



# DIVISION REPORT

December 2020

## IDA Report Vic Division

These past months have been challenging for our Victorian Division members. We are finally starting to venture outside our front doors after six months of lockdown. With the challenges faced, we have found new ways of communicating when person to person contact has not been possible. We are holding all of our committee meetings via Zoom. This has worked well for our Victorian Division members during an ever-changing situation.

**Committee:** We held our Victorian Division Annual meeting on the 13th October. We currently have eight members on our committee. Angela Dew and Chris Bigby have been elected as our Division to Board representatives for the next three years. Jo Watson has also renominated for the general committee. Coral Farr, Helen Killmier, Hilary Johnson and Brent Hayward are continuing their roles on the 2021 Victorian Division committee. We welcomed Emily Churchill to our committee in August. Emily answered Hilary Johnson's callout for volunteers to assist her with production of the ASID podcasts. After attending our committee meetings, Emily decided to join our committee. Special thanks to Hilary Johnson who was our Returning Officer for the 2021 nominations.

**Webinars:** In August we launched the Tutorial Tuesdays webinar series. The Victorian Division is presenting a webinar on the second Tuesday of each month from 4:30 to 5:30pm (Eastern daylight-saving time). Associate Professor Angela Dew presented the first webinar on 11th August on Service Provider Perspectives on Working with People with Intellectual and Developmental Disability from Iraqi and Syrian background. On the 8th September, Professor Chris Bigby presented her research on Enabling Hospitals to be more Responsive and Inclusive of people with Intellectual Disability. Brent Hayward presented his research on Service Provider Perspectives of Positive Behaviour Support Plans on the 13th October. We have scheduled a webinar on 10th November on Allied Health Perspectives on Oral Health Needs of People with Intellectual Disability. Dr Jo Watson will be facilitating this webinar. On the 8th December, Emily Churchill will present her Social Skills Project for Adults with Intellectual Disability. Thank you to all of our presenters for your contributions to this webinar series. Thank you

also to our attendees for your participation especially during discussions after the presentations. We are looking forward to continuing the Tutorial Tuesday webinars during 2021.

We are enjoying a bright and beautiful Spring in Melbourne this year. New beginnings, after a long hard winter which has tested our resilience and ability to think outside the box. Thank you to ASID members, Secretariat and Board for your support and guidance. The Victorian Division has really appreciated it.

#### **Coral Farr Chair, Victorian division**

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#### **WA Committee remembers Chris Coopes**

Chris Coopes served as the President of the WA branch of ASID from approximately 2007 to 2010 and made a tremendous contribution in the leadership role. Among his achievements were working with a small committee to implement some vibrant state conferences; setting up the regular publication of an annual report and email newsletters for members and continuing to ensure the voice of people with intellectual disability was clearly represented and heard.

Chris was the WA President during a time when key members of ASID WA were in leadership roles on the Australasian committee and his diligence and enthusiasm served to ensure that WA remained strong and easy to make a contribution on both a local and Australasian level.

Chris was a social worker and he worked both in child protection and disability services. He was committed to supporting and encouraging social work students and it is therefore appropriate that a student award in the School of Occupational Therapy, Social Work and Speech Pathology bears his name.

Chris' contribution to ASID was significant and all who knew him are saddened at his passing.

#### **Chris Yates**

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