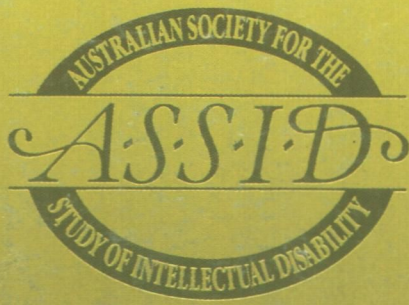


Intellectual Disability

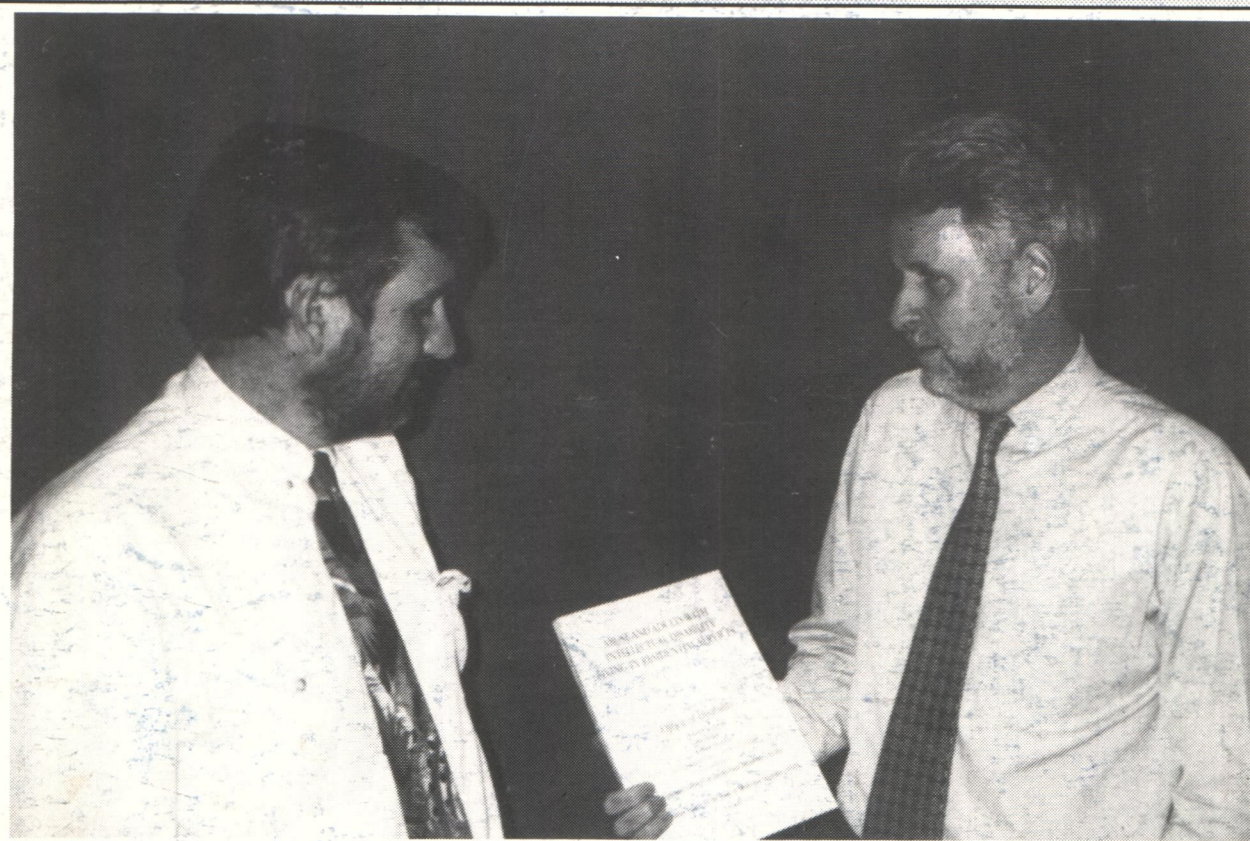
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From the Editor:

This edition of Intellectual Disability
Australia brings you all you need to know
about National Networks, proposed and
established.

Our guest editorial is provided by Dr. Tim
Griffin, National Vice President and Network
Convenor

About the cover:

Associate Professor Robert Conway and Mr. Mark
Pattison, Executive Officer of NCID, launch the
report: **Abuse and Adults with Intellectual Disabil-
ity living in Residential Services.**

More on this report on page10.

Guest Editorial

ASSID National Networks: *Islands of specific knowledge in a sea of passing interest.*

Considering the immensity of human endeavour, the field of intellectual disability is merely a flea on a big dog. Even if you narrow down human endeavour to "human services", intellectual disability is still a small sub-set of activity.

In the overall scheme of things, then, one could be excused, with a cursory glance, for believing that our field is small enough for us all to share common interests. Look more closely, however, and the complexity and diversity of the issues we must deal with are revealed. Take service provision, for example. Some of us are interested in accommodation services, some in employment or education, others delve into leisure options more deeply and further types of services occupy the attention a significant number of other providers. At a broader level, there are concerns that overarch these service areas, such as policy development, management, health and so on. More narrowly, some of us have very specific interests in people with particular syndromes or in challenging behaviour. Rather like looking into a microscope, the greater the magnification, the more specific the topic becomes (Alzheimer-type dementia in adults with Down Syndrome, for instance).

A great strength of ASSID, as reflected in its Annual National Conferences and publications, is that you can get a "feel" for a diversity of topics within intellectual disability and an in-depth understanding of a few you need to know about.

ASSID has recognised for some time that there are specific areas of interest within the larger field of intellectual disability. Some of these interests have emerged as symposia at conferences, special editions of our magazine and journal (Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities - formerly Australia and New Zealand Journal of Developmental Disabilities) and as "Special Interest Groups" (SIGs) that have met during ASSID Conferences. This recognition of "special interests" has led to the development of ASSID National Networks. What follows is a brief background to the establishment of Networks and how they work and brief descriptions of current and potential Networks.

Some Background:

At its meetings held during the 1994 National Conference in Fremantle, National Council decided to support the development of National Networks in specific areas of interest within the field of intellectual disability (for example, ageing, human relations, health, mental health, employment, communication, advocacy). Since then, ASSID has formally auspiced two National Networks, Human Relations and Ageing, and is seeking to develop others.

The history of the first two National Networks, Ageing and Human Relations, is that ASSID "adopted" existing SIGs as formal Networks. These SIGs had been meeting at ASSID conferences for some years and, to continue to grow, required the administrative and organisational support of ASSID. Auspicing these Networks, therefore, met the needs of ASSID in broadening options for its members and of the SIGs by providing an infrastructure in which to pursue their interests.

At the last conference in Hobart (1996) ASSID canvassed the idea of developing some new networks to provide further opportunities for members to participate in forums on particular topics. Interest was expressed in several areas: behaviour support, legal and ethical issues, health issues, women's issues; mental health, employment, professional development, citizenship and empowerment.

