



Aotearoa NZ

by Fran Hartnett

The subcommittee met on February 27 2017 for a face-to-face meeting in Wellington. We appreciate the support of Inclusion NZ which provided their boardroom for the meeting

The subcommittee extends our thanks to Adrian Higgins, previous President for his continued support through the transition process. Sincere thanks also go to Martyn Mathews for his valued contribution as Treasurer over many years. The subcommittee is delighted to welcome new members Jonathan Goodwin and John Grant and to welcome back Claire Stewart.

Debbie Espiner is now chair, Judy Garriock, Treasurer and Fran Hartnett, Secretary.

Much of the discussion at the February 27 meeting focussed on the new structure of ASID and the implications of this.

There was a full discussion on how we as a subcommittee and as individuals could promote the Tasmanian conference in Hobart this year.

The meeting began initial planning for our 2018 conference using feedback from the 2016 conference to inform us on possible themes. Supporting people with high and complex needs was high on the list of preferences. Aotearoa NZ has agreed that we adopt a 18 month conference cycle with local workshops held in the interim.

Olive Webb presented an innovative and highly interactive model for local conferences which members found exciting and thought would be a good way to stimulate interest and increase membership.

The Aotearoa NZ subcommittee is committed to continuing to support people with intellectual disability so that they can participate in national conferences and local events.

NSW & ACT

by Helen Amos

ASID NSW & ACT Division committee members met on 25th January 2017 to review the 2015-16 operational plan achievements, and plan for the next twelve months. Facilitated by Angela Dew, committee members discussed ASID Australasia's Strategic Goals (2011-2020) which resulted in some new and exciting plans for 2017.

As events are a large part of the Operational Plan, a survey was distributed to members and committee members' networks to gather feedback and ideas for future ASID events. The survey focused on what topics would be of most interest to members, what type of events, and preferable locations and times. We received a positive response and will use the results to help coordinate events in 2017. Some of the more popular options were one day events and webinars covering various topics. The majority of respondents preferred events to be held in Sydney CBD.

With webinars in mind, the committee are currently exploring options for partnerships with rural organisations. This is with a plan to provide professional development to regional areas of NSW. For suggestions or queries, please contact Helen Amos at: hamos@interactionservices.org

continued page 16





A further survey will be distributed in April 2017 to aid ASID NSW & ACT in gathering information on the renewal of memberships, including what benefits individuals or organisations seek from ASID memberships, what would they like to see more of as members, and what are the barriers when considering renewing memberships.

Outcomes from the Individualised Funding & Self-determination Roadshow event held last August are currently being compiled, and will be distributed through IDA.

South Australia

by Denice Wharldall

The NDIS for adults begins on the 1st July 2017 in South Australia. There has been concern in the sector those living with an intellectual disability will struggle and be at a significant disadvantage with the current methodology of over the phone plan development. The time demands on NDIA staff has resulted in it being difficult to access a face to face meeting.

The local committee is interested in hearing from members on events/training they are interested in. Under consideration are:

- Health Support for individuals with an intellectual disability
- How did I get this fat?
-Healthy Eating or individuals with an intellectual disability.
- Active support

Further ideas are most welcome.

Queensland

by Morrie o'Connor

Queensland Division activities this month have been a 'Relationships, Sexuality and People with Intellectual Disability Workshop'. We have also participated in a discussion with self-advocates on how to promote the voice of people with intellectual disabilities in QLD and continue to be represented on the Queensland with a Disability Network peer educators reference group.

The 'Relationships, Sexuality and People with Intellectual Disability Workshop' was held on 9-3-17. Paul O'Dea, QLD Board Member welcomed attendees and gave the acknowledgement to country. Leona Berrie chaired the workshop. Guest speakers were:

- Laura Hogan – Centre for Disability Studies
- Natasha Alexander – Private Clinical Psychologist, Consentability
- Robyn Evans – WWILD Sexual Violence Prevention Association Inc

Natasha spoke about her engagement in this topic from her work in London; of coming to QLD and being struck by the lack of discussion on these issues in QLD. She also spoke about how the QLD Criminal Code is presented as a rationale by some for not being active in this area. She alerted people to the Rights Denied campaign to change this particular law. Natasha strongly advocated for the rights of people with intellectual disability to sexual expression and presented a framework for Rights and Responsibilities as well as sharing a range of her educational resources.

Robyn Evans spoke about her work with the 'You and Me' group. Originally developed as a preventive response to sexual and other exploitation, the You and Me group has developed into a peer support group around improving knowledge and skills in developing and maintaining healthy safe relationships. Robyn stressed the importance of the group being a space where people could explore these concepts at their own pace, and using their own experience, while utilising a structured program.

Laura Hogan presented on different options for people with intellectual disability in NSW to explore and express their sexuality, and how this may fit with the NDIS. She pointed out the differences in QLD and NSW law and how State legal systems may lead to different outcomes for participants based on where they live, in what is meant to be a nationally consistent system.

