protection of the rights of people with disabilities, as advocates act with impartiality to serve as a safeguard to the disability service system.

"It is vital that the reality of violence, abuse and neglect of people with disabilities be taken seriously, investigated and acted upon. Disability advocacy plays a crucial role for many people with disabilities in Victoria”, stated Melanie Muir, Chairperson of Disability Advocacy Victoria Inc.

Disability Advocacy Victoria Inc. will continue to work with the state government to ensure the disability advocacy sector is provided with adequate funding moving forward.

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