There are, of course, many other potential topics that have not yet been "put up" by members. While the topics above have been generated as potential Networks, their development requires substantial effort beyond the initial idea. ASSID does not run Networks as such, it supports them. This means that each Network needs an energetic coordinator/convenor and at least a small core of like-motivated people to bring it to life and provide nourishment. For this reason, in addition to the two existing

Networks (Ageing and Human Relations) we have floated the following four of which have keen members, prepared to expend the effort to coordinate them, Health Issues, Legal & Ethical Issues and Women and Intellectual Disability Behaviour Support. Brief descriptions of these potential Networks and the two existing ones appear later.

The "new" Networks are potential Networks only because they will need to attract members to become viable. While it is difficult to set a hard minimum number of members, I would suggest that a critical mass of 20 to 30 members in each Network would be required to provide the diversity of views, interests and experiences to make it vital. The existing Networks have quietly accumulated members over the past few years, mainly through their original SIG member lists.

Other Networks may be developed in the future, depending on member interest and coordinator energy. The exercise, at this time, is largely empirical, put them up and see what interest they generate. If interest is high (and, on the basis of a membership survey and initial interest, we have reason to believe it will be), further Networks will be established. There may, however, be a practical limit on how many Networks an organisation the size of ASSID can sustain. We do not yet know what the limit is.

There may also be some natural overlap between Networks which may, in time, decide to amalgamate or at least conduct some activities together. For these reasons, we are progressing cautiously, but with enthusiasm for and commitment to the concept and reality of ASSID National Networks.

At this stage in their development, there are people you can contact (see the descriptions below) to express in interest in joining the available Networks. All this will happen formally when membership subscriptions fall due in the middle of the year. There will be an opportunity then of joining one or more Networks. (More about membership appears below).

The following excerpts from the "Network Guidelines" produced by National Council set out the objectives, principles and membership of Networks.

Objectives of Networks

The objectives of National Networks are to:

- promote the professional development of ASSID members;
- provide forums for members to discuss issues of interest in service delivery and development and current research;
- provide opportunities for information exchange in the special interest area;

Guest Editorial ... (cont'd.)

- provide ASSID with up-to-date information about the special interest area (service, policy and practice issues etc.) so that ASSID may effectively promote such information in the interest of positive outcomes for people with intellectual disability, their families and workers in the field.

Statement of Principles.

National Council of ASSID:

- Supports the establishment of National Networks of people interested in specific or discrete areas relevant to intellectual disability (for example, ageing, human relations, health, mental health, employment, communication, advocacy);
- Acknowledges that professional expertise and knowledge should be readily available to people within their chosen area of interest, regardless of state, service or professional boundaries;

Promotes access to information, experience and support;

- Supports the professional development people working in the field of intellectual disability facilitating open information exchange and learning opportunities aimed at broadening their knowledge base, awareness of contemporary issues and current research and service models, thereby enhancing the quality and range of services for people with an intellectual disability.

Support for Networks

ASSID supports National Networks it sponsors in several significant ways. For example, through its organisational structure, ASSID provides administrative and accounting support which allows Networks to operate unencumbered by the need to register its own members, raise subscriptions and acquit funds (all of which would otherwise require some kind of incorporation by each network). ASSID also facilitates Network meetings at its conferences and makes available its expertise in holding and running activities and establishing and maintaining Networks. Assistance with production of Network newsletters is also available, as is the opportunity of highlighting Network articles in this magazine (at the Editor's discretion, of course). ASSID provides each Network with its own letterhead. Establishment and one-off grants are available from ASSID, subject to approval, by National Council, of a detailed, written proposal. Liaison with National Council is through the National Vice-President.

Membership of Networks

ASSID National Networks can be joined in the following ways:

Ordinary and Organisational members of ASSID may join one ASSID National Network as an additional benefit of membership, inclusive of their membership subscriptions;

A category of Network only Member is available which entitles members to the benefits of Network activities only; (\$20 subscription).

Associate and Student members may join a Network for an additional fee (of \$15);

Ordinary and Organisational members may join more than one Network for additional fees (\$15 for each additional Network).

Network Responsibilities:

Network responsibilities are stipulated for two reasons: 1) to ensure an effective working partnership between ASSID and its Networks so that the organisational aims of both groups can be achieved; and 2) to ensure that members of Networks receive the benefits to which they are entitled.

Network responsibilities are to:

Ensure that all material issued by the Network (such as correspondence, newsletters, publicity material etc.) displays the ASSID logo and that the Network is identified as an ASSID National Network;

Hold a Network Meeting at ASSID's Annual National Conferences;

Produce and maintain a Directory of Network Members for distribution among members at least biennially;

Produce and distribute a newsletter at least bi-annually;

Make available material produced by Networks for use in other ASSID publications;

Network Coordinators - The key position in each Network is the Coordinator, who is responsible for the operation of the Network.

The Network, in consultation with the National Vice-President, recommends a Coordinator to National Council for endorsement. The Coordinator must be an Ordinary member of ASSID or a representative from an Organisational member and be prepared to undertake the Coordinator's responsibilities, which are to:

Work with the National Vice-President or nominated National Councillor to ensure that the mutual interests of ASSID and the Network are preserved and enhanced;

Work with ASSID National Conference committees regarding Annual Network Meetings;

Coordinate the activities of the Network;

Manage the expenditure of per capita funds and other grants within the framework approved by National Council;

Submit, via the National Vice-President, an annual report to National Council outlining how the Network has met its responsibilities (with stated outcomes), its activities of the previous year and planned for the next, and a financial statement of funds received and expended;

Ensure that the Network responsibilities listed above are carried out.

Final Comments:

Network development in ASSID parallels the development, at the international level, of Special Interest Research Groups (SIRGs) within the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disability (IASSID). Articulation with relevant SIRGs is quite possible. For example, the ASSID National Network on Ageing has established links with its counterpart in IASSID which means, among other things, that members of our Network receive the SIRG newsletter. At this time, IASSID has the following SIRGs in various states of development: mental health, physical health, ageing, quality of life, social integration, citizen advocacy and women's issues.

National Networks are an exciting development. But we need to get the balance right; they need to reflect specific areas of interest, but not so specific that only the coordinator and one or two others are sufficiently turned on to join. We also need to develop the right mix and number of Networks to provide options to members, but not to dilute membership of each one too much. The last point is significant for two reasons. The first has already been mentioned: there needs to be a sufficient number of members to generate diversity of opinion so that, as a forum, each Network is alive and interesting. The second is related: Networks require the participation of their members. The motivation to join should not be simply to receive information and ideas, but also to contribute. Let people know what you are doing, what you have found to work (or not work), the latest research, information or model of service provision you have looked into and even the questions you need answered to become better informed. The simple equation for Networks (I think more so than other organisations) is participation = vitality; and vitality = interest.

Networks are, I'm sure, an important initiative for the professional development of ASSID members and will, indirectly through the improved practice and research Networks promote, have a positive effect on the quality of life of people with disabilities.

