

# Group Self Advocacy Partnership Project

February 2019



Easy Read

**This is the easy read report.**



**Hard words are written in blue.**

**After the hard word it will  
say what the word means.**

## What does this report say?

This report says what self advocacy groups need to run projects with other organisations. An organisation is a group of people who work together.

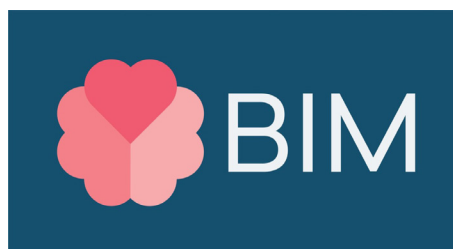
## What do self advocacy groups need to run projects?

- Lots of time to do all of the jobs
- Support to be good workers
- Money to pay self advocates for the work
- Money to pay support workers
- Money to run the group
- To be included in networks. Networks are different people coming together to talk about something.
- To be allowed to make their own decisions
- To be recognised for the work they do. Recognised means other people telling you that you have done a good job.
- Other organisations to know about self advocacy and see people with disability as equals.

# Who worked on this project?



**SARU**  
Self Advocacy Resource Unit



**BIM**  
Brain Injury Matters



**PPP**  
Positive Powerful Parents

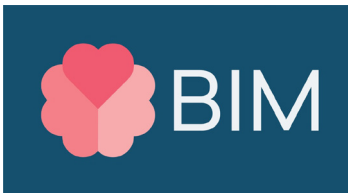


**DnD**  
Diversity and Disability



## What did SARU do?

- Worked with the 3 groups.
- Helped the groups to work well.
- Helped the groups to write the reports.



## What did BIM do?

- Worked with Leadership Plus.
- Worked with Brain Injury Australia.
- Made an app for people with brain injury.
- The app is called ABI Wise.

**POSITIVE  
POWERFUL  
PARENTS**

## **What did PPP do?**

- Worked with the Parenting Research Centre.
- Told people what parents with intellectual disability need.



## **What did DnD do?**

- Worked with the Ethnic Council of Victoria.
- Worked with the Ethnic Council of Shepparton.
- Found out how to help people who don't speak English know about self advocacy.

## **What did the project find out?**

The project found out that:

- **When groups have enough money and support they can do great work.**
- **It is good for self advocates to be paid for the work they do.**
- **Networks help groups.**
- **To have good partnerships groups need to be strong.**
- **Self advocates need training about having a job.**
- **Self advocates need training about running projects.**
- **Self advocacy groups can be scared of working with partners because of the way they have been treated in the past.**



## What did the project find out?

The project also found out that:

- Working with **disability service providers** can be hard. **Disability service providers get paid to help people with disability.**
- Self advocates help other organisations to know how to work well with people with disability.
- Groups need more time to run projects.
- When self advocacy groups have project money they have more power and can tell other organisations how to be **inclusive**. **Inclusive means making it easy for people with disability to work well.**
- All of the government paperwork needs to be easy to use and easy to understand.
- Organisations who do not usually work with people with disability may be excited to work with self advocates.



## What did BIM find out?



- People with brain injury can do great work
- People with disability need help with Centrelink when they are starting to work
- People with brain injury need better access to smart phones and computers
- It is hard for self advocacy groups to work with hospitals and **health services**. Hospitals and health services can see people with disability as patients not as equals. **Health services are places to go when you are sick, hurt or need care.**

## What did PPP find out?

### POSITIVE POWERFUL PARENTS

- Parents with intellectual disability often get their children taken away from them.
- Parents don't get **counselling** or support when their children are taken away. **Counselling is talking with someone who understands your problems.**
- Parents are sad and say that they do not like life without their children.
- Child protection **discriminates** against parents with intellectual disability. **Discriminate means treating someone unfairly.**
- Parents are scared to tell their stories.
- Sometimes when parents tell their stories things get worse for them.

## What did DnD find out?



- It is hard for people with disability who don't speak English to get support.
- People with disability who don't speak English need self advocacy to go to them.
- It is hard for people with disability to work with disability service providers. Disability service providers see people with disability as clients, not as equals.
- People with disability who live in the country have less choices.
- People with disability who do not speak English may not know about rights.

# What needs to change for self advocacy groups to run projects with other organisations?

- Self advocacy workers need to be paid like workers in other organisations.
- Self advocacy groups need the same things that other organisations have.
- Self advocacy groups need to know the same things that other organisations know.
- Other organisations need to know how to work well with people with disability.
- Other organisations need to treat self advocates really well. In the past people with disability have not been treated well.
- Groups need a lot time to build trust.



# What do self advocacy groups need?

## Groups need:

- Support and training about having a job.
- Support and training about working as a team.
- Support and training about running projects.
- To share what they learn with other self advocacy groups.
- To go to organisations and tell them about the work they want to do.
- Good counselling and emotional support.
- More self advocates trained to do this work.



## What do other organisations need to do to work with groups?

- Get support and training about working well with self advocates.
- Invite self advocacy groups to their meetings.
- Invite self advocacy groups to join their networks.



## What do disability service providers, hospitals and health services need to do to work with groups?

- See people with disability as equals.
- Get support and training about working well with self advocates.
- Invite self advocacy groups to their meetings.
- Invite self advocacy groups to join their networks.



## What does the government need to do?

- Give self advocacy groups the same money they give other organisations.
- Give groups more time to do projects.
- Let groups choose the work they want to do.
- Make sure that all project paperwork is easy to understand and fill out.
- Invite self advocacy groups to join their networks.





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