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1. **Strengthening Disability Advocacy Conference**
2. **Funding Opportunities**
3. **SARU memo online!!!**

### 1. **Strengthening Disability Advocacy Conference**

Only four weeks to go until the Strengthening Disability Advocacy Conference!!!! The conference is being run by DARU, SARU and Disability Advocacy Victoria. The conference is on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March at the Melbourne Park Function Centre. It is going to be a fantastic conference with great presentations. Here are just some of the presentations which might interest you:

#### **Wheel Chair Waltz by Johnny Crescendo**

Johnny is a disability activist and advocate from the U.S.A. He has been fighting for the rights of people with a disability since the '80's. He is also a song writer. He writes songs about rights and disability. His songs "Choices and Rights" and "Tear Down the Walls" are sung by the disability movement in the United Kingdom and in the U.S.A. He is passionate about people with a disability having the right to stay in the community and not be forced into institutions. Johnny will be giving two presentations at the conference. His presentations will include songs.

#### **Getting Legal Services**

This session is about how people with a disability can get access to legal services. In the session Eleanore and Robyn from Victorian Legal Aid will talk about:

- What is a legal issue?
- When should I get legal help?
- Who can give me legal help, including what does a lawyer do?
- How and where do I get legal help?
- Do I have to pay for legal help?



## 1. Strengthening Disability Advocacy Conference cont.

### Nothing About Us Without Us: from Across the Tasman

Michael and Cindy from People First New Zealand will talk about self advocacy in New Zealand. They will also talk about the work they are doing to make sure the UN Convention will make a difference to the lives of people with a disability living in New Zealand.



### Systemic Advocacy Training for Women with Disabilities

Lauren from Women with Disabilities Victoria will talk about an advocacy training package. The training will support women with disabilities to learn advocacy skills so they can work together to raise their voices and work on issues of concern.



### Deafblind World

Members of the Victorian Deafblind Advocacy Group invite people to come along and take part in activities that show you what it is like to be deafblind. The activities will be followed by a question and answer session with members of the group.



### Advocacy Using Human Rights Laws

Eden Parris, Communication Rights Australia will talk about how to use human rights laws when doing advocacy work - so that people with disabilities can experience greater justice in their lives.



### My House, My Home, My Rights

Colin will present Reinforce's new training resource and video "My House, My Home, My Rights. The training takes you through a day in the life of people living in a group home and asks us all to think about how things can be done differently.



### Social Inclusion – the Experience of People with an ABI

United Brains and VCASP will talk about the issues faced by people with an ABI. United Brains is a new network of ABI self advocacy and support groups and will be launched during the session – so come along and join the party!



### Rights, the Web and Video Tape

Film maker Michael and Jane from Reinforce will talk about a new website that looks at people's experiences with the Victorian Disability Act. The website includes animations, videos and interviews and can be used as a campaign tool.



### Supporting Self advocacy

Heidi Peart will talk about how people who work in self advocacy can do a good job and not take over or take control. Heidi has read information about the topic and interviewed workers and self advocates she will talk about what she learnt.



### ***1. Strengthening Disability Advocacy Conference cont.***

To find out more about the conference go to the conference website:

<http://daru.tysonarmstrong.com/strengthening-disability-advocacy-conference>

### ***2. Funding Opportunities***

**Grant:** Besen Family Foundation    **Funding:** Max per grant: \$10,000

**Closes:** 12 April 2012

This grant is for local communities and people who are disadvantaged.

You can apply for projects that support improved health or welfare

including projects that support education, providing a service,

rehabilitation and more. For more information go to their website:

<http://www.besenfoundation.org.au/> or Phone: (03) 9413 2186



**Besen Family**  
FOUNDATION

**Grant:** Lord Mayor Foundation    **Funding:** between \$5,000 and \$50,000

**Closes:** 30 March 2012

This grant is for groups that assist people who are disadvantaged or to fund projects which work to change things and which promote people to be included in the community.

For more information go to their website:

[www.lmcf.org.au/content/apply-for-a-grant](http://www.lmcf.org.au/content/apply-for-a-grant) or Phone: (03) 9633 0021



If you need any help to write a submission or to find out how to apply for funding contact the SARU

### ***3. SARU memo online!!!!***

You can now watch a video of the SARU memo online to see the video go to SARU facebook page:

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

or the SARU Bambuser page:

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

**facebook**

**bambuser**

#### ***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***

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