The convenors of the two existing Networks and four potential ones have provided descriptions of their Networks. Contact details for further information also appear. National Council has included "Network development and liaison" in the portfolio of its Vice-President, so if you would like to discuss Networks with me (perhaps you would like to generate a new one, or would simply like to see the full "guidelines" document), please do not hesitate to contact me:

Tim Griffin PhD, Centre for Developmental Disability Studies

Royal Rehabilitation Centre, Sydney

PO Box 6, Ryde NSW 2112, Tel: (02) 9807 7062 Fax: (02) 9807 7053

email: t.griffin@uws.edu.au

National Network on Behaviour Support

Peter Jensen

This Network will be for people interested in the area of behaviour support, including issues surrounding the provision of behaviour support to people with intellectual disability and challenging behaviour. Behaviour support is an area of considerable interest to many people and services throughout Australia and broad interest has already been expressed in the formation of a Network.

Initiative for this Network has come from staff within the Queensland Department of Families, Youth and Community Care, Disability Services where behaviour support currently is the focus of a significant project.

The aims of the Network will be:

- To provide a forum for people with a common interest in service provision, research and policy development in the area of behaviour support.
- To provide a forum and opportunity for the identification of issues and the exchange of information and ideas.

The formation of the Network is likely to gather momentum at the next ASSID Annual National Conference to be held in Brisbane in September at which a Behaviour Support meeting will be held.

In the meantime, the contact for this potential Network is:

Peter Jensen, Disability Services

Department of Families, Youth and Community Care

GPO Box 806, Brisbane, QLD 4001 - Tel: (07) 3224 4970 Fax: (07) 3224 7910 - email: phensen@fsaia.qld.gov.au

National Network on Health Issues

Nicholas Lennox

“The return of the baby - without the bath water”

Health is a part of people's lives. Often health professionals lament the loss of adequately trained, expert and knowledgeable service providers for people with an intellectual disability in Australia. “They have thrown the baby out with the bath water” they sigh. Wry grins spread across the faces of the social engineers.

Recently, I was contacted by a general practitioner who complained that the carers of that particular patient did not provide a decent history, organise enough time to adequately provide the needed service and over the years had moved from GP to GP, thereby losing continuity of health care. The person with the intellectual disability had massive weight loss and now was very underweight. Part of the reason for this, the carers indicated, was that “the residents cooked their own meals”. However, the meals were evidently not very “nice” and one would suspect, given the weight loss, lacking volume and possibly nutritional value. Thus bastardisation of “normalisation” had led to neglect of the health needs of this patient.

We can't let this and the other myriad forms of ignorance of health needs continue. Many people, including people with an intellectual disability and their families and care givers, are desperate to access high quality health care. The evidence, both anecdotal and research-based, clearly shows that the health of people with an intellectual disability is neglected. The “systems” currently in place are failing. Something must be done!

If you, in whatever capacity, are advocating for the provision of high quality health care, you are not alone. We need you to join together to share knowledge, skills and experience and, as a group, to work towards high quality health care for people with an intellectual disability.

The ASSID National Network on Health Issues will be a conduit across Australia. It will provide contacts; support; a wide range of expertise from the personal and experiential to the professional and academic. It will be a forum to identify, debate and advise on the key health issues which affect the lives of people with an intellectual disability in Australia.

Join with us and augment the drive to improve the health of people with an intellectual disability in Australia. This may be through advocacy, practice, research or policy development.

Some key issues for me are:

Health targets and their evaluation	Health advocacy and how this can be more effectively performed to achieve positive outcomes
Health screening	Health care in the transition to adulthood
Access to medical services including psychiatric services	Integration of medical care
Health policy which at least acknowledges the needs of people with an intellectual disability	

The following people have already indicated an interest and intention to join the Network. They have a variety of backgrounds including: nursing, parenthood, speech therapy, special education, psychology, general practice, psychiatry, social work and policy development. Dr Helen Beange, Professor Trevor Parmenter, Mr John Annison, Dr Tim Griffin, Ms Nikki Edwards, Dr Sue Balandin, Ms Sue Edwards, Dr Stephen Trumble, Dr Bob Davis, Dr Jenny Curran, Mr Peter Milson, Dr Mary Burbidge, Ms Wendy O'Connor, Ms Isla Bowen, Ms Margaret Gerry, Ms Delia Duke, Ms Linda Goddard and myself, Dr Nick Lennox.

If you would like to join this group to be part of the ASSID National Network on Health Issues, please do not hesitate to contact me:

Dr Nicholas Lennox, Department of Public Health and Community Medicine

200 Berkeley Street, Carlton Vic 3053 - Tel: (03) 9344 7276 Fax: (03) 9347 6136 - email: n.lennox@phcm.unimelb.edu.au

National Network on Legal and Ethical Issues

Hugh Carter & Jill Taylor

The move to establish a Legal and Ethical Issues Network under the auspices of ASSID is a timely development. The legal minefield of issues confronting families, other carers and service providers supporting persons with an intellectual disability is both daunting and in many instances overwhelming.

Ethical issues invariably involve conflicting principles and rights and a forum such as the proposed Network will ensure appropriate airing of issues, dilemmas and in some instances, diametrically opposed views. This is to be encouraged.

Topical issues that could be considered include: non-voluntary euthanasia, discrimination, personal injuries litigation, will making, substitute decision-making and guardianship, institutional reform, community inclusion and education access.

This network will provide a forum for exchanging ideas, learning about existing models, seeking solutions and challenging existing or proposed concepts in an environment of reform.

Those who wish to find out more about this Network should contact:

Hugh Carter
c/- School of Law
3rd floor, Block C
Queensland University of Technology
Gardens Point Campus
Brisbane Qld 4000

or
Jill Taylor
48 Woodend Road
Woodend Qld 4305

National Network on Human Relations

Aileen Ashford

The ASSID National Network on Human Relations arose from meetings held at ASSID conferences since 1991. These "special interest" meetings were in response to a need for disability service workers across Australia to have a forum to discuss and exchange ideas regarding their work and areas of interest in human relationship training and service provision.

The ASSID National Network on Human Relations has primarily operated as a focal point for discussion during Annual National Conferences. A special interest day has preceded each national conference for the past few years. This has been a constructive and reinforcing meeting of professionals who share mutual concerns and seek to improve opportunities for people with an intellectual disability.

The Network is open to all ASSID members. Its aims are:

- To facilitate and coordinate access to information and advice about human relations to people who work with people with an intellectual disability.
- To facilitate the development of access to resources which support people with an intellectual disability.
- To share information and experiences which support Network members in their work with people with an intellectual disability.
- To act as an advocate for the development and enhancement of relationship training and services to people with an intellectual disability.
- To foster inter-agency, interstate and overseas cooperation between professionals who work in the human relations field with people with an intellectual disability.
- To encourage network members to identify and research new initiatives in the area of human relations.

For further information contact the Network Convenor: Aileen Ashford, Family Planning Victoria - Fax: 039 3570 1100

Winning Author says Audio Books a "Cause for Celebration"

The Royal Blind Society has won the 1996 TDK Australian Audio Book Award for its production of Tim Winton's famous novel, **The Riders**. A production of an earlier Winton classic, **That Eye, The Sky**, has won Bolinda Audio Books a special award for the outstanding production aimed at the younger market.

