

## **CONSUMER FORUM 2012**

The Consumer Forum will begin with an opening address by Ross O'Donovan outlining the origins of the TheMHS 2012 theme, 'Recovering Citizenship'. The origins being in the works of the Brazilian philosopher 'Paulo Freire' and his work 'The pedagogy of the oppressed'

Following will be an exploration through the use of Forum Theatre, a technique developed by Augusto Boal and his Theatre of the Oppressed, to explore issues currently experienced by people with the lived experience with current service delivery and treatment.

We will then have 3 speakers covering the International perspective of rights- looking into the current UN convention on the rights of people with disabilities, the national perspective and then a personal view of one's rights as a person with the lived experience of a mental illness.

The reflections, views and experiences of the previous sessions will then feed into a panel exploring the sub theme- 'Defining citizenship from a rights perspective'. The panel will include experts in their field, Noel Muller- President Qld Voice, Felicity Grey- editor Our Consumer Place, Roberto Mezzina (to be confirmed) Esther Ritchie- Chair Cairns Cag, Jim Brooks-Human Rights Lawyer (to be confirmed) and Rufus May- Psychologist (to be confirmed)

The afternoon will consist of a range of experiential workshops such as, sound meditation, circus skills and mindfulness.

### **Rights, Reflections and Citizenship**

"Recovering Citizenship" the theme of the 2012 Cairns conference, takes its origins from the works of the Brazilian philosopher 'Paulo Freire' and his work 'The pedagogy of the oppressed'. Freire's work and how it relates to current issues for people living with mental health problems will be presented. Additionally Forum Theatre will explore issues currently experienced by people with the lived experience with current service delivery and treatment. Issues of rights will be explored internationally, nationally and personally. These reflections, views and experiences will be taken up by a panel focusing on 'Defining citizenship from a rights perspective'. This panel will include experts in their field, Noel Muller- President Qld Voice, Felicity Grey- editor Our Consumer Place, Roberto Mezzina (to be confirmed) Esther Ritchie- Chair Cairns Cag, Jim Brooks-Human Rights Lawyer (to be confirmed) and Rufus May- Psychologist (to be confirmed). The afternoon will consist of a range of experiential workshops such as, sound meditation, circus skills and mindfulness.