

Division Update

Aotearoa NZ

by Fran Hartnett

On August 10 & 11 2017, the Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability held its first New Zealand conference solely for support workers entitled “Support Workers Talking”. Fifty-seven support workers talked for a day and a half and went away informed, invigorated, and re-inspired. The event was a great success

and the New Zealand Division hopes to replicate this success with a similar event in Auckland late in 2017. Olive Webb and John Grant played leadership roles in getting this event off the ground.

The powhiri supported by the Hillmorton High School kapahaka group was spine chilling and the poroporoaki, with a closing hymn, launched and closed the event perfectly. Richard Buchanan gave a warm, entertaining and heartfelt talk about how

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support workers impacted on his life. John Grant took participants through a series of questions in the format of a “World Café” providing participants with an opportunity to reflect, share and discuss key aspects of support work. The World Café stimulated vibrant conversation and debate which reached new heights as participants confronted difficult and contentious issues in a session facilitated by Adrian Higgins. Adrian acknowledged and shared examples of the many complex and challenging situations that may confront support workers. The Learning Market Place complemented the talking by showing participants new ways to engage and teach the people. New technologies and new uses of old technologies were fascinating. Presenters and topics included: Trisha Ventom Emergency Planning : Jacinta Grice – Tac Pac; Laurence Walker - Video Self-modelling; Lynley Kerr – Communication and Apps; Hannah Perry – Enabling Good Livesp; Rachel Sadgrove - Visual communication strategies.

Issues discussed at the conference were drawn together by Rebekah McCullough and summarised in a form that will be sent back to participants and the organisations that sponsored their attendance. The venue was perfect, made available to ASID at no cost and ideally suited for an event like this.

NSW & ACT

no report

South Australia

no report

Queensland

by Paul O’Dea & Morrie O’Connor

Significant activities have included a consultation with self-advocates to brainstorm potential titles and themes for ASID National Conference at Gold Coast in November 2018.

Paul O’Dea, QLD National Board Member and Michelle Moss, QLD Divisional Committee led the consultation.

The group recommended two potential titles:

- ‘Let’s Shake It Up: Human Rights for Everyone’
- ‘Stop Talking; Let’s Just Do It: Human Rights for Everyone’

We will be taking these to the National Board for discussion and decision.

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The group also discussed potential conference themes and votes on their preferences; these are as documented below. These suggested themes will also be taken to the National Board for discussion and decision.

Themes & voting

- Human rights - 6
- Bullying and abuse - 5
- Living independently - 5
- Mental illness - 4
- NDIS - 4
- Health and hospital - 3
- Scammers and safety - 3
- Access for people in wheelchairs .. - 2
- Housing - 2
- Transport - 2
- Jobs - 0
- Budgeting - 0

QLD Division is also hosting two local workshops this year. First one ‘What Makes a Good Worker’, second one ‘Trauma and Intellectual Disability’.

Paul O’Dea also continues in his work in the Peer Leadership program which is a project aimed at informing people with intellectual disabilities who are on society’s fringe about the NDIS.

Victoria

by Mark Di Marco

The Victorian ASID continues to meet monthly at Haskins pub in north Fitzroy, Melbourne. The committee continues to focus on providing a range of seminars that are of interest to our members.

A very successful ASID workshop was held recently at the Multicultural Hub in Melbourne. The workshop focused on the health needs of people with an intellectual disability and explored how to promote good healthcare. The workshop provided participants with a range of ideas, tips and strategies. We

were fortunate to have Prof Nick Lennox and Dr Jane Tracey facilitate this workshop. The event was well attended and feedback from the participants was positive as reflected in the following feedback, ‘I think the entire seminar was both useful and interesting. I have certainly taken many things away with me. All information was relevant and solid and I will use it when I can’. Following up on this event we have released a podcast, available on the ASID website, with Jane and Nick talking about how to optimise health care.

Hilary Johnson, on behalf of the ASID board was asked to participate in a forum held by Speech Pathology Australia on August 24th. This forum was held as part of Speech Pathology Australia’s awareness week. The forum brought together a diverse group of stakeholders to look at Communication Access and how to ensure all people with a communication difficulty can participate in the community and be treated with dignity and respect. For more information on the initiative see <http://bit.ly/20RZOAr>

Our next event will occur on the 5th October on the topic of ‘supported decision making’.

Western Australia

no report

Tasmania

by Darryleen Wiggins

The Tasmanian region is well into to the throws of ensuring that this year’s Australasian conference is a great success. We have been heavily supported this year by the whole Australasian board of directors. You will find the preliminary program on the ASID website here <http://www.asid2017.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/2017-ASID-Conference-program-10.08.17.pdf>

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The theme of the conference is “Pushing the Boundaries”. It reflects the major challenges facing all communities who desire to realise 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 program highlights the theme of the conference across many of the abstracts and certainly assures that the 2017 conference will be pushing the boundaries in November and beyond.

Although early bird registration has now closed you still have time to register and be part of the conference.

Aside from the conference the Tasmanian region has not been functioning as a committee for the past 12 months. I would like to hear from people who might be interested in coming together and forming a functioning committee so that ASID Tasmania can support ASID’s focus on research to practice. Contact me on darryleen.wiggins@lifestylesolutions.org.au for further information on becoming a committee member. ●

