

## **Forrest Personnel's Participant Advisory Group (PAG)**

### **Meeting Summary - 12 September 2023**

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Each participant provided an update on their current study and employment commitments and achievements.

It was very empowering to share with the Group that Hayden McDonald, a participant with Forrest Personnel had been on the Today Show talking about his commitment to fly his light aircraft around Australia to bring acceptance and inclusion for those living with autism.

The PAG discussed the tangible benefits of sharing positive stories and successes of our Participants on our socials and our website. Forrest Personnel and PAG are working to change community perspectives through sharing empowering and inclusive stories and the benefits of tailored employment support.

Further to this the PAG were highly enthused at the prospect of developing a PAG Newsletter, written by participants for participants. This will be an authentic sharing of individual participant experiences and tips for achieving goals. This initiative will empower participants to partner with Forrest Personnel and be the author of their own journey.

Another initiative that was discussed at the meeting was the prospect of PAG members share their knowledge and experiences with other Forrest Personnel participants, similar to a mentoring/buddy system. It was acknowledged that stories are powerful and emotive tools that can assist in moving other participants forward in a positive way.

The PAG is looking to increase their numbers and will promote this opportunity through the Forrest Personnel website and socials as well as encouraging our ECs to recommend suitable participants who may be interested.

The PAG meet again in November.