

Villamanta's Theory of Change describes how our activities lead to people with disability having agency over their own lives

Impetus for change

There are laws, policies, systems, and attitudes that do not allow people with disability (PWD) to have agency, feel safe and be equal in our community.

PWD experience significant restrictions in their agency and decision-making authority over their own lives, and their access to, and participation in, the community.

Our strategic response

We work at the intersection of the legal assistance and disability advocacy sectors to promote change towards laws and systems which support human rights and equality for PWD. We focus on areas where rights are restricted because of a person's disability.

We work alongside PWD, particularly those with cognitive impairment, in their journey to be heard and have agency over their own lives. We provide legal advocacy that is led by clients, flexible and creates space for clients to find their voice.

Our activities

- Legal advocacy
- Systemic advocacy
- Capability building – community and clinical legal education
- General advocacy

Who we work with

- PWD, living in Victoria, and their allies
- Victorian legal assistance and disability advocacy sectors

Shorter term

Outcomes

Longer term

PWD

Legal advocacy

Increased awareness of where to access legal advocacy

Legal advocacy is received at the time it is needed

PWD find the information and advice given easy to understand

PWD feel safe when accessing legal advocacy

PWD lead (what, when, how support occurs)

More PWD experience positive legal outcomes

More PWD access legal advocacy

PWD have the opportunity to self-advocate

Daily life

Increased confidence to assert rights

Increased feeling of safety in the community

Improved wellbeing

Victorian legal assistance and disability sectors

Legal assistance sector

Increased understanding of experiences of PWD

Increased understanding of areas of law relevant to PWD

Increased ability to provide high quality legal advocacy to PWD at the time it is needed

Disability advocacy sector

Increased understanding of legal issues relevant to PWD

Increased understanding of where to access legal advocacy assistance

Together

Partnerships are established and strengthened

Increased collaboration between sector organisations

Community & legal system

Decision-makers have an increased understanding of the experiences of PWD

Laws, policies, and systems better protect equal rights and opportunity for PWD

Community attitudes better support equal rights and opportunity for PWD

Impact

PWD are heard and have agency over their own lives.

They have equality of rights, opportunity and voice in the community.

Key: priority outcome