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1. [New Self Advocacy Group in Bendigo](#)

Exciting news! A new independent self advocacy group is coming to Bendigo! Since doing the Reinforce *Know Your Rights Training* over a year ago members of the AMICUS Having a Say group have been passionate about setting up an independent self advocacy group in Bendigo. The new group is able to start because the Having a Say group generously offered to share Carmel the worker they pay to support their group, with the new Bendigo self advocacy group.

This is a great story about sharing resources. Carmel will provide admin support and advice for the new group. Carmel has previously worked for RIAC the local advocacy service. Carmel and the Having a Say group have also found a free meeting space for the group in the local State Trustees Office.

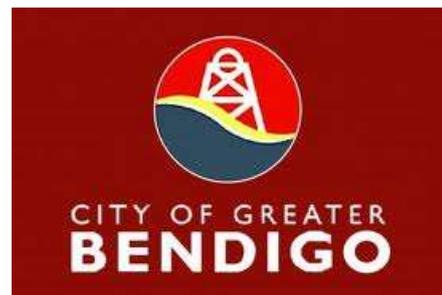
Members of the new group come from all over Bendigo and include people who use the services of Radius and Scope.

At a recent workshop supported by SARU the group:

- worked on a name for the group
- met with Daniel and Chris the local rural access worker
- had their say about public transport issues in Bendigo
- met with Wendy from RIAC

So even without a meeting space they have already begun working as a self advocacy group

[Congratulations Everybody](#)



2. Victorian Self Advocacy Network the Next Step

At the SARU, DARU, DAV conference over 90 self advocates said they want a Victorian Self Advocacy Network to be set up. SARU has employed Heidi Peart to work one day a week to help groups get information about networking and to begin talking about the different ways a Victorian Self Advocacy Network could be set up and run.

Heidi will be sending out networking information and then visiting the groups to talk about networking ideas. If you would like to have your say about setting up the Victorian Self Advocacy Network contact SARU.



3. Self Advocacy Groups Updates

United Brains

United Brains is a network of self help and self advocacy groups run by people with an Acquired Brain Injury. United Brains will soon be making a web page which will include information about all the ABI support, self help and self advocacy groups in Victoria. There will also be an events calendar and it will be a place that each of the United Brains member groups can share information. Also check out their new logo!



VDBAG

VDBAG is a group run by people who are deafblind they are about to make an information kit about their group and about deafblindness including a short video. They will also be making a flier to advertise their workshop called "Deafblind World". The group ran the workshop at the recent DARU, SARU conference and it was a great success. Heather who is a member of the group also recently spoke at the demonstration about the closing of the Auslan Course at Kangan TAFE. To watch Heather's speech go to:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50GCx_XH924&feature=youtu.be



4. PSSSST !! Have you heard about the UN Convention?

SARU is going to be making easy to understand kits about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The kits will include a DVD and will help you understand the convention and how you can use it to speak up for your rights and improve your life. Jacqui from SARU and Peta from BIM are working on making the kits. We will keep you up to date with what is happening.



5 . National Disability Insurance Scheme and Self Advocacy

SARU recently held a small forum to learn about the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and what it will mean to self advocacy groups and self advocates. There was a lot of information to think about, the key things we learnt were:

- Groups need to keep lobbying the government to make sure they continue to support the NDIS.
- The NDIS will make things better for people with disabilities
- Self advocates need to have their say about what they need to make their life better.
- There will be meetings held around Australia so people can have their say.
- Self Advocacy groups need to have their say about how important it is to keep self advocacy growing in Australia.

SARU will be making some plain English information about the NDIS and how self advocacy groups can have say – when this happens we will send out the information to the groups



6. Funding grants

The R E Ross Trust

Category: Community Services & Development

Closes: Ongoing

What they Fund: The R E Ross Trust funds projects that make change that can improve people's lives socially or economically. Groups who work to help people living in Victoria and who have an ABN can apply for funding. To find out more about the funding go to this website: <http://www.rosstrust.org.au/>



SARU Word Search

Have a go at the SARU Word search. Let us know what you think. If your group would like to make a word search for our next e-memo or for your own newsletter contact the SARU.

Don't Forget !!!!

You can now watch the SARU memo online go to SARU facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/102307067022/>

or the SARU Bambuser page:

<http://bambuser.com/channel/Self%2BAdvocacy%2BReource%2BUnit>

Contact SARU

If you would like to put an item in this memo

If you would like us to put in information about your group

If you would like to tell us what you think of this memo