

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY **Australia**

'Taking Care of Me'

Although it is not always acknowledged, women with intellectual disability are more vulnerable than most to domestic and other forms of violence in relationships. A valuable new resource to come out of the Illawarra Region of NSW is the 'Taking Care of Me' Training Manual. The manual, which is the concrete outcome of the project of the same name, aims at enabling women with disability identify violence in the many forms it may take, as well as facilitating the development of community based strategies for dealing with violence and for reducing the impact of violence on women's lives. 'Taking Care of Me' is an example of the importance of lateral thinking and the effectiveness of seeking funding outside the usual sources - the project was made possible by a successful submission to the NSW Department for Women.

Margaret Bowen of the Illawarra Disability Trust reports that the project came about after representatives from various disability services in the region met to discuss implications arising from the NSW Strategy to Reduce Violence against Women, (an initiative of the NSW Attorney General's Department) for women with disabilities. While NSW Disability Services Standards required disability agencies to develop strategies to protect their clients from violence, it was clear that many women were still subject to violence, particularly those women living and interacting in the community without the support of designated services, and particularly women who did not live in supported accommodation. For these women domestic violence and violence in relationships were - and are - ongoing issues.

Consumer consultation was an essential ingredient in the development of the manual and women with disability from a variety of cultural backgrounds

continued page 4

Also inside:

- **Branch updates,**
- **The Willow Court Closure,**
- **Sharing the Road in QLD,**
- **Day Support Options for Older People with Disabilities** (a new research project),
- **ASSID National Conference Call for Papers**
- **Intellectual Disabilities Rights Service**

and more...



Intellectual Disability Australia is produced and distributed by the Australian Society for the Study of Intellectual Disability.

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Australian Society for the Study of Intellectual Disability.

Editor:

Ann Penhallurick

Advertisers:

Rates are available, on enquiry, from the editor

Subscription:

Enquiries to the editor

Editorial Address:

28 White Street
Annandale NSW 2040

Phone: (02) 9566 4789

Fax: (02) 9571 8669

Email: penhall@bigpond.net.au

Artwork:

Karen Vance
krvt@one.net.au

Printed by:

Breakout
(02) 9281 5100

Contents

Taking Care of Me	1
Day Support Options for Older People with a Disability ..	4
Intellectual Disability Rights Service	5
Book Reviews	6
Information Exchange	7
State Updates	8
Willow Court Closure	11
History of ASSID	12
Sharing the Road	13

Editorial

- or a brief introduction to the new editorial team.

My first words as the new editor of Intellectual Disability, Australia, must be to thank the outgoing editor, Karen Nankervis. Karen, who is now our National President, has committed many hours to the editing of this newsletter over the past few years. Thankyou, Karen, your work has been invaluable. Before Karen, Bob Conway was producing the newsletter, albeit in a different format. I inherit his good work, also, and that of Wendy Grant in the ASSID secretariat who has provided back-up for both Bob and Karen. Thankyou to you both.

So, having had such fine editors preceding me, I was hoping to have an easy job. That has already turned out - predictably enough - to be yet another of those dreams. However, my job as your new editor is made both easier and more pleasant by finding myself part of a group. A number of people have put their hands up to 'help out' with Intellectual Disability, Australia, which should have the advantage of giving the magazine a broad base within the membership, as well as saving the editor from a nervous breakdown. These wonderful people are: Tim Griffin (our energetic and ever-dedicated ex-President), Chris Bigby (who is already providing 'copy' for the newsletter and has many years of involvement in ASSID to her credit), Kristan Baker in Victoria (already on-board with editing), Steve Bristow in Tasmania, (the supplier of some great information and contacts for this edition), Jennifer Keilty in NSW (see her article on the Intellectual Disability Rights Service), Alex Phillips (who has provided the Victorian update) and Jeff Walkley (on holidays, soon to contribute). My thanks to all these people and to the State Councillors who have volunteered to send the information and/or the copy for State updates.

