

PERSONAL ADVOCACY
ANNUAL REPORT FOR PARISH AGM December 2011

The Personal Advocacy Service exists to promote the inclusion of and establish networks for people with intellectual disabilities (friends) in the parish.

As people with intellectual disabilities are assisted in achieving their rights to belong and grow, both within the local parish and wider communities, their contribution will enrich the lives of the whole community". (1)

The group meets on Tuesday evenings during term time in the parish hall. The members and leaders (advocates) have been training and preparing at various different times between November 2010 and May 2011. Advocates and the friends and their families all finally met in June this year to prepare for a July start in the first week of Term 3, 2011.

At present there are five advocates and five friends plus a group leader and an activities leader. Each evening starts out with activities such as drawing, painting, clay, gluing, knitting and many more. This is followed by a celebration and sharing time and a meal where we chat and swap stories.

To date the group has been very successful and a lot of fun as advocates and friends get used to the format of the service and get to know each other. We have two helpers, Hazel and Tom, who help transform the parish hall on a Tuesday morning ready for the meeting that evening and we thank them for their time. Thank you also to Father Wayne and Prue for their support over the last year.

We have room in the group for further advocates and friends so please speak to Prue or Natalie if you want any further details on this amazing and fun journey of advocacy and friendship.

Pepe Beattie

(1) Personal Advocacy Service Volunteer Handbook