

BOARD MEMBER PROFILES

Meet Sophia Tipping

My name is Sophia Tipping. I'm new to the ASID board and represent the Victorian division. I've been working in the areas of disability and mental health since 2011. I started as a clinical social worker and community development officer in mental health where I often worked with people with intellectual disability. However, my passions about the civil and political rights of all people took me to La Trobe University's Living with Disability Research Centre to a PhD under the supervision of Professor Christine Bigby. I'm currently exploring the perceptions and experiences of voting for people with intellectual disability. It's no accident I ended up working in disability. My uncle, Peter Tipping, had cerebral palsy and an intellectual disability. I never got to meet Peter but I heard lots of stories about him. He inspired my Grandfather, E. W. Tipping, to use his platform as a journalist to highlight the struggles facing people with intellectual disability and their parents due to a lack of appropriate supports. Peter's presence in my life through stories and the work of my grandparents have undoubtedly influenced my decision to pursue work in this field. I am also passionate about sharing the research we do with wider audiences and increasing the impact of our work on policy, practice and society so people with intellectual disability can have greater control of their lives and our community. This passion has led me to some great activities – including starting the ASID Research to Practice podcast with Hilary Johnson, Buffy Gorilla and Ben Pawson. Through my work on the ASID board, I hope we can ensure people with intellectual disability are more involved in the work we do at ASID.



Meet Denice Wharldall

I have worked in the disability sector for over 40 years; originally as a Registered Nurse working in an institution at a time when community support was not an option. I have been very fortunate to be involved in the closing of several institutions including Ru Rua Nursing Home and the Spastic Centres of South Australia Nursing Home. When I studied at university to become a Developmental Educator in the mid 80s it opened up a whole new world of thinking for me and it was at a time of great social change. I find it hard to believe that I used to think those living with a disability needed a model of service delivery dominated by a medical model. I have worked in senior management positions for over 30 years predominately for services which are practical accommodation and in-home support services. I have been a member of ASID since last century and as someone who works as a service provider, I believe that we have a responsibility to ensure that all we do is backed up by research. This is particularly important in support services that offer 24 hour support as service providers have such a significant impact on the lives of those we here to serve. On a personal note I have been fortunate to be married to my lovely husband Jeff for many many years and am an avid fan of the Crows AFL Team and the Thunderbird Netball Team. My husband is an avid Port supporter so we both live with the enemy so to speak. I like to read and love to travel.

