



IN THIS EDITION

Welcome

Next Consumer Voice Meeting

Meet and Greet Forum for Incoming speakers

Schedule for Relapse Prevention Group Meetings

Article: Never Give Up

DATES TO REMEMBER

Next Consumer Voice meeting
Monday, 9 May 2011
6pm-8pm

Forum for incoming speakers
Tuesday, 24 May 2011
10am-3pm

Relapse Prevention Group
11 July, 25 July, 8 Aug,
22 Aug, 12 Sept, 26 Sept,
10 Oct, 24 Oct, 7 Nov, 21
Nov, 12 Dec
Mondays, 2pm-4pm

Venue for all meetings
49a Ormond Street
Hindmarsh

Welcome

Hello again, and welcome to our first newsletter for 2011. Although it has been a long break we are pleased to let you know there will be a coming together of speakers current and new, at our first Consumer Voice (CV) meeting for 2011 on Monday, 9 May. If you would like to contribute items for discussion, please email us at the addresses below.

We have just completed the CV training for 2011 and are very happy to welcome a new group of graduates into the program. The CV meeting on Monday, 9 May will be a wonderful opportunity for speakers to share in their journeys, both personally and as speakers.

In January, we said farewell to Annie Dimitriadis who left Relationships Australia (SA) to establish her own counselling practice. Thank you Annie for your enriching contribution to the Consumer Voice Program and we wish you well in your new venture.

We welcome Jhunu Schrapel, who brings a wealth of experience in community development. Jhunu has worked for a number of local government authorities in South Australia over the last 20 years. Prior to coming to live in Australia with her Australian husband, Jhunu worked extensively in the local government sector in the UK and in community development in Bangladesh. Jhunu is a trainer in community services/community development. She is enjoying her new role with Relationships Australia (SA) and is keen to meet as many of our Consumer Voice speakers when she attends the meeting on Monday, 9 May.

There will be a Forum on Tuesday, 24 May from 10am - 3pm at Hindmarsh for incoming speakers to share their stories with various agency and venue staff.

The Relapse Prevention Group recommences on Monday, 11 July which will be an opportunity for people to access mutual support.

We look forward to reconnecting with you all at the meeting on Monday, 9 May at 6pm and at the Forum on Tuesday, 24 May. Please email us or advise our friendly administration staff on 8223 4566, if you are able to attend.

We hope that you enjoy the article included in this newsletter as it is a reflection on persistence, one of the many qualities demonstrated by each of you in your lives. We thank you for your courage in sharing your stories. Consumer Voice speakers provide both inspiration and motivation to others to persist until they too succeed in their own endeavours.

Thank you and warm regards

Flame and Jhunu
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Consumer Voice NEWSLETTER



Never give up! Here's why...

Are you faced with challenges? Have you ever considered throwing in the towel? We ALL have at some time or other to varying degrees.

However, here are some very specific examples of why you should never give up on something that is your true heart's desire and in line with your gifts, talents and potential.

Where would our world be if these people gave up?

READ THIS and let it sink deeply into your soul.

Success doesn't need to be a struggle or a drawn out wait. The cards are stacked way in your favor when it comes to capacity, because you know the power of your inner resources - the tools of your heart and mind.

These people never gave up....

Thomas Edison's teachers told him that he was "too stupid to learn anything." He was fired from his first two jobs for being "non-productive." As an inventor, Edison made 1,000 unsuccessful attempts at inventing the light bulb. When a reporter asked, "How did it feel to fail 1,000 times?" Edison replied, "I didn't fail 1,000 times. The light bulb was an invention with 1,000 steps."

Albert Einstein did not speak until he was 4 years of age and did not read until he was 7 years of age. His parents thought he was "sub-normal," and one of his teachers described him as "mentally slow, unsociable, and adrift forever in foolish dreams." He was expelled from school and was refused admittance to the Zurich Polytechnic School. He did eventually learn to speak and read. Even to do a little math.

Winston Churchill failed sixth grade. He was subsequently defeated in every election for public office until he became Prime Minister at the age of 62. He later wrote, "Never give in, never give in, never, never, never, never - in nothing, great or small, large or petty - never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never, never, never, never give up."

Henry Ford could not read nor write, he failed and went broke five times in business before he succeeded.

F. W. Woolworth was not allowed to wait on customers when he worked in a dry goods store because, his boss said, "he didn't have enough sense."

After **Fred Astaire's** first screen test, the memo from the testing director of MGM, dated 1933, read, "Can't act. Can't sing. Slightly bald. Can dance a little." He kept that memo over the fire place in his Beverly Hills home.

After his first audition, **Sidney Poitier** was told by the casting director, "Why don't you stop wasting people's time and go out and become a dishwasher or something?" It was at that moment, recalls Poitier, that he decided to devote his life to acting.

The first time **Jerry Seinfeld** walked on-stage at a comedy club as a professional comic, he looked out at the audience, froze, and forgot the English language. He stumbled through "a minute and a half" of material and was jeered offstage. He returned the following night and closed his set to wild applause.

Decca Records turned down a recording contract with **The Beatles** with the evaluation, "We don't like their sound. Groups of guitars are on their way out." After Decca rejected the Beatles, Columbia records followed suit.

In 1954, Jimmy Denny, manager of the Grand Ole Opry, fired **Elvis Presley** after one performance. He told Presley, "You ain't goin' nowhere, son. You ought to go back to drivin' a truck."

Beethoven handled the violin awkwardly and preferred playing his own compositions instead of improving his technique. His teacher called him "hopeless as a composer." He wrote five of his greatest symphonies while completely deaf.

Van Gogh sold only one painting during his life. And this, to the sister of one of his friends, for 400 francs (approximately \$50). This didn't stop him from completing over 800 paintings.

Leo Tolstoy flunked out of college. He was described as both "unable and unwilling to learn." No doubt a slow developer.

Is there a message here? YES! Absolutely!

Never give up on yourself or your dreams!

For further information on the Consumer Voice Project contact
Relationships Australia (SA) on 8223 4566.

Or alternatively you can send an email to consumervoice@rasa.org.au

Funded by the Gamblers Rehabilitation Fund, a joint initiative of the Australian
Hotels Association (SA), Clubs SA, Adelaide Casino and the Government of South Australia.