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*Welcome
to the June
edition of IDA.*

The theme of safeguarding has brought several contributions from different perspectives. Safeguarding is particularly pertinent in Australia as the National Disability Insurance Agency launches the National Quality and Safeguarding framework. Merissa Van Der Linden (p.5) suggested five levels of informal and formal safeguards from personal empowerment to legal enforcement to provide a safe environment for people with an intellectual disability. Anthony Kolmus, (p.8) provides some case studies of the work of the office of the Victorian Disability Service Commissioner in investigating abuse and neglect highlighting the critical role played by staff. The office estimate that in the last year 22% of complaints about allegations of physical and sexual assault were made by support workers. The vulnerability of people with an intellectual disability can be exacerbated when people have difficulty communicating. A part solution may be to provide people with communication aids with appropriate vocabulary www.speakupandbesafe.com.au but staff training to use these aids is also necessary (see p12). One of the core tenets of providing a safe environment is ensuring people have a range of relationships. It is well established that people with intellectual disability, especially those in group homes have limited social networks often entirely composed of paid staff. The key role of trusted relationships is explored by Sally Robinson and her co researchers (p.14) who suggest that building a sense of security and safety in young people is essential. Patsy Frawley & Amie O'Shea echo similar themes and emphasise the need to provide an ecological model that targets the individual, the community and the surrounding system (p22).

Organisation for the ASID national conference is underway with 6 confirmed key note speakers and IDA features an extended introduction to two speakers Prof. Chris Hatton from the U.K. And Dr Brigid Mirfin-Veitch from New Zealand (p.32). For more local events check out the divisional reports and the events on the ASID website http://www.asid.asn.au/events/show_all_events. Don't forget to have some fun on the way and get along to a film or gig- and share your thoughts with us on twitter or Facebook. A recent evaluation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme indicated poorer outcomes for people with an intellectual disability (see 39). The theme for September edition of IDA is Individual planning – for, by or with people with an intellectual disability. Can you tell me what the process or outcome of planning has been for you? Please start writing and contact me at idaeditor@asid.asn.au!

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