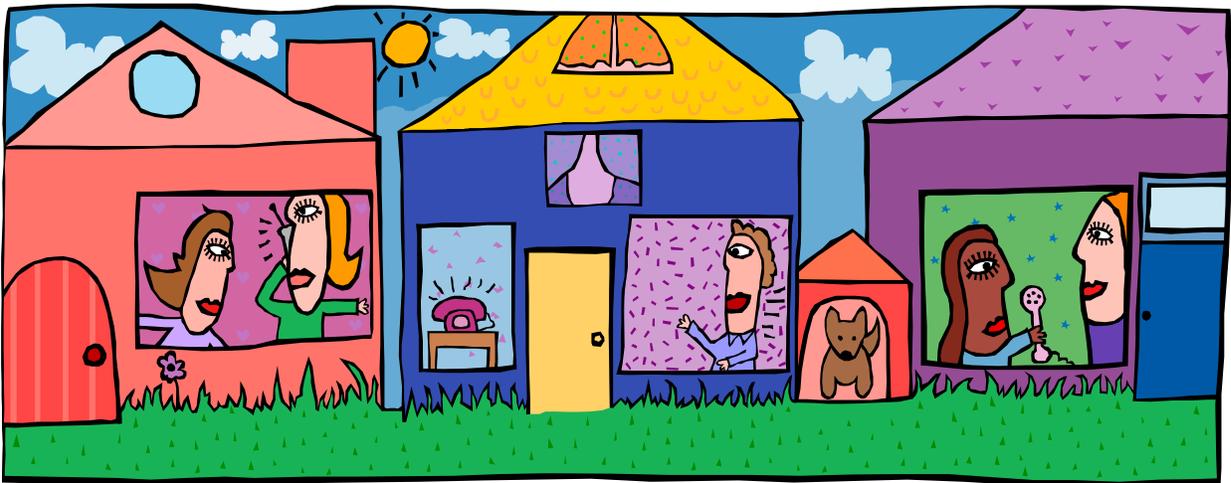


AMIDA

Action for More Independence and Dignity in Accommodation

Annual Report 2010



Advocacy, Self Advocacy, Rights, Accessibility, and Community Living for People with a Disability

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**AMIDA
Annual General Meeting
14th September 2010**

AGENDA

- 10.00 Welcome
- Present/Apologies
- Minutes of the Previous AGM
- Chairperson's Report
- Activities Report – AMIDA advocacy, SARU, ARG
- Treasurer's Report
- Chair is handed over to Returning Officer, (16 vacancies)
- 11.00 Housing Know Your Rights in CRU's Training
- 12.00 Lunch
- 1.00 Close of meeting

David Banfield gave report.

Moved: David Banfield **Seconded:** Norrie Blythman
Carried

Auditor:

‘That Barco & Associates be re-appointed as Auditors.’

Moved: David Banfield **Seconded:** Amanda Hiscoe
Carried

Public Officer:

Peter Waters has agreed to continue as AMIDA Public Officer

Luke Stone handed over to Esther Harris, Returning Officer.

Esther declared all Committee positions vacant.

Nominations have been received by:

Des McIntosh
Ray Groves
Janice Slattery
Norrie Blythman
David Banfield
Jane Hauser
Luke Stone

All declared elected for 2009/2010

Esther called for nominations from the floor.

Andrew Crosling

Nominated: Des McIntosh Seconded: Kaye Forstner

Cynthia Pilli

Nominated: Des McIntosh Seconded: Amanda Hiscoe

Kaye Forstner

Nominated: Norrie Blythman Seconded: Amanda Hiscoe

All elected

6 Committee positions have not been filled to date. Co-option can occur.

Launch of the Housing Know Your Rights in CRUs DVD

Close of meeting 1.00pm

Chairpersons Report Norrie Blythman

AMIDA has had another successful year. It's getting better and better each year.

The federal government provided an increase in our core funding up to \$115,000 from the start of July 2010.

We started our Housing Know Your Rights in CRUs project this year by providing copies of the DVD and Booklet to all CRUs in Victoria. The Training for the residents of 50 CRUs has begun.

The Raising Our Voices Radio Show is going strong. Presenters have organized shows on the Disability Services Commissioner, the AFDO conference, Plain English and making meetings more accessible, Blind Citizens Australia, The Shut in Campaign and many others.

We continue to be a part of the Victorian Disability Advocacy Network and I attend these meetings as our representative.

This is our second year as lead group in the SARB (Self Advocacy Re-Born) consortium which manages the SARU - Self Advocacy Resource Unit. The four SARB members are Start Community Art, AMIDA, Reinforce and Brain Injury Matters. For AMIDA our role has included managing the finances, employing staff, attending meetings with the funding body and being represented on the Project Management Group. The SARU continues to be successful and busy! This year we completed the Getting into the Act DVD on the Disability Act for Self Advocacy Groups. We were successful in getting additional funds to train self advocacy groups using the Getting into the Act DVD. This part of the project has now begun.

