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## Welcome to the second SARU E- Memo

Here is our second SARU e-memo. It is called an e-memo because it is sent out by email. The memo includes:

1. *Topic of the week*
2. *Group activity idea*
3. *Featured Resource*
4. *News*

### 1. Topic of the week – Equality, a human right

**What does EQUALITY mean?**

*Equality* means being treated the same as everyone else in the community.

**Did you know?**

People with disabilities do not get treated the same as everyone else. They are often not allowed to make their own decisions about their lives. Often other people including their families are making decisions for them about money, where they live, relationships etc.



*But we have rights.* In 2007, the United Nations passed a new law. It says people with disabilities have the same rights as everyone else. It says we have the right to be treated the same as everyone else in community.

**What Does the New UN Law Say?**



Here are some of what the new law says about being treated the same.



- We need laws that protect our right to be treated the same as everyone else.
- We have the right to go to the same schools as everyone else.
- We have the right to earn enough money so that we don't have to be poor.
- We have the right to get jobs & earn enough money to live independent lives.
- Because in the past people have not treated people with disabilities the same as everyone else, we need extra help to make things right.
- We have the legal right to make our own decisions about our lives.

## 2. Group Activity Idea

Go around the group and ask people to tell their stories about when they were not being treated the same as everyone else.

Ask a member of your local city council to come and speak at a meeting about what your council is doing to make sure people with disabilities are being treated the same as everyone else.

## 3. Featured Resource



Reinforce has made a fantastic new book telling the stories of self advocates and their life journeys and how they became self advocates and why it is important to them.

The book is written in big print and includes wonderful quirky cartoons by Michael Buckley. The stories not only tell people about self advocacy but also the discrimination and hardships that people with disabilities often have to face. The stories also tell of the good times and childhood memories. A great buy. You can buy the books from Reinforce Ph: 03 9650-7885 - \$20 for organisations, \$5 for individuals. SARU also has six copies in our library for people to borrow.

## 4. News



The Australian Federation of Disability Organisations is holding a conference. It is called: **Policy About Us, For Us!**

**Date: 28th and 29th May 2009**

**Venue: Jasper Hotel, Elizabeth Street, Melbourne**

The conference program will focus on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Australia has signed the Convention. What does this mean for Australia? Human rights will be an important topic at the conference. You can register now! Cost for individuals is \$150 and for Community Groups \$320.

**If you would like to go but may have trouble paying ring AFDO**

**Ph: 03 9662 3324**

AFDO is keen to involve self advocates in the conference. There will be a number of support workers/advisors from SARU at the conference that people can ask for support, and information will be in plain English.

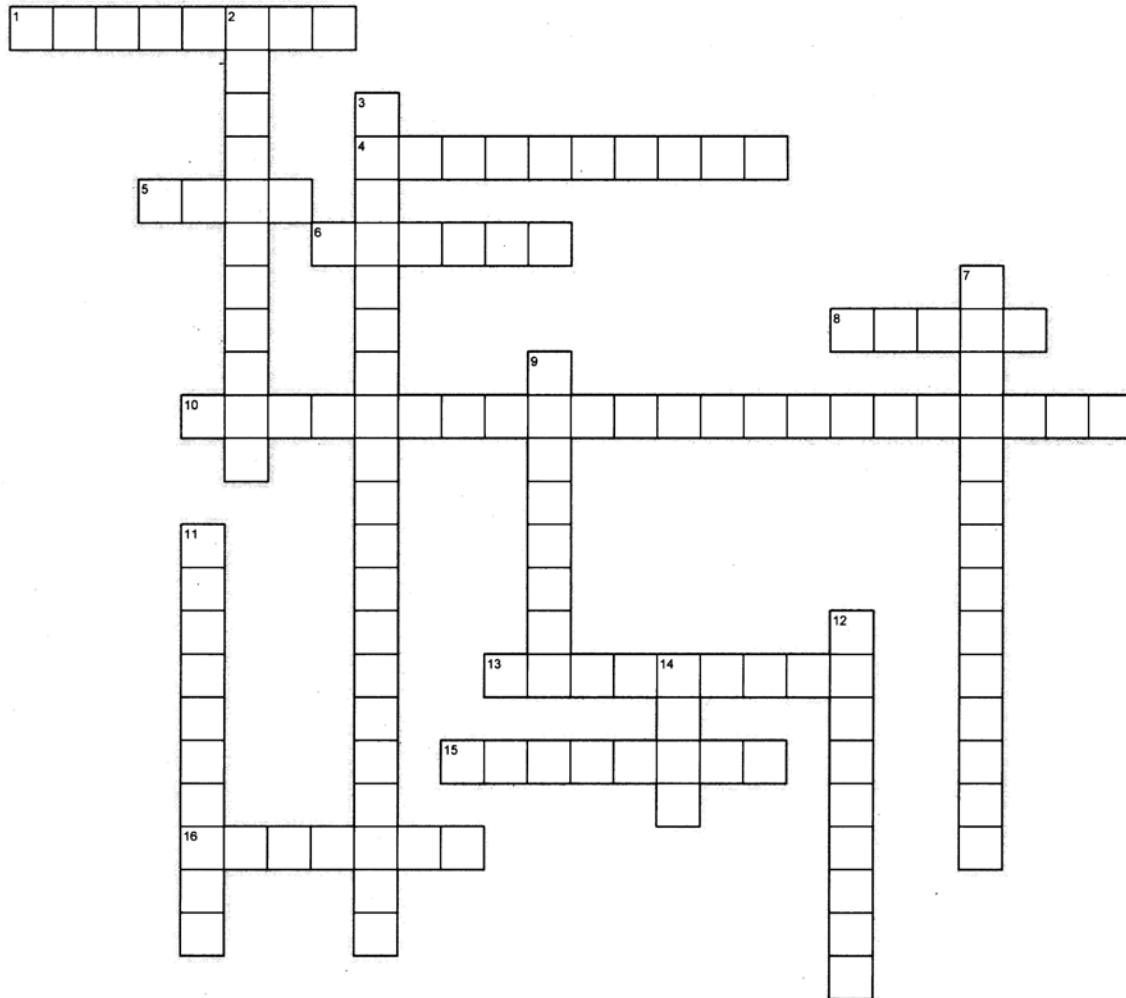
**If your group is having a special event let us know and we will put it in the E-Memo email us you info. You can also help us by letting us know:**

- what you think of the memo
- how we can improve or make the memo better
- things you would like to read in the memo

**Just for fun we have also attached a self advocacy crossword so have a go!!!!**

# SARU Crossword Number 1

SARU



EclipseCrossword.com

## Across

1. A program on the internet where people chat to friends, have their photos, make new friends and join groups
4. The name of the building where the SARU has its office
5. The short name used for the Self Advocacy Resource Unit
6. United Nations convention on the \_\_\_\_\_ of persons with disabilities
8. A conference in Geelong run by VALID
10. The DARU, SARU, VDAN Conference is about this
13. One of the longest running self advocacy groups in Victoria
15. One of the rights people have is freedom of m\_\_\_\_\_
16. Self Advocacy is about strength in \_\_\_\_\_

## Down

2. Victorian Equal \_\_\_\_\_ & Human Rights Commission
3. The name of a self advocacy group for people with an ABI
7. The word used when people treat you badly or differently because you have a disability
9. The name of a new self advocacy group in Gippsland
11. A legal service for people with disabilities
12. The month Brain Injury Awareness Week is in
14. A word made from the initials of Freedom, Respect, Equality and Dignity