



10.02.2012

## Telling stories of life and self advocacy

Self Advocacy History Group  
Having a Say Conference 2013

# What this presentation is about

- How we have done the history research
- How we wrote our stories about our lives and being self advocates
- What people think we should do with the stories and the information from the project

# How we have done the history project

- Between 2007 and 2008 we had 16 meetings to talk about the research
- By November 2008 we had organised a reunion and a self advocacy stream at the ASID conference to talk about research
- 2009 – 2011 we did group Interviews with 27 people - self advocates, and supporters
- Looked at over 200 documents and resources we have developed over the years
- Wrote 6 of our stories
- Presented at conferences
- Developing a picture book of our history





Writing our  
stories

Why?

How?

What next?



# David Banfield's story 1951 – 2012

David was from Bendigo – he was “born and bred” there. He grew up with his two brothers and mother, but his Dad passed away when David was six years old. David had a strong connection to the railways and all things relating to trains – this came from his family connection to the Bendigo Railyards where his Dad and later his brother worked. There was nothing David did not know about trains.

Sandhurst Centre – which was called Sandhurst Boys home in David's time is in Bendigo and David lived there from around 1968 to 1972, but he might have spent some time there when he was younger too. He also worked at St Nick's workshop for 50 cents a day!

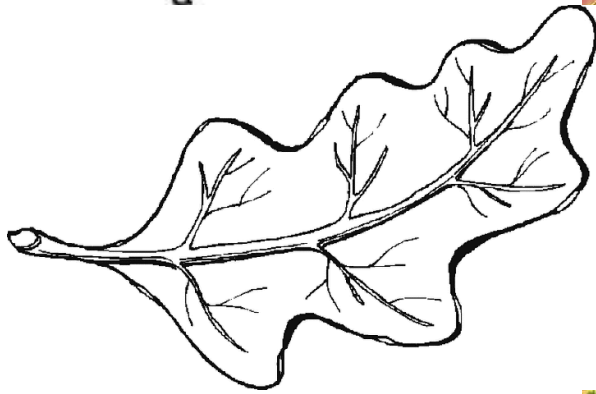
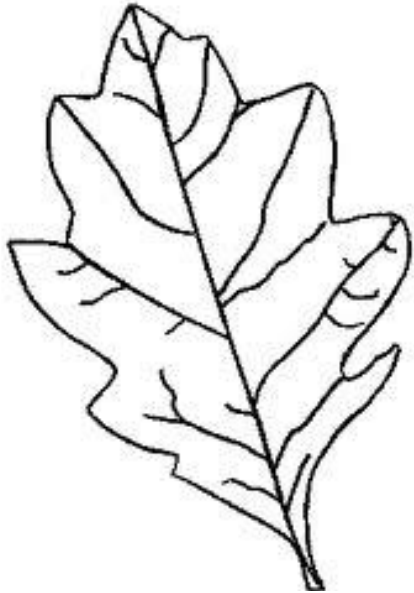
The highlights of David's time at Reinforce would definitely be the conferences he attended. He went to the People First Conference in Tacoma Washington in 1984, the 4<sup>th</sup> People First Conference in Alaska in 1998 and was involved in many other conferences locally.





# Amanda's story

## A Day in My Shoes



## Why we have written our stories in the self advocacy project.

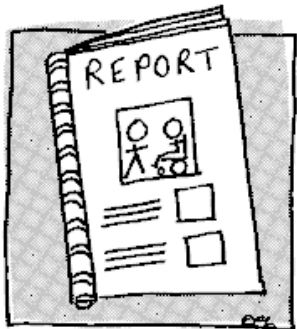
- To tell about ups and downs, our personal lives and how this all fits with why we are self advocates and with our work with Reinforce.
- It shows links between our personal experiences, who we are , our achievements and the 'work' we have done in self advocacy
- Leaves a 'legacy' - this means it leaves something behind of our personal lives the organisation – their to read, take in and use to teach others about being a self advocate
- Stories are told in our own words, using our own memories, choosing what was important about us.

What do people think about the stories and how stories can be used to learn more about self advocacy?

- Has anyone ever told their story or written their story?
- How you can tell your story in different ways?
- Why it is important for people to tell their stories.
- What do people think we can do with our stories so more people can hear them and learn about us and self advocacy?



## What the research has done for Reinforce



- Help us learn more about the role Reinforce has had in self advocacy in Australia
- Given us the opportunity to work as researchers on something we wanted to find out more about
- Given us the opportunity to 'become researchers'
- Develop a strong partnership with University researchers
- Write papers, do presentations and develop a book about what we have found so that lots of other people can learn more about self advocacy



**Thank you**

If you want to know more you can contact Reinforce at [reinforce@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:reinforce@rosshouse.org.au)

Phone 9650 7855 or email The History Group on [reinforce@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:reinforce@rosshouse.org.au)

OR you can contact Patsie Frawley on [p.frawley@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:p.frawley@latrobe.edu.au)