



Aotearoa NZ

by Fran Hartnett

The New Zealand Division met on May 15 via teleconference and all committee members were able to attend. Olive Webb updated members on progress on the upcoming Support Workers' Conference sponsored by ASID NZ which will be held in Christchurch on August 11 & 12, 2017. Olive reported that things were on track, publicity was being prepared and the planning committee was anticipating an attendance of around 100 participants. Olive also reminded committee members of the need to recruit new members to ASID and to follow-up with former members.

Planning for the Division's national conference which will be held in 2018 is underway and the Division is currently seeking competitive tenders from conference organisers to ensure our next conference will be as innovative and competitive as possible. Sharon Brandford and Jonathon Goodwin agreed to be Co- Convenors of this conference. A discussion paper on possible themes for the conference, prepared by Brigit Mirfin- Veitch was circulated for committee members' feedback. Members were keen to see that issues relating to the care and protection of children were included in the conference in light of a recent report by the Children's Commissioner which reported a number of failures within the New Zealand system.

Considerable focus during the teleconference was given to the preparation of the New Zealand Division's budget that will be presented in Melbourne in June 2017. The committee is grateful for the considerable work that Judy Garriock, Treasurer has done in preparing this. Judy also reported that the Division's financial status was healthy.

The N.Z ASID Division is actively promoting the Tasmanian conference and Adrian Higgins has obtained the logo to use for this. A number of our

members hope to join fellow ASID members at this conference in November and we wish the Tasmanian conference planning committee every success.

NSW & ACT

by Susan Collings

During our recent operational planning day the ASID NSW/ACT Division committee identified memberships as a focus for 2017. We are working together with other states to streamline the process for new members and come up with strategies to increase memberships. To achieve this second goal, we need to understand what motivates individuals and organisations to join ASID and their decisions around membership renewal. ASID NSW/ACT are conducting a survey of current and past members to gather feedback about what benefits individuals or organisations seek from ASID as well as barriers to membership renewal. The results will be used to better tailor our activities to the needs and preferences of our members.

With NDIS implementation, a number of new providers are entering the disability sector in NSW. This represents a timely opportunity to reach out to these new organisations that may not be aware of ASID. We will use the NDIS website provider list to email these individuals and organisations and share a link to the ASID website and secretariat contact details for further inquiries.

Based on the success of our Roadshow event last year on 'Ethical Issues in Ageing', ASID NSW / ACT is hosting an interactive webinar series to further this conversation. There will be 4 one-hour webinars in the series, the first is planned for 22nd June titled; 'Who Decides the When and How of Retirement for People with intellectual Disability?', led by Professor Roger Stancliffe, Professor of Intellectual Disability, University of Sydney. Following this, on the 20th July, Dr Angela

continued page 18



Dew, Senior Research Fellow, UNSW Intellectual Disability Behaviour Support Program will lead a webinar focusing on ethical issues for families. The webinar costs are: \$5 for members and those with concessions, and \$20 for non-members. For more information or to register to attend the first webinar, head over to the ASID website events page: www.asid.asn.au/events

South Australia

See Group Housing article by Denice Wharldall on page 4

Queensland

no report

Victoria

See Group Housing article by Carol Farr on page 5

Western Australia

no report

Tasmania

by David Treanor

The ASID 2017 National Conference (<http://www.asid2017.com.au>) call for papers has now closed and we have an exciting and terrific range of presenters that will offer papers and workshops on pertinent issues to our professional practice.

The keynote speakers include Judy Huett, a self advocate, Associate Professor Leanne Dowse from University of New South Wales, Mr Rob Greig from the United Kingdom, Dr. Jenifer Clegg from the University of Nottingham and Adjunct Professor at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Professor



The Grand Chancellor Hotel, the Conference venue.

Monica Cuskelly, Associate Dean of Research at the University of Tasmania. For more information about the speakers see this edition and the next edition of IDA The conference is being held in Hobart from November 8 until 10, 2017 and I urge you to register at <http://www.asid2017.com.au> as soon as possible.

The Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability is an organization 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.

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