



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

**SPRC**  
Social Policy Research Centre

# Our Voice SA Reaching Out

Final Study Report



**OUR VOICE SA**



[www.arts.unsw.edu.au/sprc](http://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/sprc)



**Easy Read**



# About this report



This report is about a project **led by people** with intellectual **disability** for other people with disability.



The project was called **Reaching Out**.



Reaching Out was run by a group called **Our Voice SA**.



This report talks about what Reaching Out **did well, what it achieved, and what is needed.**

# About Our Voice SA



Our Voice SA is a **peer led self advocacy** group for people with intellectual disability.



**Peer led** means people with intellectual disability run the group and are part of the group.



**Self advocacy** means having a say about things that matter to you.



Our Voice SA has over **100** active members.



Our Voice SA meets **monthly**.



Our Voice SA does **things to help** people with intellectual disability like.



Feel part of their **community**.



Know their **rights**.



**Speak out** about the things that matter to them.



Help **services and government** to work better with people with intellectual disability.

# About the Reaching Out Project



The **Reaching Out Project** wanted to connect to more people with intellectual disability.



The project **was for 3 years.**



The project worked with people with intellectual disability in **South Australia.**



It worked with **people** in the **city** and the **country.**

## About the study



Part of the Reaching Out project is a **study** called an evaluation.



The study looked at **what the project did well**, and what it achieved.



The study was **done by people** at **Flinders University** and **University of New South**



**Wales.**



## How we did the study



The study used **co design**.

**Co design** means a person with intellectual disability helped with the study.



We **talked** to **members** at Our Voice SA.



We **talked** to people who **work** for Our Voice SA.



We **looked at** other **information** about Our Voice SA.

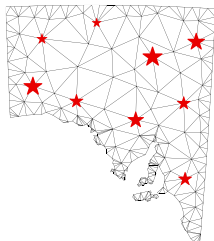
# What did Our Voice SA do well?



Our Voice SA achieved **many great things** in the Reaching Out project like.



**Worked with services** that run group homes or group employment.



**Set up peer groups** in 9 communities.



**Run workshops** for people living in the country and in the city.



**Organised many peer groups.**

Peer groups help people with disability connect with each other.



Supported people with intellectual disability to **become peer leaders.**

# What the Reaching Out project achieved



Over 3 years, Our Voice SA grew **stronger and bigger.**



**Many new members** joined from different services and parts of South Australia.



People were **better connected** to their peers.



People with disability were more **skilled** and **confident** to speak up.



Some members **became leaders**, and some had paid roles.



The community respected Our Voice SA **for their knowledge**.



Our Voice SA **have a voice** to speak out for people with intellectual disability.

# Future of Our Voice SA and self advocacy



Reaching Out achieved **many good things** for people with disability in South Australia.



People with disability **connected and learned** about their rights through peer groups.



Ongoing **funding** for Our Voice SA and self advocacy remains a problem.



**Government  
of South Australia**

Self advocacy groups, like Our Voice SA, **are useful.**

It is **worth spending** money on them.

## More information



**More information** about the study is on the university website.



You can click this link to find out more:

<https://www.unsw.edu.au/research/sprc/our-projects/our-voice-sa-reaching-out-evaluation>