At this stage we are not completely sure how the editorial 'team' will function. ASSID is not a wealthy organisation and there are no funds for cross-country editorial meetings or any other such luxury, so, in this edition at least, there isn't a list of names under the heading of associate editors or state editors or any other fancy title.

All of the above people volunteer their time (as do I): ASSID - like so many of the organisations which seek to provide services, either directly or indirectly, to people who are not powerful within the community - relies on voluntary 'workers' much of the time. Throughout this edition of Intellectual Disability, Australia, you will find calls for your participation in the newsletter, and thereby in the processes of promoting innovative research, best practice and strong advocacy for people living with intellectual disability. I don't have all that much free time but I am very willing to use what is available to read your emails, faxes or letters, to find space for your contributions to the aims and objectives of ASSID. So, send in that couple of hundred words that you've been thinking about for a while, or forward a



photo of an event you found useful in your professional practice, even a letter letting us know what we are doing not so well in this newsletter would be welcomed!

You will also find this first edition contains a greater number of shorter pieces than is usual. This has been a conscious decision, although not necessarily a permanent one. It is based in the hope that providing a variety of content will open up a space which will encourage you - the reader - to provide feedback on what sort of information is useful to you. Are these shorter 'snippets' of value, do you like having book reviews and information exchange or would you prefer longer pieces? What topics would you like to see covered? It is proposed that there will be a bi-annual special edition of the newsletter, providing more detailed and discursive articles on a selected topic, but the content of the other issues depends partly on what the membership wants, and partly on what copy or content the membership can provide. So, drop a line - preferably by email - and have your say in what the next edition presents.

In the meantime, hope you enjoy the read and don't forget the feedback.

Ann Penhallurick

P.S. For those of you who wonder who on earth I am, well, that's a long story. The short version is that I'm a speech pathologist and psychologist (Uni. Of Qld trained) with too many years to mention working with people with intellectual disability and their supporters. These days, I run a small, specialised

private/consultancy practice. My post-graduate work is actually in communications and cultural theory (UTS, Sydney) so I am a bit of a jill-of-all-trades - as will no doubt become apparent as this editorship progresses! ♦

THE SEVENTH JOINT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

OF THE
AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF
INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY
AND
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

Beyond

'Business as usual'

...new ways for the **future**

SUB-THEMES

- *Community Building*
- *Education*
- *Issues for People Living in Rural and Remote Areas*
- *Ethics / Social Justice / Human Rights*
- *Community Living*
- *Families and Carers*
- *Health and Allied Health*

Sunday 22nd to Wednesday 25th October 2000

Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, Western Australia

*To find out more request an
Expression of Interest form from:*

Dr Mark Rapley
School of Psychology
Murdoch University, Murdoch
WA 6150 AUSTRALIA
email: mrapley@socs.murdoch.edu.au

Call for Papers Posters/Symposia:

on the theme of Promoting the Possibilities for people with an intellectual disability and their families

BEYOND – Business as Usual

In any of the listed conference areas

Abstracts of no more than 250 words, should be submitted by July 31st

Acceptance of proposals advised by 15th August

Program Enquiries

Contact : **Mark Rapley**

Ph : **08 9360 2861**,

Fax : 08 9360 6492,

Mobile : 0401 224 382

Email : mrapley@socs.murdoch.edu.au

Postal address : ASSID WA PO Box 1429, West Perth, 6872

22nd - 25th October 2000

REGISTRATION Brochures
will be distributed by mid-April

Enquiries: 08 9301 3800

Research Project:

Day Support Options for Older People with a Disability

Meeting the needs of older people with a lifelong disability is an issue confronting individuals, families and service providers. While there is increasing demand for day support services for older people, there have been relatively few policy initiatives.

The research project *Day Support Service Options for Older Adults with a Lifelong Disability* has an Australia-wide focus.

The research project will involve:

- Broad consultations to gain input and ideas from all interested parties.
- A national and international literature review.

Purpose of the Research

- To identify the issues—for governments, community service providers, people with a disability and their carers—regarding the development and provision of day support services for older adults with a disability.
- To make recommendations to address these issues.

