

Child advocates – Office of the Public Guardian

(Child advocates – video caption transcript)

(Child advocate voiceover) “A child advocate is a lawyer. We work with children and support them to participate in legal decision-making processes.”

“We meet children and young people through referrals from other stakeholders they can be from magistrates, carers or even child safety officers.”

“We can support them to participate by attending children’s court, helping them to attend tribunal matters or even stakeholder meetings with people from their schools or from their health team.”

“I’m drawn to the job because by helping children have their voices heard we really do get better outcomes for them. A young person who has recently been involved with the department of child safety often feels they don’t have a voice and that all the adults are making the decision. We make a difference by letting them know that they do have a right to be heard and making sure that adults hear them and children seem to respond to that really well, they’re generally happier and do better in school when they have had a chance to participate in the decisions that have been made about them, so good outcomes are my favourite part.”

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