

# President's report



In commencing my first report as the incoming president of ASID, I would like to sincerely thank Professor Angus Buchanan for his exceptional leadership of our board of directors for the past 5 years. Angus has led the board through a monumental change to our whole governance structure. We appreciate his commitment to providing consistent leadership throughout this time and seeing the changes through to completion.

The past few months have been a busy time in the ASID calendar. On the 7th November we held our final board meeting for our 2016/17 Board of Directors. This meeting marked yet another change in the structure of ASID. In 2017 the Board of Directors voted to reduce our board by one third, a shift from 3 directors from each division, to 2. At this time we farewelled 6 of our directors who were either finishing their terms or took the change in structure as an opportunity to resign. It is with sadness that we say farewell (for now) to Ian Pearce (SA), Adrian Higgins (NZ), Samuel Arnold (NSW), Victoria Tucker (Qld), Mark Di Marco (Vic) and Darryleen Wiggins (Tas). All 6 departing Directors have contributed extensively to shaping and growing our organisation, we thank them for their contributions, however look forward to continuing to engage with each of them through board committees and local divisions.

From the 8th – 10th November, we were “Pushing the Boundaries” at the Grand Chancellor in Hobart at the 2017 Annual Australasian ASID Conference. 5 excellent keynote addresses, followed up with plain English sessions, over 80 papers, workshops and roundtables, an excellent display of posters, 9 exhibitors and a social program including a welcome reception and conference dinners. A huge thank you to the organising committee: Angus Buchanan, Christine Bigby, Hilary Johnson, Allyson Thompson, David Treanor and Darryleen Wiggins for all their hard work – it certainly paid off!

During the 2017 conference, we also celebrated two excellent ASID award winners, Clinical Professor



**Laura Hogan**

Vivienne Riches as Fellow of ASID (FASID) and Professor Keith McVilly for Distinguished Service Citation. Both have contributed extensively to ASID and to the broader disability sector over many years. Head over to our website to read more about their awards and contributions. Each year ASID accepts nominations for a number of awards from members for members. If you know of someone who has contributed extensive to our organisation, or to the broader disability space, or a media source with positive representation of issues pertaining to intellectual disability, we would encourage you to consider a nomination. [https://www.asid.asn.au/about/awards\\_and\\_prizes](https://www.asid.asn.au/about/awards_and_prizes)

In planning for 2018, I stop and reflect on some of the significant things that have happened over the past 12 months. One particular moment that captures me is something that was shared by a colleague at the recent conference. A young Tasmanian with a lived experience of disability had attended the ASID conference in Sydney in 2013. At the time she had decided that when the ASID conference came to Tasmania she would present a paper. 4 years later in Tasmania she achieved this goal, presenting at her first conference, sharing her experience of the NDIS. For me this highlighted that our conferences and events continue to provide inspiration, voice and opportunity for people with a lived experience of disability. In planning for the future, I hope we can work together to continue to grow the inclusion of people with disability in the research to practice space and ensure that their voice continues to be heard in ways that are meaningful to individuals. ●