



Aotearoa NZ

by Fran Hartnett

Our annual division meeting is scheduled for Nov 1st 2017 at the Life Flight Air rescue Centre, 127 George Bolt St Rongotai Wellington and all members have been invited to attend. Dr Brigit Mirfin Veitch, Director of the Donald Beasley Institute will give a presentation on a recently released report commissioned by the Human Rights Commission entitled *Institutions are places of abuse: The experiences of disabled children and adults in State care*.

Thanks to the great organisational skills of Sharon Brandford and Jonathon Goodwin, planning is well underway for our national conference to be held on July 2&3 2018 at the Rydges Hotel in Wellington. An exciting list of keynotes has been proposed and invitations are being extended to potential presenters.

The decision to move to an 18 month conference cycle prompted the need for shorter seminars/workshops in the regions as out-of-cycle events to ensure that in any one year members have an opportunity to network and be revitalised. This has proven to be a good idea as the very successful Support Workers conference held in Christchurch facilitated by Olive Webb and John Grant showed. Support workers expressed their appreciation of having a workshop that focussed on their needs, giving them a forum to meet and dialogue with others in similar roles. The Support Workers conference provided an important opportunity to update membership lists. Membership has been an focus during the year and Division members have been encouraged to pursue lapsed members and encourage new people to join. Olive Webb has been particularly diligent in reminding us to do this.

A number of our division members are attending and or presenting at the upcoming conference in Hobart and we look forward to a very stimulating

conference and the chance to network with our colleagues across the ditch.

NSW & ACT

by Benjamin Chain

ASID NSW / ACT has been busy since last IDA report, continuing the theme of ethical issues in aging we hosted a successful webinar with Prof. Roger Stancliffe on aging and retirement. Committee members presented a workshop on this theme at the ASID conference in Tasmania, and the webinar series will be continued into next year.

A survey was distributed to NSW members in July 2017, seeking feedback on their membership. Responses came from all across NSW, and over 40% of the respondents had been a member of ASID for over 10 years. Ninety per cent of respondents indicated that access to the Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disability (JIDD) was the greatest benefit attached to their ASID membership. This was followed by the opportunity to attend ASID conferences at discounted prices, and hear from both international and local researchers and subject matter experts. Thank you to all who responded, the results of this survey will help with continuous improvement and planning future events on behalf of ASID.

South Australia

no report

Tasmania

by Darryleen Wiggins

The Australasian board conference was held in Hobart in early November. A comprehensive report will be in the next edition of IDA however in
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summary the conference was a successful representation of the vision and mission of ASID and great showcase of Tasmania. The program was full of interesting and current research focusing on the many topics that support people with an intellectual disability. The theme of the conference “Pushing the boundaries” 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. These issues were covered and many more during the 3-day conference. For those people who attended the conference you will have received advice from the ASID secretariat about many of the presentations being accessible on the ASID website. In other Tasmanian news, the 2016-2017 annual meeting was held and unfortunately the attendance was not great. Ben Crothers, David Treanor and Darryleen Wiggins all remain committee members on the Tasmanian committee while Ben and David continue with their respective roles at the Australasian board level. I would still encourage anyone to get in touch if you are willing to discuss the possibility of being involved at a regional level on the Tasmanian committee. You can contact me on darryleen.wiggins@lifestylesolutions.org.au for further information.

Queensland

by Morrie O'Connor

On 1st November 2017, ASID Qld Division held its Annual meeting for the year. The current committee members had agreed to stay on with the committee – Morrie O'Connor (Chair), Michelle Moss, Joanne Richards, Cheryl Walker, Kathy Ellem, Paul O'Dea, Victoria Tucker (Communications). Paul is continuing his role as state representative to the National board. The committee agreed that Morrie should renominate for the National board as the second state representative. Plans for 2018 including forum

topics and also the state conference planning were discussed during the Annual meeting.