Tim Winton couldn't be more delighted to see his books having a fresh life in another form. He said.

"Any means of making books more accessible to people are a cause for celebration. Any barrier that can be scrambled across should be used and audio books constitute something rather better than a mere scrambling. They are an elegant and dignified border crossing. For the sight-impaired, the long distance driver or the bone lazy booklover who has never cast off the childhood pleasure of being read to, they are a terrific alternative means of having literature in your life."

Established in 1988, the TDK Australian Audio Book Award is administered by the National Library of Australia and is the only award in Australia open to commercial producers and publishers of books in audio format. By rewarding the producers of audio books for technical excellence, the TDK award has done much to improve the standard of audio book production in Australia.

The 1996 winners are: Overall Winner and Winner of Unabridged Fiction: Royal Blind Society for **The Riders** by Tim Winton, narrated by Geoff Cartwright. Abridged Fiction: ABC Enterprises for **Foxspell** by Gillian Rubinstein, narrated by Heather Steen. Unabridged Non-Fiction: Luis Braille Books for **Home Before Dark** by Ruth Park and Rafe Champion, narrated by Peter Hosking. Abridged Non-Fiction: Information Alternatives for **Kitchen Capers** by Australian Women's Weekly, narrated by Victoria Howell. Special Award for an audio book of outstanding quality aimed at a younger market: Bolinda Audio Books for **That Eye, The Sky** by Tim Winton, narrated by Stig Wemyss. Special Commendation for an outstanding non-winning entry: Redfern Legal Centre Publishing for **Surviving Rape: A Handbook about Rape for Survivors, Family, Friends and Workers** by the Sydney Rape Crisis Centre, narrated by Jenny Vuletic. The Trish Trinick Prize for the best-selling audio book in Australia was won by Reed for Kids for their children's audio book, **Pocahontas**.

ASSID Special Interest Group

Women and Intellectual Disability

This interest group is at the moment, a collection of ideas and concerns which have been voiced by women labelled as having intellectual disabilities and by women who work with them. Among these concerns have been the following: the lack of research which identifies and explores issues of particular concern to women labelled as having intellectual disabilities, lack of means of disseminating work with women which is happening around the country e.g. support groups for women who have been sexually abused, peer education on women's health issues; failure to take gender issues into account in developing policies and programs for people with intellectual disabilities, issues which confront women workers in the field. I thought it would also be good to have a forum in which the achievements of women with disabilities could be celebrated.

There has been sufficient research to suggest that gender issues are important to consider in working with people with intellectual disabilities. Among some of the issues which have been identified as important include: the role of women with intellectual disabilities as carers, women's health issues, the role of women as mothers, issues of sexual abuse and sexuality, women's employment, the roles which women play within their communities.

To move the idea for a women's special interest group beyond the realm of ideas requires a response from those who are

interested. If you think the idea is a good one, then please contact:

Kelley Johnson,
West Brunswick, 3055
Phone: (03) 9380 9243

I am willing to collate names and addresses and to call a first meeting of the group. I think there is exciting work to be done in identifying and exploring issues important to women. *Let's get the idea off the ground.*

(refer to Ageing Network on next page)

Ausrapid Reports

Over the weekend of September 7-8th, the Australian Sport and Recreation Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability (AUSRAPID) held its Annual General Meeting. These meetings were of particular significance as the association celebrated 10 years of advocacy for, and development of, inclusive practices within the Australian sporting and recreation community for individuals with intellectual disability. This development has occurred at all levels, and has been assisted by many dedicated people who support AUSRAPID through their State associations. Each State and Territory has a representative community group that is affiliated with AUSRAPID and these act at a State level to provide an avenue for national inclusive initiatives, and also within the context of their own State to promote local and regional sport and recreation programs across all levels of participation.

AUSRAPID is also supported by many of the national sporting bodies which have developed and actively facilitated the inclusion of coaching programs, participation structures and competitions at local, regional, state and national level for players with an intellectual disability. With the advent of Paralympic inclusion in 1992 and 1996 games (although minimal), and the progressive attitudes of Sydney 2000, participation in training and coaching programs through the elite sport development programs at the State and National levels have also become available to athletes with intellectual disability. It is with much sense of achievement at the AUSRAPID as it celebrated its 10th year - a Paralympic year - was able to see several young people with intellectual disabilities achieve medal success at the Atlanta Games. To these "pioneer" athletes and the many others who continue to strive for excellence in their chosen field, the Australian sporting community says, "*well done!*"

However, developments are not only taking place at the elite level. Throughout the States, in conjunction with the various AUSRAPID affiliated groups, several sport participation programs are underway which will enable individuals, who have previously been considered unskilled and/or unfit, to participate locally. These programs are enabling positive images to replace the negative perceptions of physical incompetence

which have been held by the community with regard to people with intellectual disability. When people due to limited opportunities, are regarded as incompetent and are relegated to a "specialness" disability status rather than to a sports' participant status, this relegation and exclusion from sporting expertise at all levels further handicaps their opportunities for development.

A report on the activities of AUSRAPID will, it is hoped, become a regular feature of this magazine.

In this first issue, I would like to outline for you the extent of the work that this organisation and its State and Territory affiliated groups are involved in to facilitate opportunities and choice for individuals with intellectual disabilities. AUSRAPID, as the national association for Sport and Recreation for persons with intellectual disability, has been operating since 1986, when a tentative beginning with the support of the Australian Sports Commission was undertaken. The association aims to represent the sporting and recreational needs of people with an intellectual disability at national and international level. AUSRAPID advocates for, and supports individuals with intellectual disabilities to participate in generic community based sport and recreational activities, and facilitates and provides some expertise within the sporting community for the inclusive practices in their structures and development. The successful inclusion of athletes with intellectual disabilities into national events such as Netball, Athletics, Australian Rules Football, Fustal, Indoor Cricket, Pacific School Games, secondary schools sport championships, Swimming, Ten Pin Bowling and Tennis demonstrates the partial fulfilment of these aims.

Recreational programs, which support people with intellectual disabilities in community recreation, operate through the eight state and territory organisations. These programs range from those which offer one to one support and skill development within a community recreation of the person's choice to holiday and tour programs to a variety of tourist destinations. In future additions of this newsletter, I hope to be able to profile some of the outstanding work being done by these programs.

If you require information please call **AUSRAPID 03 9696 6204** or **Anne Jobling 07 336 56405**

International News:

Down's Syndrome Association in Russia

There has recently been much attention in the media about the plight of children with Down's Syndrome living in Russian Institutions.

It has been reported that these children are living in conditions where they are confined to cots or living in straitjackets, suffering malnutrition, provided with no stimulation and hidden away from society.

Down's Syndrome Association (DSA) (society of parents of children with Down's Syndrome) was founded in March 1993 in Moscow, to help with the survival and development of children with Down's Syndrome, their integration into society as a complete human being, having equal rights with other people.

Down's Syndrome Association is an associate member of the European Down's Syndrome Association. (EDSA).

