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### **1. Lobbying Your Local Politician**

SARU is making a series of tool kits for self advocacy groups to use. One of the tool kits will be called "How to Lobby and Campaign. The tool kit will include information about how self advocacy groups can get to know their local politicians. We thought we would share some ideas with you in this memo. It is a good idea to get to know your local politicians because you can:

- Tell them about your group and the work you do.
- Let them know about the issues and concerns faced by people with a disability.
- Ask them about what they do to support people with disabilities.
- Give them information about what needs to be done to make sure people with disabilities receive their full human rights.

### **Some top tips for lobbying your local politician include:**

1. Invite your local State and/or Federal Member of Parliament (MP) to come to one of your meetings to talk about the problems and issues your group is concerned about e.g. housing, jobs, education, public transport etc.
2. Invite a local politician to be a guest speaker at your AGM ask them to talk about the things they are doing to support people with a disability in their electorate.



## Some top tips for lobbying your local politician include:

3. Visit the electoral office of your local State and/or Federal MP every couple of months to give an update on the work your group has been doing and any issues that have come up.
4. Invite your local Federal MP to come and talk to your group about what they are doing to support the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
5. Invite your local politician to any events your group is running
6. Find out ways your local politician may be able to help your group e.g. finding meeting spaces, use of photocopier, informing other politicians about the issues etc.



**REMEMBER** - Getting to know your local politicians is one way that self advocacy groups can spread the word about the issues that are important to you.

## How to find your local politicians

For State(Victorian) MP's ring the State Parliament on **03 96518911** and then press 0 and ask the operator for the contact details of your local MP. You will need to tell them the name of the town you live in.

For Federal (Australian) MP's ring the Australian Parliament House on **02 6277 7111** and ask the operator for the contact details of your local MP. You will need to tell them the name of the town you live in.



## 2. DARU, SARU and VDAN Conference Update

Remember the SARU ,DARU and VDAN Conference is happening on: **March 26 and March 27 2012 Melbourne Park Conference Centre.**

Registrations will open soon. One of the sessions SARU will be running is an easy to follow session on how to lobby and campaign. Watch out for more exciting news about some of the surprise guest speakers who will be at the conference.

## 3. Funding Opportunities

**Grant:** Optus Regional Community Grants Program

**Funding:** Max per grant: \$10,000 Min per grant: \$1,000

**Closes:** 31 October 2011

This grant is for groups in the country. You can apply for projects that support people to be included in the community. You can also apply for projects that support local community development.

For more information go to their website:

<https://regionalgrants.optus.com.au/user/beforeyoustart/forgeneralpublic/>



### 3. Funding Opportunities cont.

**Grant:** The Readings Foundation

**Funding:** Funding from \$1000 to \$20,000 will be available.

**Closes:** 28 October 2011

You can apply to the Readings Foundation for funding for a project that meets the needs of people living in the community. For more information go to their website:

<http://www.readings.com.au/the-readings-foundation>



### 4. Introducing United Brains

Members of self advocacy and support groups for people with an ABI have joined together to create a new network called UNITED BRAINS. The network aims to:

- link together ABI self advocacy and support groups to share information and resources.
- find isolated people with an ABI in the community and providing opportunities to connect them to groups.
- have a strong united voice to lobby government, community, employment agencies, medical services etc.



#### UNITED BRAINS NETWORK OF ABI GROUPS

Anyone can Acquire Brain Injury.  
United Brains is about Networking  
who have ABI.

UNITED BRAINS:- Linking together ABI self advocacy and support groups to share information and resources.

UNITED BRAINS:- Working to find isolated individuals with an ABI in the broader community and providing opportunities to connect them to groups.

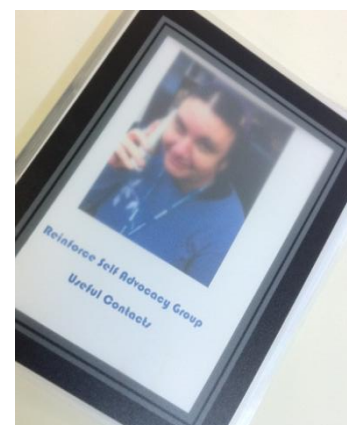
UNITED BRAINS:- Having a strong cohesive voice to lobby govt, community, employment agencies, medical services etc.

Contact:- SARU 9639 6856 to find your local ABI group

If you would like to find out more about UNITED BRAINS Contact Neil Cameron email: [allnecam@iprimus.com.au](mailto:allnecam@iprimus.com.au)

### 5. New Resource Coming Soon

SARU has had a fantastic student Zawadi on placement. She has been busy working on a Useful Contacts Book for each the self advocacy groups supported by SARU it will include contact details for advocacy services, self advocacy groups, local members of parliament, service providers local councils and much more. Watch out for your group's copy arriving in the mail soon.



