



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2018 is whizzing by, I can't believe we're already up to the June edition of IDA. As President of ASID I am often invited to attend events, make comment on or support positions related to intellectual disability. As with all voluntary posts, sometimes decisions have to be made about what we do and don't have capacity to participate in. To provide you with an update on some of the things we have participated in over the past few months:

In February I attended in the 'Right Here, Right Now' symposium on preventing abuse and promoting personal safety for young people with disability. This was an excellent opportunity to explore, discuss, debate and make collective action plans on new research by Sally Robinson, Anne Graham (SCU), Karen Fisher, Ariella Meltzer, Megan Blaxland, Kelley Johnson (UNSW). This research addresses a knowledge gap about personal safety and abuse prevention by exploring the perspectives of young people with disability, their supporters and families about feeling safe and developing strategies to stay safe. If you want to know more about this research you can access the full report, summary and plain English material [here](#).

During February ASID also became a signatory to an open letter prepared by Jim Simpson (NSW Council for Intellectual Disability) and Professor Julian Trollor (UNSW), to the NSW Health Minister. The letter focused on the physical and mental health inequities experienced by people with intellectual disability and was further to the ASID endorsement of the joint NSW Council for Intellectual Disability, Inclusion Australia and Australian Association of Developmental Disability Medicine Position Statement on the Health of People with Intellectual Disability which can be found [here](#).

At the end of March, I participated in the 2018 National Roundtable on the Mental Health of People with Intellectual Disability. Another very important day bringing together key experts from the health and disability sectors across Australia to address emerging and contentious issues, and lead national and state action on improving mental health of people with intellectual disability. The event was focused on the large translational research and capacity building partnership, the details are [here](#).

At each of these events, it was a pleasure to work alongside other ASID members and Board Directors. It's excellent to see that we have so many well regarded and sought after subject matter experts within our membership, many who take on leadership roles within our Divisions and our Board of Directors. If you're not currently a member I would strongly encourage you to join, not only do you get to be part of an extensive network across Australasian, there are a whole host of other benefits, all the information is on our [website](#).

Laura Hogan

2018 ASID President
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