

VALE - Anthony (Tony) Fowke AM

27.5.1933 - 9.6.2024



Tony was born in the UK and immigrated with his family in 1970 to WA where he qualified as a solicitor in 1982. He was a mental health carer advocate for over thirty years, and commenced at a time when the value of this work was largely unrecognised and performed by few compared with the advocacy programs that came later. He was personable and persevering in his voluntary work.

Tony was an amazing example of leadership and how to work with people; for new advocates at the start of their own journey.

In 2003, Tony was appointed as a member of the Order of Australia for service as an advocate for the advancement of mental health services in Australia.

His involvement in advocacy and representation is far too numerous to mention all of them. This list doesn't do justice for the enormity of Tony's vast voluntary work and the impact he has had on peoples' lives:-

- Inaugural Co-Chair and member of the National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum (together with his dear friend and fellow pioneering advocate, Janet Meagher)
- Board Member of Mental Health Australia for ten years
- Chair of ARAFMI WA (Association for the Relatives and Friends of the mentally ill) - now HelpingMinds
- Chair of Mental Health Carers Australia (Formerly ARAFMI National)
- President, Western Australia Association for Mental Health
- A long term legal member of the WA Mental Health Tribunal
- President of the World Federation for Mental Health and Regional Vice President for the Oceania Region - He travelled internationally for many years at his own expense regarding his long time involvement in the Federation
- Tony was active in the highest levels of untold national committees and meetings in his efforts to improve mental health services and policies for the benefit of all Australians.

Tony will be remembered for not only his professionalism and high moral standards, but also as someone who was very welcoming, friendly and easy to talk to. It must also be mentioned that Tony was always absolutely supported by his late and loving wife Pamela who shared his passion.

He was one of God's gentlemen and will be sadly missed by so many. Rest in Peace, dear friend.