Key Research Questions

- What is the purpose of day support services for older adults with a disability?
- What are the characteristics of the people needing this support?
- What are the innovations in service delivery for the various sub-groups of older people with a disability?
- What determines the most effective service models for older people with a disability? And what are the barriers to effective service delivery?

Opportunities to Participate

The Project Team will set up Reference Groups in each State and Territory to provide information about regional policies, context and innovations.

Information gathering by the Project Team will include:

- A targeted postal survey to service providers, aged care services and leisure programs available to older people.
- A postal survey or telephone interviews with older people with a disability or their carers.
- Focus groups with older people with disabilities and their carers in each State and Territory.
- Public consultations with service providers in the

aged care and disability sectors in each State and Territory.

- Consultations with peak organisations for aged care, disability and consumer-advocacy in each State and Territory.
- Service evaluations of effective programs.

In addition, written, e-mail or faxed comments and submissions are welcome.

Timelines

Information gathering is scheduled from March to September 2000. **The closing date for submissions is 15 September 2000.** See Project Team contact details below. A final report will be delivered by the end of October 2000.

Report Outcomes

The research project will report on:

- The demographic profile of the target clients.
- Specialist disability day programs currently provided to older people.
- Alternative services and supports for people wanting to 'retire' from specialist disability day programs.
- Service models which address the transition from specialist disability day support programs to alternative activities.
- Recommendations to assist in the development of State-based implementation plans, within the context of the National Healthy Ageing Strategy.

Project Team

Researchers from La Trobe University's School of Social Work and Social Policy have been engaged by the DisAbility Services Division of the Victorian Department of Human Services, on behalf of the National Disability Services Sub-Committee. The project funding comes from the Commonwealth State Disability Agreement National Research Fund.

Chris Fyffe, Project Manager

47 Fadersons Lane, Mandurang, Victoria 3551

Tel: **03 5439 5305** Fax: 03 5439 3534

Email: mcfyffe@ozemail.com.au

Chris Bigby, La Trobe University

Tel: **03 9479 1016**

Email: c.bigby@latrobe.edu.au

Where do ASSID members work?

Needless to say, ASSID members are represented in an wide variety of organisations, universities, government departments, advocacy groups, health and legal fields, private support organisations and so on. This wide cross section is yet another of the strengths of ASSID. Each issue Intellectual Disability, Australia will profile an organisation which a member works within. This issue we begin with the workplace of **Jennifer Keilty**, one of the active, energetic members of ASSID who has volunteered her services to be a state contact and occasional editor for this very newsletter.

Intellectual Disability Rights Service

The Intellectual Disability Rights Service (IDRS) was established in 1986, as a result of the recognition of volunteers at Redfern Legal Centre that people with intellectual disability were often having their rights violated, were physically mistreated, discriminated against and financially exploited. They observed also that people with intellectual disability's rights to make their own choices in life often go unrecognised, as do violations of these rights. Now operating independently of Redfern Legal Centre, IDRS is a community legal centre working to advance the rights of people with intellectual disability throughout New South Wales.

IDRS provides a range of services, in the areas of legal assistance and community education. Our lawyers provide free telephone legal advice and casework (limited) to people with intellectual disability or their supporters. The advice is always given from the perspective of the rights of the person with intellectual disability.

IDRS also develops and provides community education to people with intellectual disability, relatives, advocates, disability workers and others in the community, on a range of topics related to rights. We also engage in research, law and policy reform where the rights of people with intellectual disability are affected.

Recently, IDRS has been involved with several Standing Committees, addressing issues impacting on people with intellectual disability. In early November, we submitted a paper and testified at the Inquiry into Residential and

Support Services for People with Disability, held by the Standing Committee on Social Issues, NSW Legislative Council.

A formal inquiry was called after huge public outcry at the announcement that over 40 residential services currently operated by the Department of Community Services would be put out for public tender. Recommendations in the Standing Committee's initial report clearly indicated the need for the Government priority to change from cost savings, to improving outcomes for people with disabilities. The second half of the inquiry began in February, and will address the broad question of unmet need in the disability sector.