The activities of the DSA and the problems which it tries to resolve have provoked wide public interest both nationally and internationally. As a result of this, their activities featured in numerous television, press and magazine articles in Russia, European countries, USA and Australia.

DSA liaises with maternity hospitals, children's homes in Moscow, genetic consultants and other organisations, as well as providing consultative help to parents of children with Down's Syndrome.

The Association also offers massage and physiotherapy to these children until they reach 3 years of age within their home setting in Moscow. Speech therapy is available for older children and for adults.

At DSA's Creative Day Centre adult lessons are provided - both individually and in groups in applied art, including musical lessons for the piano and flute. All these services are provided free of charge for children with Down's Syndrome and their families.

DSA gives urgent assistance to orphans with an intellectual disability in institutions.

The DSA provides a translation service of current journal articles available, prepares literature for publication and disseminates new literature about problems and help for people with an intellectual disability.

DSA has collaborated with: Ministry of Education of Russia, Institute of Special Education of the Russian Academy of Education, the Russian Academy of Medicine. With these organisations they have organised seminars and conferences, both local and international on different aspects of help for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

There have also been joint projects in conjunction with Medecins Sans Frontieres (Netherlands) aimed at developing a model for a Consultative Centre with the objective of providing early intervention and social help for children and within the family setting, children' homes (Orphanages) and rehabilitation within the institutional setting for older children (Orphanages).

DSA calls upon politicians, officials, Russian and the international community, businesses, professionals and parents to provide local, national and international co-operation for help to save and enhance the quality of life of tens of thousands of children with intellectual disabilities in Russia.

Contact details:

Down's Syndrome Association,
Russia 101000 Moscow Myasnitskaya,
13 Flat No. 3 - Tel./Fax: (095) 925-64-76

Source: Down's Syndrome Association, Russia

AUTISM WEEK

Irabina Early Intervention Program is recognised as a world leader in the treatment of children with Autism, with an international reputation for its pioneering work.

Families who have children with Autism need help to cope. Irabina provides support, counselling and programs for both children with Autism and their families. Most people with Autism Spectrum Disorder will require support throughout their lives to varying degrees.

Autistic children have a developmental disability caused by a neurological disorder that affects the way the brain functions.

You can make a difference by assisting Irabina raise awareness and funds by supporting **Autism Week** which is being held between **19-25 May, 1997**.

Donations can be made by phoning 1902 247 540 - *the sooner, the better*.

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

National Abuse Report Launched . . .

A report of a national survey of abuse and adults with intellectual disability living in residential services has been presented to the Commonwealth Office of Disability.

The report, produced under the auspices of the National Council of Intellectual Disability (NCID) and the Australian Society for the Study of Intellectual Disability (ASSID) was completed by Dr. Robert Conway, Louise Bergin and Kathryn Thornton.

Through questionnaires and interviews of families, advocates and service providers, it was found that staff and people with an intellectual disability accounted for approximately 75% of the alleged abuses reported. Where there were incidents of abuse it was likely that more than one form of abuse occurred concurrently, such as sexual as well as physical abuse. The report concludes that this makes it necessary for the policies and practices to reflect a need for a range of actions rather than a single response.

Abuse was reported over all types of residential settings, with most abuse reported as occurring either irregularly or once only. It was also found that people with challenging behaviour are more likely to be abused.

Concern was expressed about the reported reluctance to report abuse due to fear of negative consequences or perceived lack of

proof. This concern is further exacerbated by the finding that the monitoring by services is inadequate. The need for advocacy which is independent of funding bodies is highlighted as essential to addressing abuse.

Some of the major recommendations include the need for: a change in the ethos of individuals, services and government; policies relating to reporting of abuse to be implemented, and the need for professionally trained direct care staff to prevent abuse from occurring.

Copies of the report can be purchased from:

The Australian Institute on Intellectual Disability,
P.O. Box 521, Mawson, ACT 2607
Phone: (06) 282 5624 - Fax: (06) 282 5639



ASSID 33rd Annual Conference

“Agenda for Change”

Sept. 23rd to Sept. 26th, 1997

Brisbane Convention Centre

Contact:

Dr. Jeff Sigafos,

Phone: (07) 3365 6486 - Fax: (07) 3365 7199

ASSID membership enquiries, contact:

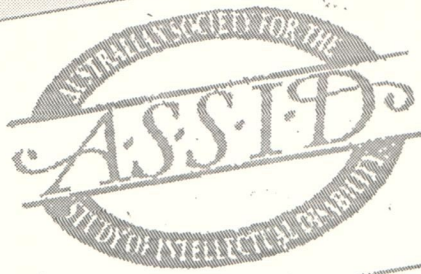
National Registrar,

Australian Society for the Study of Intellectual Disability

P.O. Box 354, Salisbury, S.A. 5108

Phone: (08) 283 0840

Fax: (08) 283 0837



NATIONAL RESEARCH PRIZE

Awarded to

Robert A Cummins, Christine Baxter
Alan Hudson & Roland Jauernig

for a paper titled

A model system for the evaluation of
individual program plans

which was published during


1996

(Volume 21, Issue No. 1, pp. 59-70)

in the *Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disability*
and judged to be the most innovative contribution by an

Australian author which resulted in positive life changes
for people with an intellectual disability


President


Editor

Opening Address by President of the Republic Martti Ahtisaari at the 10th World Congress of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities (IASSID) in Helsinki on 8th July, 1996

Ignorance, indifference, superstition and fear have isolated persons with disabilities from others throughout the history of humankind. Many superstitions and beliefs have traditionally been associated with intellectual disabilities. As little as a generation ago, mental retardation could be regarded as the wages of sin also here in our own country. This belief has receded in modern societies, but in developing countries many families are still stigmatised because of intellectual disability on the part of one of their members. Also in developed countries, genuine acceptance of people with intellectual disabilities remains in many countries less than complete. These people still encounter many obstacles when they wish to participate in education and training, working life and the affairs of society.

Nevertheless, perceptions of the person with an intellectual disability are changing. He or she is not sick and only in need of care, but a thinking, feeling and functioning person, with his or her own hopes and needs. He or she is first and foremost a human being, one of whose personal features happen to be a disability. Perhaps we may yet see the day when a child with a disability being born into a family is no longer regarded as an emotional or economic catastrophe, but rather as a challenge which parents can calmly address, confident of the support and understanding of society and their neighbours.

Intellectual disability has fascinated researchers in the fields of medicine, the social sciences and the behavioural sciences. The declaration of Helsinki is a set of guidelines issued by the World Medical Association which calls for ethical standards safeguarding the rights and welfare of the individual to be observed in biomedical research relating to people. This is particularly important when the subject of study is a person with an intellectual disability.

Correct information frees families and individuals from false feelings of guilt and supports the development of new rehabilitation and treatment methods. Prospects for people with disabilities being integrated as members of society will improve as our knowledge about learning, rehabilitation and relations of interaction increase. It is natural for many of us to strive to do everything possible to lessen the risk of disability so that as many children as possible can be born to lead healthy lives. This involves the design of living environments, traffic planning, prenatal and child care counselling and good maternity services. In spite of that our best endeavours, disability and deficiency are intrinsic to life. What is most important is that also a child with a disability should have the right to be born as a wanted member of its family and society. Prevention is a complex problem with many medical, social, psychological, religious and legal ramifications. The many aspects of these matters will be brought up at this congress.