Alongside the Annual meeting, our forum Trauma: its impact on people with Intellectual Disabilities, and the workers who support them – How do we respond? was held. Our guest speakers included:

- Emma Malone – PhD Candidate from QUT's School of Psychology and Counselling - Discussing her work in supporting clients experiencing trauma and current PhD research into the experiences of vicarious trauma for workers.
- Jill Olver – WWILD-SVP Association - Adjusting trauma practice in counselling when working with people with intellectual and learning disabilities.
- Paul O'Dea – Self-Advocate - Sharing his personal experience
- Michael Manning - PhD Candidate at Griffith University - Discussing his current research into the life experiences and associated positive and negative health outcomes of adults with an intellectual disability.

The forum was very well attended with about 30 people in attendance. Emma's discussion of trauma and how her experience in working with children and adults was certainly thought provoking, as was her research into vicarious trauma. Paul's personal experience was certainly very thought provoking and challenged people's perception of what is trauma and the lifelong impacts. Jill spoke about supporting people with intellectual disability in counselling and appropriate easy steps therapists can take in supporting people to feel safe and supporting recovery from traumatic experiences. Michael spoke about his current PhD research he is doing into the life experiences of people with intellectual disabilities. It was a really interesting morning and thanks to our guest speakers and everyone who attended.

On 28th Nov 2017, the Qld Division held another forum De-differentiation for People with Intellectual Disabilities? to promote Differentiation and De-

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Differentiation position paper adopted by National Board, which was co-authored by Professor Christine Bigby.

In recent years Disability Advocates have stressed the common disadvantages occurring for people with all disabilities as a result of societal structures. This advocacy has pushed the envelope in securing rights for all people with a disability. However there is a concern that within this collective representation the specific issues and needs of people with intellectual disabilities have been lost. This seminar explored the arguments and merits of Differentiation (recognising specific disability) against De-differentiation (not differentiating between disabilities). The guest speakers included:

- Professor Christine Bigby - Living with Disability Research Centre, La Trobe University. Christine spoke about her recent

publication where she has assembled the evidence that argue for and against Differentiation and De-differentiation.

- Dr Nick Collyer - Queensland Advocacy Incorporated (QAI), spoke about the benefits of advocacy that includes all people with disabilities, in the particular context of legal capacity.
- Michelle Moss - Queenslanders with a Disability Network (QDN), spoke about their Ready to Go project showcasing an example of Differentiation involving peer educators with an intellectual disability.
- Jane Barrett and Kristy Hill (peer facilitator) WWILD-SVP Assn Inc. & Community Living Association Inc. (CLA). They discussed their experience in developing and facilitating an example of 'Differentiation' in the community

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Paul O'Dea - Trauma Informed Practice



Jill Olver - Trauma Informed Practice Workshop

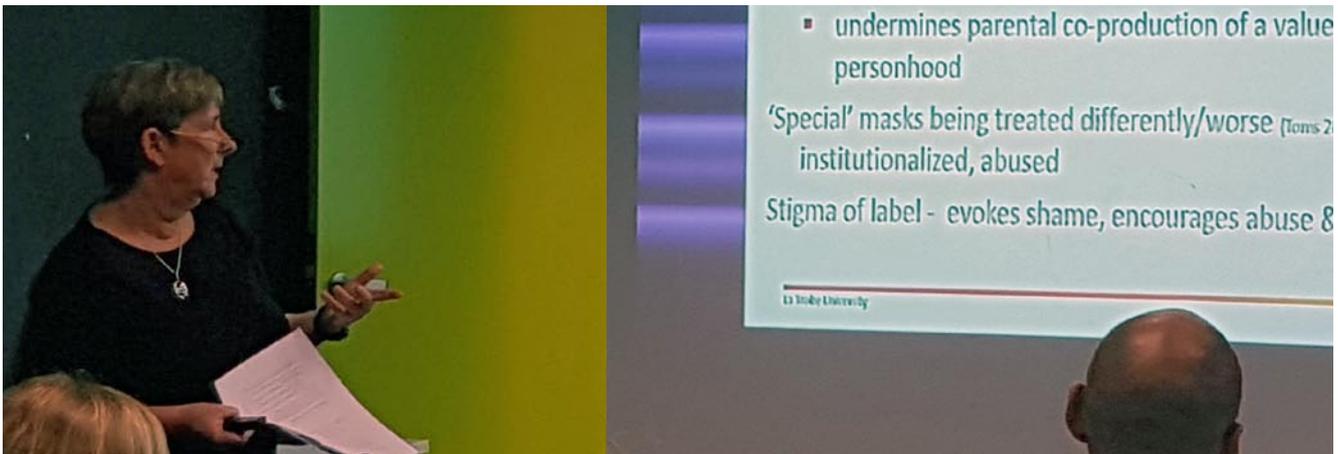
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mental health context with creating a recovery well-being group for people with intellectual disability.