Also SARB applied for and was successful in getting funding to create 2 or 3 new information resources on the Disability Act for people with a disability. The project is called the Act Resources Group (ARG) and a lot of work has been done this year on setting up a web site and making DVDs about the Disability Act.

Sadly this year our chairperson Des McIntosh became ill and as the Co-Chairperson I stepped into this role. I've been happy to step into his shoes for awhile but we hope he is back soon.

Furthermore I would like to thank the Committee for all their efforts and support throughout the year, and also the workers for the great work they have done.

Norrie Blythman
Acting Chairperson

AMIDA

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Des McIntosh	Chairperson (resigned during the year)
Norrie Blythman	Co-Chairperson
Luke Stone	Treasurer
Janice Slattery	Co-Treasurer
Kay Forstner	Secretary
Jane Hauser	Committee Member (resigned during the year)
David Banfield	Committee Member
Andrew Crossling	Committee Member
Ray Groves	Committee Member
Cynthia Pilli	Committee Member

AMIDA WORKERS

Gabrielle Dickinson	Housing Rights/Coordinator
Pauline Williams	Housing Rights/Coordinator
Koula Sarimichaelidis	Administration/Finance
Gab Reade	Radio Technical Producer
Jane Hauser	Peer Educator/Advisor
Amanda Hiscoe	Peer Educator/Actor
Paul Drew	Peer Educator/Advisor
Mary Reid	Project Worker CRU Rights

Self Advocacy Resource Unit

Sue Smith	SARU Project Worker
Jacqui Ward	SARU Project Worker/Researcher
Jan Coles	SARU Project Worker (short term)
Sharon Jones	Conference Support Worker
Michael Buckley	Film maker and Project Worker ARG
Lisa Brumtis	Actor/Peer advisor
Neil Cameron	Peer Advisor/Researcher
Sheridan Campbell	Peer Advisor/Actor

Kelvin Lim	Peer Advisor
Larissa MacFarlane	Peer Advisor
Toby Crook	Actor
Anita Solenaars	Peer Advisor
Peta Ferguson	Peer Advisor
Rachel Walters	Peer Advisor
Andrew Green	Peer Advisor/Actor/Editor

AMIDA Activities Report – 2009/10

Systemic Advocacy

Tenancy Rights

Our campaign to inform and empower people living in Community Residential Units continues. This project has involved the mail out of around 1000 of our booklet/DVD to all the Community Residential Units in Victoria. The DVD explains residential rights, how to ask for your rights and how to get advocacy support. Training is now being provided to around 50 households and these sessions have taken place in both country and city Victoria.

AMIDA also provides individual advocacy, self advocacy support, community education, systemic advocacy and information, advice and referral on the residential rights of people with a disability.

Access in the community

We have continued to monitor the introduction by the Transport Ticketing Authority of the system called MYKI and the Access Travel Pass which was introduced to give free travel to people unable to use the new ticketing system. We have lobbied to ensure the interpretation of this will include cognitive inability to reliably remember to both scan on and scan off. We continue to monitor the roll out of the MYKI concession passes which will go to people who have successfully applied for the Sunday

Pass. Wheelchair and scooter users can now apply for the Scooter and Wheelchair Access Pass which also gives free travel.

Raising Our Voices radio show

Throughout 2009/10 we have continued to support people with a disability having the opportunity to Raise Our Voices on the radio show on 3CR. This is a self advocacy project which also tackles systemic issues. The show goes to air on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6pm and is supported by a dedicated team of broadcasters from Reinforce and AMIDA. Topics this year have included:

- The Australian Federation of Disability Organisations conference
- The Disability Services Commissioner, Laurie Harkin
- Using Plain English and making meetings accessible
- Blind Citizens Australia
- A tribute to Doug Pentland
- The Strengthening Advocacy Conference
- The “Shut In” campaign
- Having a Say conference radio workshop
- AMIDA’s Know Your Rights in a CRU Project
- People with disability in the Solomon Islands
- MYKI and the Access Travel Pass
- Highlights of the Year

Thanks to all those who have participated and aired those issues important to people with a disability. There have been many people with a disability directly involved in the planning, presentation and interviewing for the show. Thanks also to Gab Reade our wonderful technical producer over the year. Thanks also to the wonderful 3CR. Copies of the shows on CD are available. You can listen to the shows live on your computer if your radio doesn’t pick up 3CR. Just go to www.3cr.org.au We are now able to offer podcasts.

Information, Advice, Referral and Individual Advocacy

During 2009/10 we continued to provide information, advice, referral and individual advocacy to people with a disability. We were able to provide information, advice and referral to 11 people with a disability and 7 community organisations. We provided secondary consultation to 4 services. We provided information to 155 people as part of education sessions. 25 people were provided with direct individual advocacy.

Networking

AMIDA continues with its involvement with VDAN. We are also building our relationships with the self advocacy sector through our work with the Self Advocacy Resource Unit.

