



WHY AM I A VOLUNTARY PATIENT?

You are a voluntary patient if you have chosen to go to hospital for assessment or treatment.

Sometimes you go to hospital with the support of family and friends. When you're under 18yrs your parents or guardian may need to provide consent for admission and treatment.

I need help with...

Contact Us



MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY SERVICE

- Freecall:** 1800 999 057
Phone: 08 6234 6300
Email: contactus@mhas.wa.gov.au
Web: www.mhas.wa.gov.au
Address: 6/18 Harvest Terrace
West Perth WA 6005
Monday - Friday
8:30am - 4:30pm

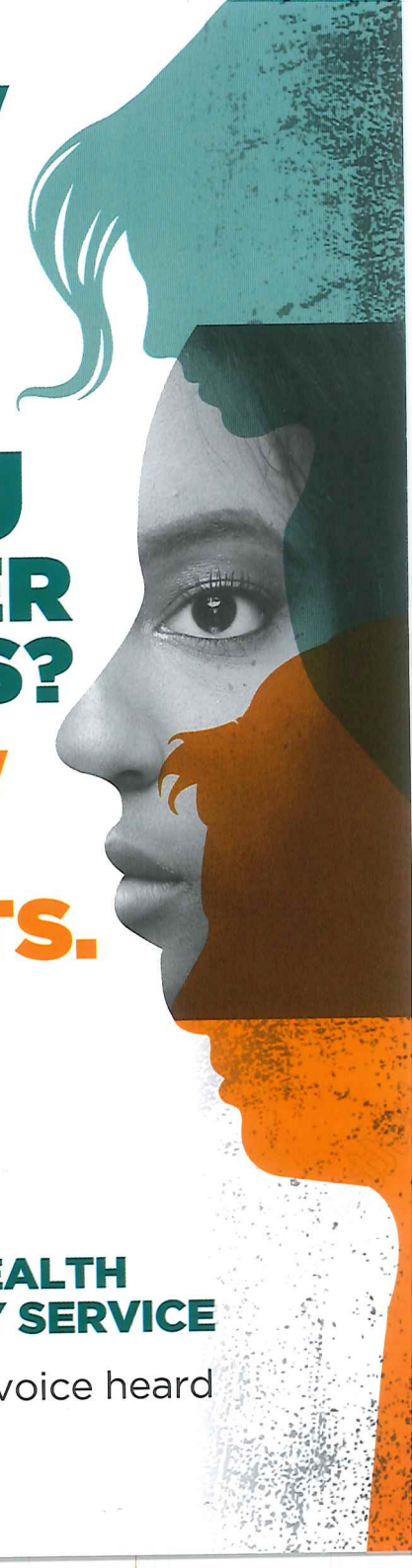
Voluntary Patients

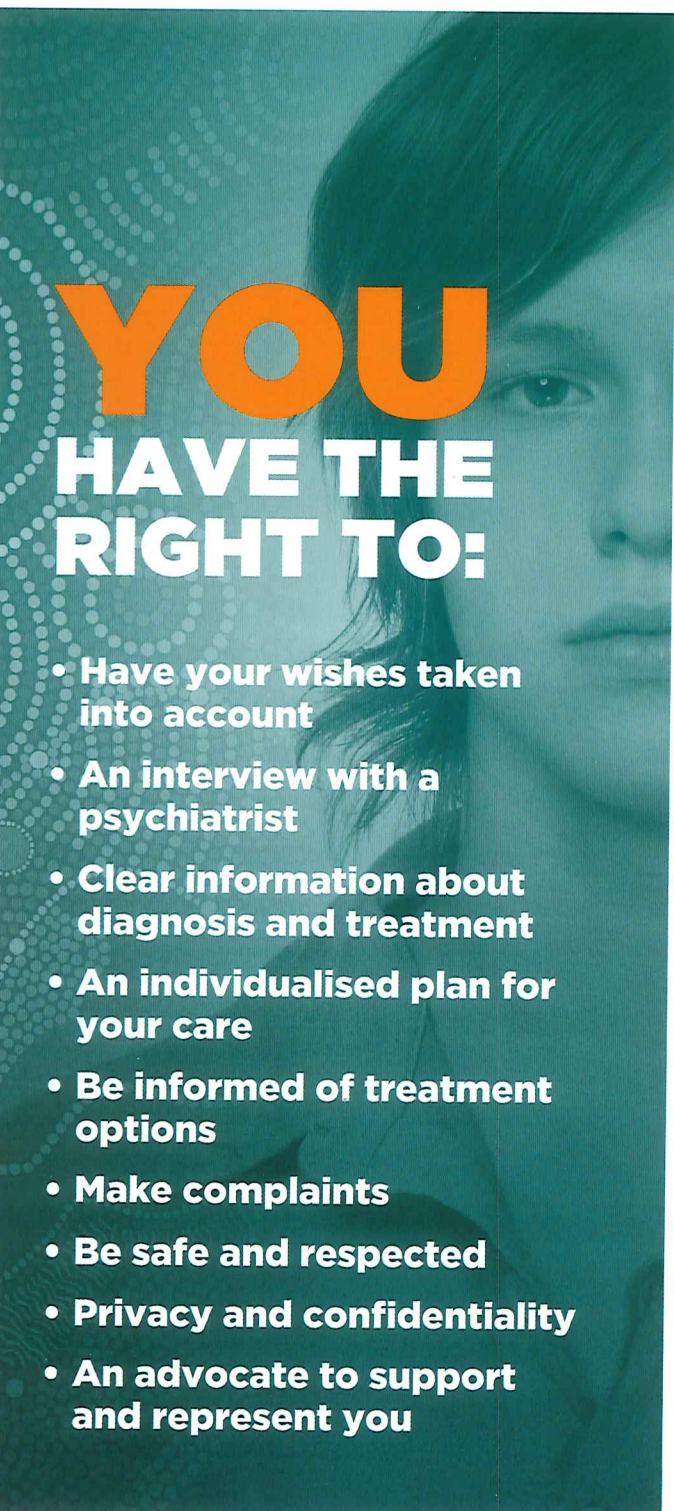
ARE YOU UNDER 18YRS?

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS.

MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY SERVICE

Getting your voice heard





YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- Have your wishes taken into account
- An interview with a psychiatrist
- Clear information about diagnosis and treatment
- An individualised plan for your care
- Be informed of treatment options
- Make complaints
- Be safe and respected
- Privacy and confidentiality
- An advocate to support and represent you

Who we can help:

Advocates can help voluntary young people (under 18yrs) receiving or seeking mental health treatment, including:

- A voluntary patient in a mental health unit
- A voluntary patient on a medical ward receiving treatment for a mental illness
- A voluntary mental health patient in an emergency department
- A young person who has been assisted by an Advocate in the past 6 months and being treated in the community

We also assist involuntary patients. Please see our *Inpatient Treatment Orders* brochure.

An Advocate can help you:

- Arrange a meeting with your doctor or treating team and attend with you
- Seek to resolve issues concerning you at the facility
- Participate in care planning and discharge planning meetings
- Make and resolve complaints
- Have your physical health needs met
- Discuss leave from the ward with your treating team
- Access culturally appropriate care
- Access other services including lawyers



"I don't understand what is happening....I just want to go home."

I'm a voluntary patient – what's next?

- An Advocate can be involved if you, your family or treating team request an Advocate contact you
- Advocates are on the wards and may approach you and offer support
- You can ask your nurse or doctor to request an Advocate on your behalf
- You can ring the advocacy service for help
- An Advocate will make contact within 24 hours of the request

Mental Health Advocates – who are we?

- We provide a free and independent service
- We help people with a mental illness know and protect their rights
- We use a best interest approach
- We represent your views to the treating team, but we are not part of the hospital or treating team
- We can work with your parents and guardians to provide support

Are you Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

- You may have other rights. Talk to your Advocate

Are you a parent or guardian?

- An Advocate can help you understand your rights when your child is in hospital