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Our Voice SA Reaching Out



Final Study Report

Close-up of hands shaking

Description automatically generatedLogo, company name

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



**About this report**

A group of people posing for a photo

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

Close-up of hands shaking

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The project was called **Reaching Out.**

Logo, company name

Description automatically generatedReaching Out was run by a group called **Our Voice SA**.

A picture containing person, sport

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

**About Our Voice SA**

Logo, company name

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

A picture containing person, person, standing, posing

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

A person holding a megaphone

Description automatically generated with low confidence**Self advocacy** means having a say about things that matter to you.

A group of people sitting at a table with their hands up

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceOur Voice SA has over **100** active **members**.

Calendar

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Our Voice SA **meets monthly**.

A picture containing person, people

Description automatically generatedOur Voice SA does **things to help** people with intellectual disability like.

A group of people posing for a picture

Description automatically generated with low confidence

Feel part of their **community**.

A person in a suit and tie

Description automatically generated with low confidence

Know their **rights**.

A person holding a megaphone

Description automatically generated with low confidence

**Speak ou**t about the things that matter to them.

Two people shaking hands

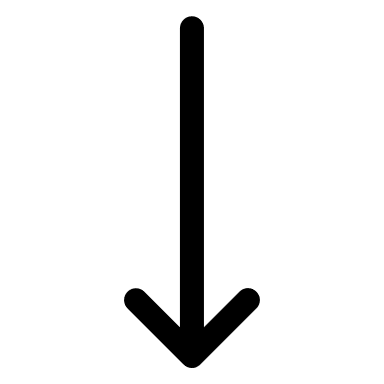
Description automatically generated

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

**About the Reaching Out Project**

A picture containing text, person, standing, sign

Description automatically generatedThe **Reaching Out Project** wanted to connect to more people with intellectual disability.



The project **was for 3 years**.

Map

Description automatically generatedThe project worked with people with intellectual disability in **South Australia**.

A picture containing grass, sky, outdoor, nature

Description automatically generated

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

**About the study**

Logo, icon

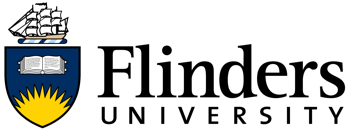
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Part of the Reaching Out project is a **study** called an evaluation.

A picture containing person, sport

Description automatically generatedThe 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**

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Description automatically generatedThe study used **co design**.

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



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

A person wearing a name tag

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceWe **talked** to people who **work** for Our Voice SA.

A group of people sitting around a table

Description automatically generated

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

**What did Our Voice SA do well?**

Logo, company name

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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.

A picture containing person, person, standing, posing

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

A group of people posing for a photo

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceOrganised many peer groups.

Peer groupshelp people with disability connect with each other.

A person holding an object

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceSupported people with intellectual disability to become peer leaders.

**What the Reaching Out project achieved**

Logo, company name

Description automatically generated

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

A group of people posing for a photo

Description automatically generated

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

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

A group of people posing for the camera

Description automatically generatedPeople with disability were more **skilled** and **confident** to speak up.

A person in a suit holding a phone to his ear

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceSome members **became leaders**, and some had paid roles.

Two people posing for a picture

Description automatically generated with low confidenceThe community respected Our Voice SA **for their** **knowledge.**

A person holding a megaphone

Description automatically generated with low confidence

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.

A group of people posing for a photo

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

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

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

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.

A computer with a logo on the screen

Description automatically generated with low confidenceYou can click this link to find out more:

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