We have also recently submitted to the Standing Committee for Crime Prevention through Social Support (NSW Legislative Council), in order to ensure that people with intellectual disability are kept on the agenda when considering people with intellectual disability and their interactions with the criminal justice system.

Other recent development at IDRS include: the release of a new book, entitled 'When I'm Gone' - on estate planning for parents of people with an intellectual disability; the completion of a six month research project entitled 'Making A Statement', looking at barriers that exist when victims with intellectual disability make a statement to the police after sexual assault; the completion of a year long training project in rural areas of NSW; and undertaking a joint project with the Centre for Developmental Disability Studies (CDDS) to offer communication assessments and rights training to people living in DOCS services in the Hornsby/Ryde area of Sydney.

If you have a question about the rights of a person with intellectual disability, contact us for free legal advice, between 2 and 5 pm weekdays.

For any other information, you can reach us between 9 to 5 on weekdays, on

(02) 9318 0144, or
1 800 66 66 11 (outside of Sydney).

Our email address is: IDRS_NSW@fcl.fl.asn.au ◆

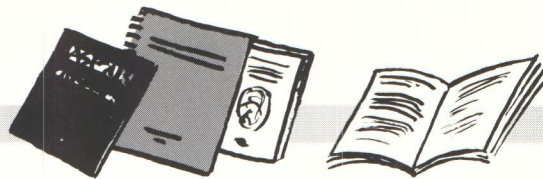
Never forget that you are invited to contribute to this newsletter.

Send your news, views, letters, remarks,
notes on research, reports on
best practise to

penhall@bigpond.net.au

If you can't access email, you can post, fax or
phone (see page 2 for details)

Book Reviews:



Assessment of Communication and Language,

Kevin N. Cole, Philip S. Dale, Donna J. Thal. eds.

Volume 6, *Communication and Language Intervention Series*, Paul Brookes Publishing, Baltimore, 1996

Although this book is a few years old now, it seems worth a mention. People often ask me (I am a speech pathologist and a psychologist) for references for communication and I like to recommend the more dedicated at least scan this book. It's not a light read and is not particularly hands-on style of material; on the other hand it engages well with the complexity of the issues that beset us in trying to come to terms with the communication of people with intellectual disability.

All too often language assessment is reduced to performance on the Peabody or to judgements made by direct care staff - some of which can, of course, be very apt and/or very useful, while others ignore or elide the difficulties a person with disability is facing on a day-to-day basis. This sixth book in the valuable *Communication and Language Intervention Series* provides, then, some excellent discussion of underlying theoretical paradigms, and some often indirect but nevertheless important reminders of how much assessment of language and communication is informed by assumptions and half-remembered and often archaic pieces of research or theory.

I like Chapters 6 and 7, the first being Allysa McCabe's 'Evaluating Narrative Discourse Skills' (a still much undervalued area) and the second of these two chapters being

Kevin Cole and Marc Fey's 'Cognitive Referencing in Language Assessment'. This latter chapter, although quite US focused, really is important reading for anyone attempting language assessment or trying to interpret and use the results of language assessments of people with cognitive disabilities. There is still far too much strength in the belief held - perhaps quite unconsciously - by many clinicians and policy makers that cognitive functioning determines language potential. While being careful not to claim that language and communication are completely independent of cognition and cognitive functional level, this is a succinct argument for discarding too great a reliance on IQ and other psychometric measurements in language intervention. A more practically applicable chapter is Chapter 11, 'Assessing Children's Language in Meaningful Contexts'. This gives a fairly solid overview of developments in speech-language assessment, with some useful information on children with bi-lingual backgrounds and argues well for a 'contextually relevant framework' for assessment and assessment over multiple settings and using diverse sources. So, if you have the time, flip through this book and read more deeply the chapters that are pertinent to you. It will be worthwhile!

- Ann Penhallurick

Managerial Practice in not-for-profit organisations.