### 6. What's On

#### Navigating through the Legal System

**Date:** Wednesday 26 October 2011 **Time:** 9:00am to 3:00pm

**Where:** Ground Floor, Lionel Murphy Centre, Victorian Legal Aid 350 Queen St, Melbourne

This session will explain to advocates how the legal system works

To find out more contact DARU Ph: (03) 9639 5807



## 6. What's On cont.

### **Sexual Health Coffee Morning with Patsie Frawley**

**When:** 15th October **Time:** 10.30-12.30

**Where:** Meeting Room 1, First Floor of Ross House  
247 Flinders Lane Melbourne

Come on down to talk about sexual health issues affecting people with intellectual disabilities. Yummy Lunch Provided

**RSVP: 7th October by calling Reinforce Ph: (03) 9650-7855**



### **Awakenings Arts Festival**

The Awakenings is a disability Arts Festival. The theme for the Festival this year is "Rock-Access All Areas"

**Date:** 20 October - 22 October

**Where:** Horsham Vic

**Cost:** \$22

**Website:** <http://awakeningsfestival.com.au/index.html>

**For more information contact Sue Farnham (03) 5382 1919**



### **Contact SARU**

*Are you holding a special event ?*

*Are you looking for more members for your group?*

Why not advertise in the SARU memo

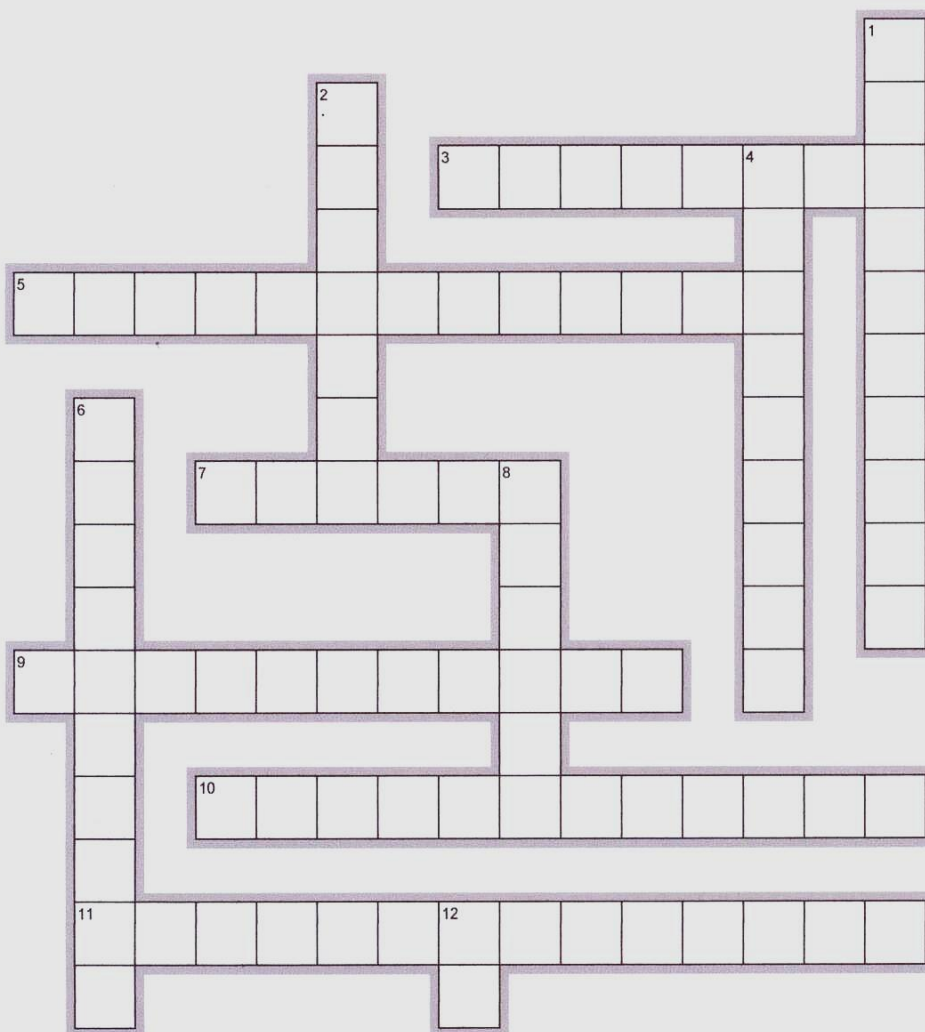
Phone: 03 9650-6359 Email: [saru@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:saru@rosshouse.org.au)



## 7. SARU Crossword

On the next page is the SARU crossword. Have a go and see what you think. If your group would like to make a crossword for our next e-memo or for your own newsletter contact the SARU.

# September



EclipseCrossword.com

## Across

3. The Australian Parliament House is in this city
5. The name of a new network for self advocacy groups for people with an ABI
7. The Un Convention on the ..... of Persons with a Disability
9. The Premier of Victoria
10. The Prime Minsiter of Australia
11. Reinforce runs information sessions called .....  
.....

8. The Victorian State Parliament is in this street
12. A short way of saying Member of Parliament

## Down

1. Name of an arts festival in Horsham
2. If you have an idea for a project you can apply for .....
4. SARU makes these
6. In March 2012 SARU, DARU and VDAN are holding one of these