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Boost for advocacy group

REPORT ENSURES FUTURE SUPPORT FOR DISABLED CLIENTS

THE future of one of Sunbury's most unsung community organisations has been assured.

Citizen Advocacy Sunbury and Districts (CASD) matches mostly intellectually disabled clients, called proteges, with advocates who act as a friend and voice by staying in contact.

Co-ordinator David Abela said an audit and subsequent accreditation by SAI Global Assurance Services had ensured the agency was complying with national disability service standards.

"It's important for our service and ensures we can continue helping our proteges," Mr Abela said.

He said the sector will need advocates more than ever with the pending transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

"Many of our advocates are already helping people who do not have family support," he said.

The report praised CASD on its advocate and protege handbooks, strong focus on matching proteges with advocates, and promotion of disabled people's rights.

CASD began in 1988, four years before the Caloola Training Centre was closed.

The grassroots organisation was called for in public meetings after concerns over disruptions and conditions at the training centre.

Mr Abela said the service gave freely-offered relationships and relief from the service sector.

CASD is now looking for new advocates.

Details: casunbury.net

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