A.C. Jackson and F. Donovan.
Allan & Unwin: St. Leonards NSW.

Linda Goddard, Course Co-ordinator, Bachelor Social Science at Charles Sturt University, reports that she found a great book in 1999 called *Managing to survive: Managerial Practice in not-for-profit organisations.*

I have taken this book around the place to seminars that I hold and the participants have been really impressed with its contents. It looks at general management issues; getting the right people (staff, board members and volunteers); orientation and induction to organisations; and training and developing staff. The authors also tackle those common areas of time management, stress, meetings, communication and financial management. And there is more!!

This book is great for the new manager, or someone who works within small organisations and need a book that covers a multitude of sins in one easy to read format. I recommend it for its usefulness and the cost which is only around \$30.



Have you read a book recently which you would like to review?

Contact penhall@bigpond.net.au
or phone (02) 9566 4789
and you could see your name in print.

Taking Care of Me continued from Page 1.

participated in a focus group aimed at identifying the concerns and needs of the 'target' group. Staff from Department of Community Services - Disability also participated in a focus group, thus enabling the views of the people involved in the implementation of the manual to be taken into account in its development.

The Project resulted in the production of the 'Taking Care of Me Training Manual', a package designed to be implemented in modules across a number of weekly sessions. In the Illawarra the manual was successfully piloted through support from staff of the Adult Community Team of the NSW Department of Community Services and staff of the Wollongong Women's Centre. One of the exciting outcomes of this pilot stage was the mix of disability specialist staff and women's services staff assisting the women concerned to develop stronger support networks in their community. Women with disabilities readily learned the advantage of accessing generic women's services - services and centers they did not know existed until the project commenced.

Members of the Committee overseeing the project are also excited about the opportunities that have arisen from the new partnerships created at a local community level. Nevertheless the project is designed to be portable to other areas and can be modified for usage with different target groups, including women with psychiatric disability.

The 'Taking Care of Me' training manual was compiled by Isla Bowen and Mary Watson through the University of Wollongong. Copies are available for \$40 plus postage and handling from the

Illawarra Disability Trust on

Phone: **(02) 4228 4500.**

Fax: (02) 42272540

Email: info@illawarradisabilitytrust.com.au



Best Practice

Each edition we would like to include an example of innovative practice that should be useful to membership.

If you know of a good example, let us know too

Email: penhall@bigpond.net.au

Information Exchange

Keith McVilly asks:

Is anyone aware of any good references concerning the issue of relationships for people with and without disability and for those who as a result of an injury have acquired a disability later in life?

I am about to commence a PhD candidature under the supervision of Prof. Trevor Parmenter at CDDS Sydney and have started scoping the literature. The project is currently in its embryonic form. However, it is my intention to conduct the project applying an 'inclusive' research methodology, developing upon the principles established for the QoL research conducted as part of my previous degree, M.Psych (Clinical).

Also, if anyone has a particular interest in the topic of relationships, I would be only too pleased to speak with you - telephone or e-mail. Maybe we could even commence a regular e-mail discussion circle?

Keith's contacts are: c/- Disability Services:
03 6233 8830, PO Box 584, North Hobart 7002
and Email: mcvillyk@mpx.com.au.

And -

Udo Polzin says:

Dear Assid members -

I am researching material on self perception/identity and self esteem of adults with intellectual disability, and completing a Masters thesis on self perception, personal identity, self esteem and job satisfaction of employees with an intellectual disability in particular. A brief message regarding relevant research/issues/contacts would be greatly appreciated - many thanks.

Udo Polzin (Institute of Disability Studies, Deakin University)

Udo's contacts are: polzin@deakin.edu.au

Make **Information Exchange**
a regular column.

Send in your own requests for information (or your comments, discussion points, contacts and references) to
penhall@bigpond.net.au or
fax to **02 9571 8669**.