Disability does not relate solely to the properties of the individual, but also to the complex interaction between individual and society. It is not only the individual that needs rehabilitation, but also structures and services and our attitudes and behaviour.

The intellectual disability sector has been a pioneer in organising families and relatives.

Persons with intellectual disabilities are themselves participating in the work of organisations. People forming organisations on their own initiative is an important part of a functioning democracy. By courageously raising questions of disabilities, the organisations working in the field of intellectual disability have significantly advanced equality and full sharing for all.

This is the first time that a world scientific congress dedicated to care of the intellectually disabled is being held in Finland. We are particularly proud of the fact that our country is being allowed to represent, in its role of host, the Nordic welfare model. The premises underlying Nordic policy with regard to persons with disabilities have been soli-

arity, collective bearing of the risk caused by disability, integration and normalisation. I know that these aspirations have had a strong influence globally on the arrangement of services for the intellectually disabled. The economic structures of the welfare state are now threatened both in the Nordic countries and elsewhere in the world. The opportunities available to persons with intellectual disabilities to champion their own causes are limited. It was specifically for such groups that the world of building up the welfare society originally began. They are also the last groups whose welfare can be compromised without scrapping the whole idea of social responsibility.

Implementation of the rights and opportunities of persons with disabilities requires international cooperation in a variety of fora. There is a need for action on the part of persons with disabilities themselves, and for research-oriented cooperation. As one of the newest members of the European Union, Finland is working for the implementation in Europe of a policy on persons with disabilities that is based on respect for humanity. Our work at the United Nations has likewise rested on the same premises for a long time. The operational policy program Standard Rules on the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities was adopted by the UN in 1993. The aim is to make every country on earth a better place to live for all people, with or without disabilities. I am glad to be able to note that Finland, in common with most of the countries represented here, has endorsed the Standard Rules. We need cooperation on both the international and the national level so that the goals set can be realised in practice.

We Finns like to speak of the Spirit of Helsinki. When we do, we are referring to the security development in Europe and to detente between the superpowers, among the scenes of which Helsinki and Finlandia Hall have been. This scientific congress has attracted delegates from more countries than ever before. When it was decided in Brisbane, Australia, four years ago that Helsinki would be the venue for the 10th Congress, the goal was that scientists representing different fields, persons with disabilities and their relatives as well as workers from East and West, from developed and developing countries would be able to meet here on a basis of equality.

Today that goal has been achieved. The biggest and most diverse group of delegates that has ever convened to discuss the theme of research into intellectual disability is present here. In all, more than a thousand speakers and other participants have come from every continent to deal with the theme of the congress. International Advances in Research and in Practice - Global Problems - Local Approaches. May the Spirit of Helsinki create an open atmosphere in which to meet, discourse, exchange information and experience as well as to produce innovations that will improve the quality of life of persons with intellectual disabilities.

My best wishes for good fortune and success go to the congress now beginning, to The International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities and to the local hosts, The Finnish Association on Mental Retardation.

Branch Reports



ASSID (WA) conducted a State conference on the 29th of November 1996. The program was well received with the venue filled to capacity.

Dr. Guy Hamilton, President of ASSID, spoke on the history of services for people with developmental disabilities in WA as part of his presentation on "Community Attitudes - Then and Now".

Gareth Merriman outlined the complex issues inherent in defining consent to sexual activity in his two well received papers on "Can People with Severe to Profound

Intellectual Impairment Give Consent for Sexual Activity" and "Provision of Services to Assist a Person with Intellectual and Physical Disability Engage in Sexual Activity".

A video on "Experiencing Multi-Sensory stimulation" was introduced by Sue Peden, Principle Speech Therapist at DSC. The Video, developed in WA by DSC, demonstrated methods of enhancement of the sensory environment of people with multi-disabilities in high support needs hostels.

Lorraine Dockerill, Ailish McGovern and Beth Eggleston from Activ Foundation Inc. presented a case study describing the development of an individualised accommodation option. The title of the presentation was "Case Study: Developing Community Based Residential Support for a Person with a Severe Reputation". Ms McGovern, the coordinator and carer for this individual option fielded multiple questions during and following the presentation. The questions indicated interest in the experience she has had of providing support within her own family home and the practicalities of designing and adjusting to a life sharing support situation. The paper strongly highlighted the need to re-examine, challenge and change behavioural reputations or labelling and listen to the communicative aspects of behaviour.

Dr. Bob Jackson from Edith Cowan University and Ruth Marquis from Curtin University presented on "Consumer's and Providers Perceptions of Quality in a supported Accommodation Service". The paper identified quality measures from the perspective of the recipient of services and touched on quality of life issues within the context of Social Role Valorisation. Primary qualitative measures were identified. The paper effectively highlighted the shift in mind set that occurs when quality is viewed from the consumer's perspective.

Sue Peden and Ruth Marquis gave a summary of a project on "Building Bridges Between Consumers and Providers of Early Intervention Services Through a Process of Best Practices". This study incorporated qualitative research, involved a small group of families and examined the different perceptions of need by consumers and providers. This was seen as a necessary preliminary to examining how well services were tailored to meet need.

Charles Rook from DSC gave a paper on "Kith and Kin". An examination by DSC of the demographics of the carers of people with disabilities strongly emphasises the large role that family plays in the provision of services. This has repercussions in consideration of resource and support allocation as well as perceptual changes regarding the role of the family within both the community and human resource system.

A book launch of a new book "Under Blue Skies - The Social Construction of Intellectual Disability in Western Australia" occurred. The author Associate Professor Michael Lee analyses the history of intellectual disability in WA from the first settlement to the present day. The book is available through Edith Cowan University Department of Human Service Centre for Disability Research and Development - Phone number: (09) 400 5658.

The conference was followed by Christmas drinks and social conviviality by participants, thereby providing a pleasant end to the day.

If readers wish to obtain any of the above papers, please contact Beth Eggleston: (09) 387 0491 or write to ASSID (WA), PO Box 1429, West Perth, WA 6872.

A survey was circulated to conference participants and ASSID members to determine future conference topics, areas of interest and directions indicated for ASSID (WA) in 1997. As a result of this survey, several new members were welcomed to ASSID. ASSID (WA) President, Dr. Guy Hamilton's resignation as President has been regrettably accepted and Ian Purdie will take the chair for the remainder of the term. We welcome Ian to this role. Dr. Hamilton remains a highly valued member of the ASSID State committee. We thank Dr. Hamilton for the generous contribution of his time and energy thus far. The State Council committee members are bonded in the unanimous intention to ensure that Dr. Hamilton continues to share himself and to contribute his multi-faceted expertise in the future.