Chris Bigby presented her paper and the evidence supporting the ASID position paper. Nick Collyer spoke and took the position that differentiation equals discrimination, which raised the question of what makes for positive and what makes for negative discrimination. Michelle Moss from QDN spoke of QDN Peer Educators project which purposely engaged educators with an Intellectual Disability in educating people with an Intellectual

Disability about NDIS. Michelle spoke of the positives of this Differentiated approach, both in terms of the positives for the educators and the enthusiastic and engaged response from audiences. Jane Barratt and Kristy Hill from WWILD/CLA spoke to a Differentiated approach to mental health support to people with Dual Disability (Mental Health and Intellectual Disability). This project originated when a mental health organisation spoke to Morrie O'Connor of Community Living Association about the difficulty they had experienced in including people with Dual Disability in Recovery groups.

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Chris Bigby - Differentiation for People with Intellectual Disabilities Workshop



Morrie O'Connor, Chris Bigby and Nick Collyer

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Subsequently CLA and WWILD established a pilot to explore how a Recovery group approach could assist people with Dual Disability. Jane and Kristy spoke to the significant learnings from this project and the substantial differences which have needed to be made to mainstream recovery model group-work approaches. It is to be hoped that shortly both the peer educators project and the mental health support project will be published in one of the ASID publications for wider distribution.

It has been a time for workshops and the Queensland division is looking forward to getting into planning for the National Conference on the Gold Coast next year. Thanks all.

Victoria

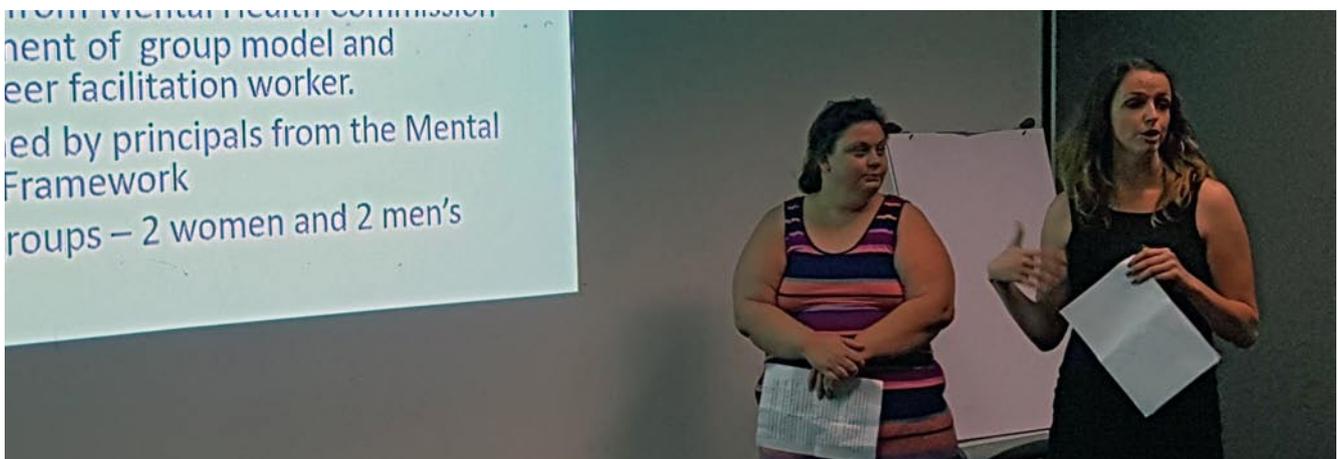
by Mark Di Marco

We have had 10 committee members and meet monthly at a local pub. At our meetings we plan upcoming events and take time to discuss relevant research and articles.