Tasmanian News

National councillors are:

Keith McVilly,

Phone: **03 62338830** or

Email: mcvillyk@mpx.com.au

Steve Bristow,

Phone: **03 63364306** or

Email: bristows@tafe.edu.tas.au

ASSID TAS Activities 2000

Currently the State committee is focusing on revitalizing the Tasmania Branch. The year 2000 will see the reintroduction of regional forums for member and non members, the State news letter and the State conference. The first newsletter for 2000 will go out to members in the second week of March.

Dates and topics for the first regional forum are:

Southern Tasmania 21st March,

Topic: *Staff, Client relationships "Friend or Professional: managing the conflict".*

Contact: **Keith McVilly 03 62338830**

Email: mcvillyk@mpx.com.au

Northern Forum 21st of March.

Topic: *Tasmanian new Anti-Discrimination legislation "Is it the Best Yet?"*

Contact: **Steve Bristow 03 63364306**

Email: bristows@tafe.edu.tas.au

The **2000 State Conference** will be held on the 27th and 28th of July 2000, at the Country Club Casino in Launceston in Northern Tasmania.

The title for this years conference is "*Maximising Opportunities: Working Together in the Twenty First Century*". The conference theme is one of innovation / cooperation /best service practices and partnerships in meeting the needs of individuals with an intellectual disability.

In conjunction with the conference there will be a Trade Fair. The Trade Fair is aimed at the larger disability audience and will provide a venue for agencies, manufactory/ suppliers /professional services and the generic organizations to display and promote their wares etc to both the Intellectual disability sector and the broader community. For further details in relation to the conference:

Steve Bristow

Phone: **03 63364306,**

Fax: 03 63364200

Email: bristows@tafe.edu.tas.au or

P.O. Box 1023, Launceston Tas 7250

- **Steve Bristow**

Queensland News

Happy New Year to everyone! The State ASSID Qld committee has already been very busy planning for the year ahead. We thought we would give our members a sneak preview of what they can expect in the new year.

The first event is:

The Honourable Matt Foley MLA, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice will join us for dinner and a discussion of the new Queensland Guardianship Legislation. By the time this goes to press, this event will have happened on March 27th (so not quite a preview, maybe a post-view here).

The second event is one you can all look forward to - this is when Libby Wherrett, Executive Director of Disability Services Qld (DSQ) will be joining us in May or early June to talk about the five year strategic plan for Disability Services Queensland. More details will be provided closer to the date.

Also we've had a few changes to our state committee in the last few months. Janene Suttie has left us for the United States and we wish her well. Ron Joachim has taken her place and Madonna Tucker has been elected Vice President, with Chris Montgomery as Secretary and Paul Grevell as Treasurer. Our regular committee members are still with us and they are Raleen Bourgoire, Amanda Moss and Tara Catalano. We also have some new committee members and we warmly welcome them - Bobbie Bright, Brenda Goguen, Elizabeth Shand, Elizabeth Steel and Mark Blanks.

Hope the new year has started off well for you all and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

- **Madonna Tucker**

State Contact:

Madonna Tucker,

Developmental Disability Unit,

Department of Social & Preventive Medicine

The University of Queensland 4101

Phone: **(07) 3840 1983**

Fax: (07) 3840 2445

Email: m.tucker@mailbox.uq.edu.au



NSW News

The millennium bug got to the NSW ASSID Inc. committee when it met at Bidura in Glebe in February this year. Either the bug or the excellent local coffee. NSW has committed itself to a State Plan which identifies a goodly range of activities to be undertaken over the next year. One of the most popular suggestions, made early in the day-long (note, it was a Saturday – very dedicated) meeting, was Mary Ellen Burke's suggestion that a picnic day be arranged at the Paralympics! More serious undertakings – which made it on to the official plan –

include projects that will increase information dissemination and exchange – including both urban and rural based seminars on specific topics (the three topics identified being 'end of life', 'sex offenders' and 'behaviour support'), developing brochures and pamphlets on specific issues ('end of life' also being nominated here as an area that needs focus and discussion in the immediate future). The planning day and

ate
late

Victorian News

There are a number of projects going on in the active Victorian branch. However, at the moment, most committee members are concentrating on the upcoming State Conference:

Sharing Service Quality and Innovation

Victorian State ASSID Conference, to be held on March 22 – 23, 2000.