Beth Eggleston



Following the successful National Conference held here in Tasmania in September last year, we have had a short rest and are now keen to set a new program for 1997. Our new committee members include Shirley Castley, Debra Howard, Keith McVilley, Claudia Jackson, Paul Armstrong, Dean Foley, Andrew Potter, Stephen Kearney as Vice President, Steven Bristow; Secretary, and Peter Gard; Treasurer, were elected as Office Bearers. It is encouraging to have a full committee and to have a stronger representation from the north of the state. We do, however, miss Lyn Young who is no longer on the committee. Her dedication, drive and leadership over the last few years has certainly contributed to the strength of the Tasmanian branch today and we thank her for her commitment and work. We have a day in February organised for planning in which we aim to set goals and a calendar of activities for the year. The Planning Day will be held in Launceston as a central point for members, and our events for the year will include a state conference.

Miranda Stephens
Committee Member



Despite a flat year, 1996 ended on a high note with a standing room only seminar on Death, Dying and Disability. While sounding a bit morbid, the evening actually raised a number of issues about the power - or lack of it - that people with an intellectual disability have over the decision about how they will end their days - especially if they are already, or will be, unable to communicate an informed decision.

For most of us there is now some opportunity to make a legal document at an earlier time in our lives that indicates whether we would want to be kept alive at all costs or whether, if terminally ill, we would prefer good palliative care and to be allowed to depart in peace with minimal pain and discomfort. The enabling legislation is based on us being judged as "being of sound mind" at the time of making this decision about our future when our mental state may not be so sound. For many people with intellectual or multiple disability, this opportunity never exists because at no time in their lives can they legally be regarded as able to make this type of decision. The result may be that the decision on care is left to family or to residential care staff who, by virtue of the policies of their employers, may be required to take extreme measures

Branch Reports . . . (cont'd.)

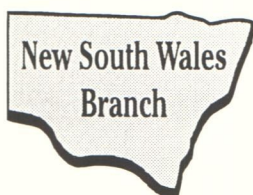
to keep a dying client alive even though their quality of life is so grossly diminished by their illness. Against a historical backdrop of "death making" policies and practices in the management of people with disabilities, the power to make decisions about one's death may be the final hurdle to quality of life for people with intellectual disability.

On a brighter note, 1997 looks like the year of visitors to SA upon which ASSID hopes to capitalise. The first arrival will probably be Dr. Sue Bettison who is well known to SA and NSW. Sue has indicated some interest in presenting Autism and Auditory Integration Training as well as on toilet training which is the area she is best known for in this part of the world. Prof. Matt Janicki is also due here to present at the Gerontology Conference and we are hoping to spread a little of his time over to share with members of ASSID. Later in the year Prof. Jan Wallander will be the guest of the Crippled Children's Association and we are presently negotiating for him to offer a presentation or two for ASSID members on families' coping with children with disabilities and social skills development in teenagers with disabilities which are his areas of research. Some other events are also on the drawing board.

The 1998 National Conference is looming large on our horizon and the search is presently on for a good venue that will not cost the proverbial arm and a leg. John Cooper has kindly offered to take the helm with the support of my combat experience from our last encounter with the national conference experience. We note the ever spiralling cost of conference registrations and will seriously take on the task of producing something that more people can afford to go to. The golden days of the '70's and '80's when agencies happily paid out for people to go on interstate conferences are well and truly over. More often people have to pay for some of it themselves or the agency budget is tighter and less people get to go. We will be assisted in the beginning by a visit from our National President, Bill Taylor, who will join us in approaching key individuals in SA for sponsorship and support.

Finally, thanks to John, Brian and Di for nominating for the State Council once again. Where would we be without our faithful supporters?

Ian Pearce



As we are constantly besieged with media attention about the Year 2000 Olympics, the enthusiastic ASSID members in New South Wales cannot help but be inspired to greatness. In anticipation of an exciting 1997 for ASSID in New South Wales, the committee held a planning day on Saturday 30th November 1996. The discussions were

based on the directions that ASSID (NSW) will take in 1997, underpinned by the Strategic Direction of ASSID as a national organisation.

ASSID (NSW) developed as its overall goal to:

"Improve the quality of life of people with a developmental disability through supporting the members to achieve this goal."

It was determined that this would be achieved through a number of strategies, namely:

1. Increase participation in ASSID of people with disabilities
2. Information dissemination
3. Networks
4. Organisational issues to be streamlined.

Actions were detailed for each of these strategies and a detailed plan was developed for the implementation of each one throughout 1997.

A major issue for discussion was the annual ASSID (NSW) conference. 1997 will bring the third state conference for New South Wales and many issues were examined. The conference will be held in late July of 1997 with dates yet to be formalised, and the NSW AGM will be conducted as part of the conference. It was also decided to conduct an additional

strand, which will mean that there are three concurrent strands being conducted on each of the two days of the conference. The poster session which proved successful at the 1996 conference will again be included and expanded for the 1997 conference. The following topics were determined as strands for the conference:

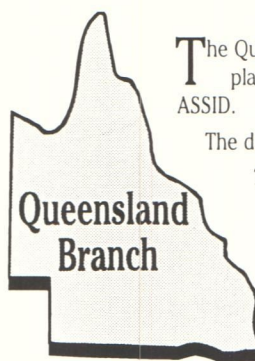
Behaviour	Technology
Careers	Ageing
Fun	Programming
Health	Friends

ASSID (NSW) will continue to disseminate the "What's Happening Bulletin" throughout New South Wales, which details events and news that may be of interest to ASSID members. Any 1997 events for inclusion into the Bulletin are most welcome.

Some of the other activities which the ASSID (NSW) committee will undertake in 1997 include, updating the brochure "When a Child is Born with a Disability"; recognition of media articles which portray people with disabilities in a positive way; participation of people with disabilities in research; and regional seminars.

The ASSID (NSW) committee are keen to continue their work in 1997 and welcome input from others who are keen to achieve the goals of ASSID.

Ros Sullivan
NSW President



The Queensland Association has been very busy planning the 33rd Annual Conference of ASSID.

The details of the Conference are as follows:

Title: "An Agenda for Change."

Dates: 23 to 26 September 1997

Venue: Brisbane Convention Centre, Southbank, Parklands

The Keynote Speakers confirmed are:

- Professor David Felce, University of Wales, on community living/deinstitutionalisation.
- Professor Jennifer Wishart, Moray House Institute of Education in Edinburgh, on special education.
- Professor Bob Remington from U.K. on behaviour analysis issues.
- Professor Sue Buckley, from U.K. on genetic disorders.

Priority is also being given to inviting local/Australian speakers to present, including:

- Professor Trevor Parmenter of Macquarie University.

Five Special Interest Groups will be held on Monday, 23rd September;

- Human Relations
- Ageing
- Legal & ethical issues
- Behavioural support
- Health

To date over 100 expressions of interest to attend or present have been received.

A social program has also been organised ranging from a Reception at Parliament House, to a barbecue Conference Dinner on the Terrace of the Conference Centre overlooking the Brisbane CBD, to the more relaxed wine and cheese evening while perusing the poster displays. Live entertainment will be provided for the Conference Dinner, and wine and cheese Poster Session.

Overall, a very enjoyable and informative time should be had by all.