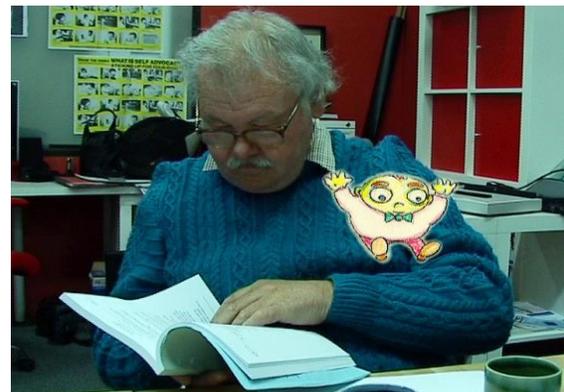
Disseminating information about AMIDA and improving access to AMIDA

We again produced 4 newsletters and have tried to include important information that we receive from government and the community as well as our own activities. Thanks to all the members who made contributions as these are most welcome. The newsletters are on our web site www.amida.infoxchange.net.au

The Self Advocacy Resource Unit

As lead agency in the consortium which manages the SARU our annual report will also now include a report from the SARU. Much has been done in the second twelve months to continue to establish the service and to work on the job of developing and strengthening self advocacy groups for people with intellectual disability, people with acquired brain injury and people with complex communication support needs. AMIDA would like to take this opportunity to thank our project partners BIM (Brain Injury Matters), Reinforce, and Start Community Art.

The following is just some of the work already done.



SARU produced DVD and paper newsletters and e memos. We also produced DVDs about the SARU and the Project Management Group. The SARU website is up and contains accessible information. There is a SARU facebook page. www.saru.net.au

We also produced a DVD and Booklet called Getting into the Act which contains information on the Disability Act for self advocacy groups. Training on this kit is now being developed for self advocacy groups.

We identified and contacted the following groups:

Reinforce*, BIM*, George Grey Centre, Patchworks, New Wave Gippsland*, New Horizons*, Portland Self Advocacy Group, WESABI*, MCM Learning Participation*, DnD (Disability and Diversity)*, Yooralla Speaking up for Ourselves*, Deaf Blind Advocacy Group*, Speak Up and Speak Out*, WPSO, People First Victoria, VALID*, We Help Ourselves, Moe Life Skills*, Mornington ABI group*

Those with a * we have met with to identify support needs and are working with.

We held a networking event to get self advocacy groups across Victoria together to meet and map out the self advocacy groups.

SARU has been encouraging self advocacy groups to develop their networks and contacts with other self advocacy groups.



We had a strong presence again at the Having A Say conference where we were major partners and had a major role in the Strengthening Disability Advocacy Conference

SARU worked with AFDO on an Inclusion Kit.

Many Videos have been converted to DVD and the resources we have bought from overseas are growing. We have provided groups with access to badge makers, audio recorders, TV/DVD player, laminator and printer, interpreters, meeting spaces, speakers, support workers, accessible information, sponsorship to conferences, travel costs and accommodation.

Development by SARU of the “Human Right How to be a Millionaire Game”, “What Cheeses me off” power point, “Have a go at Self Advocacy” power point, “Step by Step Lobbying and Campaigning” power point and self advocacy training for staff.

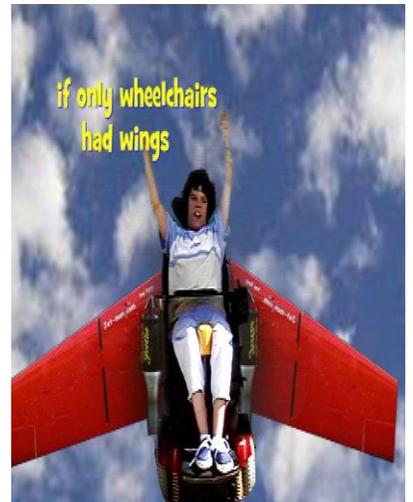
Beginning to provide information to advisors/facilitators of self advocacy and holding a first meeting

SARU supported MCM Learning and Participation Group to develop a series of 4 posters aimed at being displayed on public transport.



Supported self advocates to attend OPA workshops and sit on a paid reference group. Developed a list of questions services should answer when they approach self advocacy groups to ask for their involvement.

Made a video on transport issues for the “Speaking up for Ourselves” group.



Support for WESABI planning and project groups

Supported Reinforce to undertake training on self advocacy throughout the Loddon Mallee Region

Developed a timetable of 10 training sessions over the next 12 months

SARU undertook self advocacy training with young adults at Interact resulting in work to establish a self advocacy film unit.

Act Resources Group (ARG)

During this year we began work on another consortium project which will produce interactive resources about the Disability Act. We started the project by researching to discover what resources were already available and how accessible it is to people of all disability types. We also looked at what types of information people wanted and in what formats.



The next phase has involved planning for a web site on the Disability Act and producing new resources including video that can be put on the site. We will also be using some existing resources and providing links to others. The site will be a clearing house or a place where you can find lots of information in various formats about what the Disability Act says about best practice in disability services and some good examples.