In the final panel the presenters spoke of the need to open up discussion around the issue of 'Relationships and Sexuality'. There were several key themes in the workshop. People's rights, people's

continued page 17



Western Australia

(see Upcoming Events p26)

Tasmania

by David Treanor

responsibilities, the many differing contexts in which issues of sexual expression exist for people with intellectual disabilities and how open discussion is needed if people are going to be able to exercise sexual rights.

The forum was useful in opening up discussion and connecting Laura, Natasha and Robyn to a range of people interested and involved in this area.

Victoria

by Mark Di Marco

The Victorian ASID committee took a brief break over summer and resumed for our first meeting of the year in February at Haskins pub. We've had 2 meetings this year and plan to meet on a monthly basis. We have channelled our efforts in these early meetings to planning this years ASID seminars.

We have targeted April 28th for our first seminar this year. Chris Bigby will facilitate a workshop on "*what makes a good group home?*"

Other seminars we have planned for the year include; A May seminar centred around the topic of safeguarding as we move into and NDIS environment. We are aiming to have a number of speakers from various areas of the sector such as advocacy, disability services commissioner & Vic police.

A July seminar on health and hospital care for people with intellectual disability.

We ask ASID members to look out for these seminars. Details to follow once we confirm times and venues.

We've also been very busy developing a series of podcasts. You can listen to our first 2 podcasts if you visit the ASID website. The podcasts are introduced by Hilary Johnson and are a good way to keep in touch with our activities in Victoria.

In our first podcast you can hear Susan Buell talk to the topic "*I can't always read and it isn't always easy*". Our second podcast brings together highlights from our "Putting rights into practice: Political citizenship and people with intellectual disability" seminar.

We have some interesting ideas for this medium and look forward to sharing a few more podcasts with ASID this year.

Good News, the ASID 2017 National Conference (<http://www.asid2017.com.au>) is now live and open for abstracts!

The conference is being held in Hobart from November 8th until 10th, 2017.

The Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability is over 50 years old; it is an organisation that champions research and evidence-based best practice in the field of intellectual disability. It is well respected amongst people with intellectual disabilities and their families, providers of services to people with intellectual disabilities and all levels of government departments concerned with people with disabilities.

The conference theme is ***Pushing The Boundaries***. This theme reflects the critical challenges facing all communities in Australia and New Zealand who desire to realize the goals of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In Australasia, it encompasses the issues arising from new approaches to service provision such as increased self-direction, choice and control.

continued page 18



**Mt Wellington,
towering over the capitol of Tasmania, Hobart.**



The Grand Chancellor Hotel, the Conference venue.

Currently we have three keynote speakers confirmed and they include:

Associate Professor Leanne Dowse, Chair in Intellectual Disability Behaviour Support at the University of New South Wales. Leanne's research utilises a multidisciplinary approach to investigate social justice issues the intersections of disability, complex challenging behaviour, homelessness, social isolation, early life disadvantage, experience of out of home care, substance misuse and abuse and violence. Leanne is currently writing a position paper on people with complex needs.

Professor Monica Cuskelly, Associate Dean of Research, Faculty of Education, University of Tasmania. Monica works in the areas of intellectual and develop-



The Museum of Old and New Art (MONA).

mental disabilities, with a focus on self-regulation and mastery motivation, and, more recently self-determination. She is involved in two longitudinal studies of the development of individuals with Down syndrome and the influences of their development, and has just completed an investigation of the hopes and aspirations for the future of adults with intellectual disability and of their parents.

Dr Jennifer Clegg, Honorary Associate Professor at the University of Nottingham and Adjunct Professor at La Trobe University. Jennifer's body of empirical and conceptual research includes a focus on relationships and how people and systems co-operate in the delivery of services. Her teaching and research are informed by systemic family therapy, attachment theory and Deleuzian ethics. She is the new editor of one of ASID's publications, the *Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disability*.

The conference aims to present an inclusive and exciting program with many opportunities for discussion and debate, and networking with peers and key people in Australasia. ASID's focus is research to practice – the dialogue between researchers, practitioners, service providers, governments, families and people with intellectual disability which has the goal of finding better ways to support inclusion for individuals and to change systems.

As professionals committed to realizing the goals of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, we invite you to join us to explore how evidence based research is making a difference to people living with an intellectual disability.

Following on from the success of the 2015 ASID National Conference in Melbourne, we will host the conference dinner over several different restaurants in Hobart. Each dinner conversation will be facilitated by one of the Keynote speakers and will enable attendees to explore in more detail issues that are pertinent to you and your practice in the field of intellectual disability. I would like to thank Darryleen Wiggins for her hard work in providing the groundwork for an excellent conference. We look forward to seeing everyone in Hobart in November. ●