Branch Reports ... (cont'd.)

And all of this in the Queensland Springtime!!

If you would like more information contact:

Dr. Jeff Sigafoos
Schonell Research Centre,
University of Queensland,
Qld. 4702
Phone: (07) 3365 6486
Fax: (07) 3365 7199
E-mail - j.sigafoos@mailbox.uq.edu.au

Paul Grevell,
Division of Disability Services,
GPO Box 806
Brisbane, Qld. 4001
Phone: (07) 3224 4710
Fax: (07) 3247 3567
E-mail - pgrevell@fsaja.qld.gov.au

Raeleen Bougoure
Secretary



The Victorian Branch of ASSID is not holding a State conference this year.

Commitments of the executive to international and national projects have meant that we have not had

enough people available to organise the conference this year. The executive committee is keen to ensure that this important activity continues in the future so that it will be calling on its members to help with next year's conference. The executive is keen to hear from any group interested in holding educational or research programmes during the year and will continue to support these.

The new President of IASSID, Prof. Trevor Parmenter visited Melbourne in February and at a presentation convened by Deakin University outlined the recent history of research and service development in the field of intellectual disability. He saw the future as evolving into a more cooperative approach with the various interest groups and disciplines using each other's expertise to better advantage. He highlighted a few gaps in research both from an international and local perspective. Trevor's recent involvement as convenor of the IASSID Conference in Helsinki has meant that he has developed insight second to none into the broad range of research across the world.

Matthew Janicki will be visiting Australia this year for national conference on Gerontology.

Bob Davis



Last ASSID Members!

The following members have moved and we can't find them.

If you know their whereabouts please contact the National Registrar on (08) 283 0840

Miss R.T. Mullins	K. O'Grady-Smith
Mr. A.M. Birch	Karratha WA
Dr. A. Carroll	Miss I. M. Peacock,
Disability Services Unit,	Bundoora, Vic.
Northbridge, W.A.	Ms Jenelle L. Rennie
Ms C. Harrop	Mount Waverley Vic.
Rose Bay, Tas.	Ms R. Thompson
P. Laming	Hobart, Tas.
New Norfolk, Tas.	Mr. S.A. Tong
Louise M. Nehrmann	Boolara, Vic.
Hobart, Tas.	Dr. M. Westcott,
Miss Pauline Nolan	Developmental Disability Unit,
Leichardt, NSW	Bentleigh East, Vic.
Northern Melb. Inst. TAFE	Mr. P.R. Witzerman,
(Att. S. Pavlovich)	Clayfield, Qld.
Collingwood, Victoria	

Queensland Conservatorium of Music

The Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University is interested in hearing from people with disabilities who would like to join a choir especially designed by Dr. John Nickson.

The major focus of the program is the inclusion of people with any disability in the Community Access programs of the Conservatorium. This exciting program proposes to explore the vocal and choral possibilities of those in the abled/s/disabled community who do not have a vocal impairment.

Dr. John Nickson, Director of the Conservatorium choral program for the Young Con, Director of undergraduate and postgraduate choral programs, will be the conductor for this project. He is keen to showcase the special skills and talents and abilities of all members of the community.

A word about John: John is well-known as a choral expert, conductor and teacher. He has had experience in Australia and overseas, and also brings experience in disabilities to the project.

Margaret Holbeck has agreed to be the accompanist for the project. Margaret is one of Brisbane's finest accompanists. She has wide experience in choral work and also teaches piano at three of Brisbane's major private schools. Further, Margaret has significant skills, over much time, in the area of disabilities.

Rehearsals and performances will use the new Conservatorium building at South Bank.

An initial rehearsal with successful applicants will be held on Monday 7 April 1997.

The choir will aim for a first short concert at the Australian Voices Festival at Mayne Hall in May with a follow-up concert in September. Performance at the Sydney 2000 Para Olympics is a long term goal that we can work towards.

For further information, contact:

Queensland Conservatorium of Music,
Griffith University, P.O. Box 3428,
South Brisbane, Queensland, 4101 Australia

Upcoming Conferences

1997

AUSTRALIA:

July 1997

Date: 4th-5th July, 1997
Venue: The University of Sydney
Theme: **ASSID NSW Inc. State Conference
"Creating Options"**
Contact: **John Brown (042) 273 177**

Date: 22-28th July, 1997
Venue: The Hilton, Queensland
Theme: **A Social Advocacies Event**
Host: Queensland Advocacy Incorporated and
Action for Advocacy Development
Contact: **Queensland Advocacy Incorporated
Phone: (07) 3236 1122 Fax: (07) 3236 1590**

August 1997

Date: 7-9th August, 1997
Venue: Health Function Centre,
Caulfield Racecourse, Melbourne
Theme: **"How do you do . . . and how do you do it?"**
Host: Australian Early Intervention Association
(Victorian Chapter)
Contact: **University of Melbourne,
Dept of Early Childhood Studies,
Private Bag 10, Kew 3101
Phone: (03) 9054 3352 - Fax: (03) 9854 3348**

September 1997

Date: 23-26th September, 1997
Venue: Brisbane Convention Centre
Theme: **33rd Annual Conference
An Agenda for Change**
Host: Australian Society for the Study of
Intellectual Disability
Contact: **Dr. Jeff Sigafos
Phone: (07) 3365 6486 Fax: (07) 3365 7199**

INTERNATIONAL:

May, 1997

Date: 21-25th May, 1997
Venue: Minneapolis, Memphis, USA
Theme: **10th Annual Meeting**
Host: The Society for Disability Studies
Contact: Society for Disability Studies,
C/o Prof. David Pfeiffer,
Sawyer School of Management,
Suffolk University, Eight Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108 2770 Phone: (617) 523 3429

Date: 27th-31st May, 1997
Venue: New York Hilton Towers
Theme: **"Sharing Global Perspectives on Disability".
121st AAMR Annual Meeting**
Host: The American Association on Mental Retardation
Contact: **P.O. Box 1202, Washington D.C.
20013-1202**

June 1997

Date: 13-14th June, 1997
Venue: Burbank Airport Hilton Hotel,
Burbank, California
Theme: **8th National Conference on Abuse of
Persons with Disabilities.**
Contact: **Nora Baladenan,
Spectrum Institute,
P.O. Box T, Culver City, CA 90230, USA
Fax: 310 390 6994**

October 1997

Date: 23-26th October, 1997
Venue: Madrid, Spain
Theme: **6th World Conference on Down's Syndrome**
Contact: **J. Perera
Phone: 34-71-604914 - Fax: 34-71-604948**

November 1997

Date: November 15-21, 1997
Venue: Dhaka, Bangladesh
Theme: **Rights of Persons with Mental
Retardation:
Role of UN Agencies and
Governments in Asia**
Contact: None as yet

1998 and beyond

August, 1998

Date: 23-28 August, 1998
Venue: The Hague, The Netherlands
Theme: **Partners in Action: Working towards
Human Rights and Social Justice -
XII World Conference**
Host: Inclusion International
Venue: The Hague, The Netherlands
Contact: None as yet