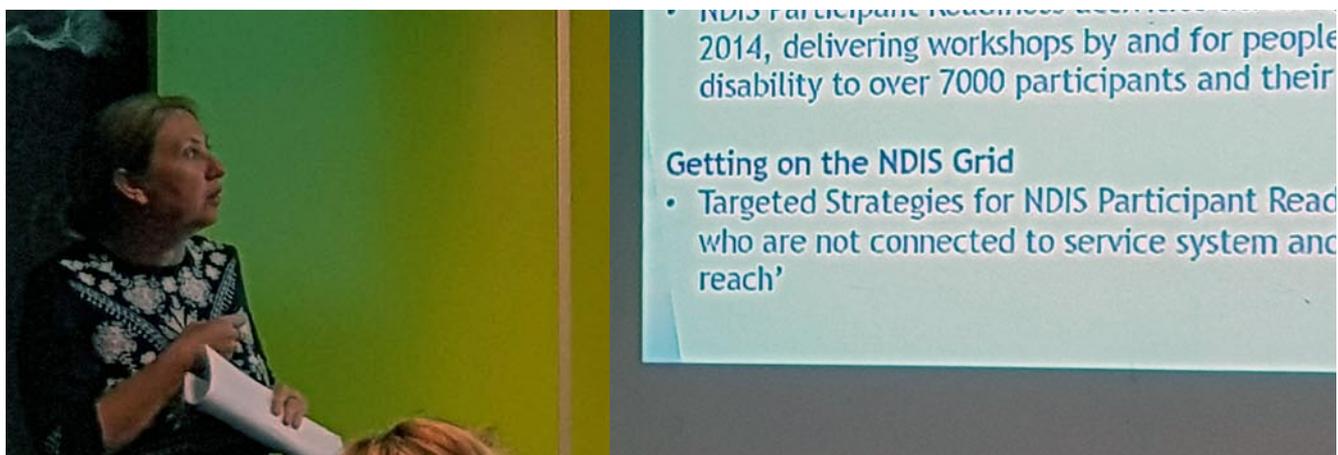
This year we have focussed on 2 of ASID's strategic directions:

- To forge interaction between intellectual disability research, policy and practice
- To engage and strengthen membership

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Jane Baratt and Kristy Hill - WWILD & Community Living Assn



Michelle Moss - Queensland Disability Network

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We ran the following 3 events:

1. Putting rights into practice: Political citizenship and people with intellectual disability” seminar. Speakers: Sue Lang, Nathan Despott, Jane Tracey, Sharon Kensell, Sophia Tipping
2. ‘What makes a good group home’. Workshop facilitated by Chris Bigby
3. ‘How to promote good health & maximise the healthcare of people with an Intellectual

Disability: Tips and strategies’. Workshop facilitated by Nick Lennox & Jane Tracey

Two new podcasts were produced during the year and are now available on the ASID website:

- ASID Podcast Episode 3: “How to promote good health & maximise the healthcare of people with an Intellectual disability – Ideas, tips and strategies”
- ASID Podcast Episode 2: “Political citizenship of people with intellectual disability”



Vic ASID General Meeting

Western Australia

by *Allyson Thomson*

The WA division of ASID held a conference at the Boulevard Centre, Floreat on 15 August 2017. We were very pleased to welcome Stephen Dawson MLA, WA Minister for Environment; Disability Services to open the conference. He was followed by a thought-provoking keynote speech on citizenship and social change for people with intellectual disability from Simon Duffy. Simon shared with us the idea of citizenship both as a way of reframing the purpose of

our work and as a way of thinking about how we work together. Simon challenged current customer visions of person with disabilities as too limited and explored how our work can be part of wider social change rather than just ‘a service’. Duffy referenced his work with the Centre for Welfare Reform, The Keys to Citizenship.

A number of researchers from both regional and metropolitan WA presented on topics including: involving people with disability in research (supported by several researchers with intellectual disability); quality of life for children with disability;

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person-centred and individualised supports; falls in adults with disability; and the use of hospital records to identify intellectual disability. Speakers represented four Universities, researchers, people with lived experience and service providers.

The conference concluded with a panel discussion on balancing choice and control for young people

with intellectual disability. Panellists were Simon Duffy, Leighton Jay, and Rebecca Wood who spoke from the perspective of social policy, parent and researcher and service provider. ●



WA ASID

