

BOARD MEMBER PROFILES

Meet Morrie O'Connor

Morrie O'Connor born in Republic of Ireland, came to Australia when two. Lived most of his life in Queensland both North and South. Became involved in anti-freeway protest at University and when graduated involved in a range of local resident and tenant action groups. Later involved in developing a range of community organisations, community centres, housing and worker co-operatives. Began working for an intellectual disability organisation in 1990. Have used my learnings from my earlier work to support people with an intellectual disability form their own People's Organisations to address issues such as housing, employment, bullying and exploitation.

Married with four children. Enjoy the water and remote places.

Meet Deborah Espiner

Deborah Espiner is a long standing member of ASID and is currently the Chair of the Aotearoa New Zealand Division. She is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work, Faculty of Education, University of Auckland in papers that have a focus on disability studies, community inclusion and community leadership. Debbie has worked as a teacher, as an Adviser to the Education Board and has been involved in many Ministry of Education contracts that have focused on developing a more inclusive education system within New Zealand. The disability sector in New Zealand, like many other countries, is undergoing rapid change and evolving as choice and control is increasingly moving to people with the lived experience and their families. Debbie's research and interests lie in developing individualised and facilitated approaches that capture the 'voice' of the young person or adult in ways that are engaging, accessible and supportive of personal aspirations. She is Chair of two community organisations, that recognise the generosity that exists within society and the importance of relationship building between community members.

