



# ASID 2018 QUEENSLAND

## Let's shake it up: Human Rights for everyone

We invite everyone to attend the 2018 National Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability Conference to be held at the Gold Coast Convention Centre, 14 – 16 November 2018. The title of the conference is '**Let's Shake It Up: Human Rights for Everyone**'. The title has been chosen by a group of self-advocates who came together for the purpose of talking about the key issues that affect their lives. These issues include bullying and abuse, dual disability, NDIS, employment. The conference looks to attract a diverse range of people including self-advocates, families, academics, service providers, policy makers. ASID welcomes and encourages this diversity.

Currently the QLD Division is supporting a group of local self-advocates to plan on the involvement of self-advocates in the conference. The Conference will also welcome a range of international speakers who have expertise across a wide range of issues impacting on people with an intellectual disability. Their names will be released shortly. Call for abstracts has been put out and academics, students, practitioners, families and self-advocates are all welcome to submit a paper. When thinking about the theme of the conference the self-advocate group identified that in Australasia people with an intellectual disability are still pushed around and this has to end.



**asid**  
2018

Let's shake it up,  
human rights  
for everyone!

## Keynotes

Self-Advocates/Lived Experience ( names to be announced)

### **Professor Andrew Jahoda**

Professor of Learning Disabilities (Mental Health & Wellbeing)

[www.gla.ac.uk/researchinstitutes/healthwellbeing/staff/andrewjahoda/](http://www.gla.ac.uk/researchinstitutes/healthwellbeing/staff/andrewjahoda/)

### **Professor Chris Hatton**

Professor of Psychology, Health and Social Care, Lancaster University

[www.lancaster.ac.uk/fhm/dhr/people/chris-hatton](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fhm/dhr/people/chris-hatton)

### **Professor Monica Cuskelly**

Associate Dean (Research) University of Hobart

[www.utas.edu.au/profiles/staff/education/monica-cuskelly](http://www.utas.edu.au/profiles/staff/education/monica-cuskelly)

Also see IDA magazine

[www.asid.asn.au/members/members\\_area/ida\\_magazine](http://www.asid.asn.au/members/members_area/ida_magazine), vol 38, issue 2 page 19

### **Dr Brigit Mirfin-Veitch**

[www.donaldbeasley.org.nz/who-we-are/our-people/](http://www.donaldbeasley.org.nz/who-we-are/our-people/)

### **Associate Professor Anna Fudge Schormans**

Associate Professor/Graduate Chair of the School of Social Work

[socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/people/schormans-ann-fudge](http://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/people/schormans-ann-fudge)

### **Dr Kathy Ellem**

Queensland University of Technology

[staff.qut.edu.au/staff/ellemk/](http://staff.qut.edu.au/staff/ellemk/)

Also see page 28 for Kathy's profile

# 2018 Conference Speakers



**Kathy Ellem**

Institute of Health Biomedical Innovation (IHBI),  
University of Queensland

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I am absolutely delighted to be a keynote speaker at the ASID Conference 'Let's Shake It Up: Human Rights for Everyone'. I see it as an opportunity to continue to raise awareness of the issues people with intellectual and other cognitive disabilities face in the criminal justice system and elsewhere. My interest in the field of intellectual disability really started with my own personal experience as a parent. My son, now a young man, has an intellectual disability. He has shown me a world with new perspectives, and is really a driving force in why I became a social worker in the disability sector, and now engage in research in the area.

My research in the field of intellectual disability has focused predominantly on people with mild/borderline intellectual disability on the margins of society. The whole process of diagnosing and categorising people so they receive supports does not typically work well with this group. As a practicing social worker, I would often have to justify why disability supports were needed for people who perhaps on the surface appeared intellectually competent, but were really struggling to find a valued place in society. In addition, many people may have other co-morbid conditions which can cloud an accurate diagnosis. Many of these people find their way in and out of child protection systems, youth justice, drug and alcohol services, and the criminal justice system. My particular interest has been how people end up in the criminal justice system and the consequences of this.

As I have delved deeper into the experiences of people with intellectual disability and complex support needs, I have had the privilege to work with many like-minded people who are extremely talented and passionate about making change. There is a common concern that the advent of the NDIS and the increasing marketization of disability services will mean that many people with intellectual disability and complex support needs will not get the coordinated services they need.

There is a need to reshape the understanding of intellectual disability. "Shaking it up" involves understanding that the experience of intellectual disability can interface with broader social issues of poverty, violence, and discrimination. I see ASID as a conduit for raising these concerns to communities and governments to ensure human rights are for everyone.