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Welcome to the third SARU E- Memo

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

1. *Doug Pentland remembered*
2. *Group activity idea*
3. *Job for Self Advocate*

1. Doug Pentland Remembered

It is great sadness to announce that a great leader in self advocacy Doug Pentland passed away on Sunday 28th June. Doug Pentland was a long term self advocate involved with Reinforce for over 27 years.



*Our voices
should be heard
and not denied*

Doug spent many years in state institutions. While he was in the institution he experienced abuse and lack of freedom.

He became a member of Reinforce and worked hard for the rights of people with disabilities. He had a burning passion to see institutions closed. Doug was a wonderful person – people called him a “true gentleman”. He quietly went about trying to change the world for people with disabilities. Doug volunteered at Reinforce four days a week. He was an inspiring speaker, he acted in many videos, and sat on government boards. He wrote the story of his life in his book “Doug’s Story the Struggle for a Fair Go”.



He also produced artwork for the Hidden Lives exhibition. The exhibition showed artwork about people’s lives in institutions and also after they left the institution. Doug also received a Federation Medal for his services to the community.





Doug was known and respected by *many many* people. Thank you Doug you were a truly remarkable self advocate and an incredible human being. ***We will miss you.***

Doug's funeral will be held at St Marks Church
250 George St Fitzroy at 2pm July 8th.

Doug's story is attached to this e-memo courtesy of Reinforce - taken from their book "Self Advocates Tell their Stories" available from Reinforce cost \$5



2. Group Activity Idea

- Invite a self advocate who has lived in an institution to come and speak at your group.
- There are still two institutions in Victoria – if your group thinks they should be closed write a letter to your member of parliament.
- Read part of Doug's story attached with this newsletter. How is it different to your story? Talk about your feelings and things that are the same or different in your life.
- Think about writing your group's or your life story



3. Job for Self Advocate



Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO) is looking for 2 workers. One will be a self advocate and the other a support worker. The job is to put together a kit on how to include self advocates in meetings and conferences. The details of the job include:



- 14 hours a week for 12 weeks.
- \$28 an hour, casual rate
- Located at AFDO office, Ross House 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne

People with disabilities are encouraged to apply. To request a copy of the job description and for more information:



phone 03 9662 3324

or



visit website: afdo.org.au

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