Alex Phillips reports that for two days in March, Bendigo will host the Victorian ASSID conference that encourages carers to share their experiences in providing care for people who have a developmental disability.

A variety of workshops offered by specialists will be a wonderful opportunity for carers to learn the latest information surrounding service provision. Ms Wendy Lawson is offering an exciting workshop about autism and will address the conference about her experiences of having an Autism Spectrum disorder. Ms Sally Anne Cooper, a psychiatrist from the UK, will talk about dual disability and a workshop, offered by the Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria, has been designed specifically for carers about dual disability. Three leading specialists are conducting a workshop about human relations and a workshop is offered that tackles

resultant written plan also supported the establishment of a membership profile, and developing an oral history project.

We decided to be very organised about our planning for 2000 and although this is a longish list, we did work hard to make it one that might be possible to achieve. To kick-start this year's work, 'drivers' were also nominated for each project, including Linda Goddard (our President for 2000) who has agreed to finalise the establishment of a student research prize. More information on the latter to follow in further updates.

If there is any NSW (or interstate) members who feel that could contribute to any of these projects, please feel free to contact ASSID, via

State President: **Linda Goddard**, on
02 6051 6875 or lgoddard@CSU.edu.au or

Vice President: **Ann Penhallurick**, on
02 9566 4789 or penhall@bigpond.net.au

Quality Service issues. An area of increasing relevance, ageing in people with an intellectual disability, is explored in a workshop aimed at carers. The conference will also be opened by the Auditor General, Mr Wayne Cameron.

In keeping with the workshops and focus on carer issues, other sessions in the conference program will explore areas such as Pica behaviour, responding to human relations issues, the provision of quality services, the role of consumer participation and advocacy and issues surrounding ageing.

Victorian Contact: **Alex Phillips**
Email: Alex.Phillips@med.monash.edu.au

More Victorian news next issue. Watch this space!

**For more information about
ASSID or for membership forms
to give to your friends and
colleagues,**

contact Wendy in the secretariat on

Phone: 1800 644 741

Fax: (02) 4921 7151

Email: scwbg@alinga.newcastle.edu.au

South Australian Branch News:

Since the highly successful (and profitable!) ASSID conference in Adelaide in 1998, the SA council has been going through a period of transition - saying goodbye to some long-standing Council members (John Cooper and Ian Pearce who have proven to be an invaluable part of the SA ASSID scene for absolutely ages) and adjusting to a brand new council, with new members, new ideas and hopefully a new approach that will meet the needs of its members in SA. The new council took time to formalise its own strategic plan (along the lines of the National Plan) with a strong focus on proving a wide variety of events for its declining membership base. As with other states, the fall in membership numbers has become a real issue, and so it is the aim of the SA council to improve or at least maintain its numbers by providing the people with a little bit of what they want!!

Some of the events facilitated by ASSID (SA) during the last year have included:

- A chance to meet Jenny Curran (at an informal soiree at a local wine bar)
- "Unlocking the imagination: new ways of thinking about service provision" with Simon Duffy

- "An afternoon of assessment" with Daryl Hansen
- plus discounts/subsidies to attend events conducted by other organisations in SA eg The Autism association.

Much of the success of the new council's aims and objectives have been achieved through the excellent leadership of our State President, Jennie Blackwood, who has, despite her own heavy work commitments, remained an inspiration to us all.

The SA ASSID council aims to continue along the path of providing diverse and hopefully interesting events during the forthcoming year. So in SA, keep your eyes out for advertisements for: A Quiz night; A seminar on Gene Therapy; Information on the impact of the GST on services and our forthcoming AGM (which will also have a theme attached to it). And remember, high attendance at these events (or at least some feedback on why you didn't go) will inspire the committee on to bigger and better things.

Oh, and in case you don't know how to contact State Councillors, here's their contact information:

	Name	Address	Phone/Fax/Email
PRESIDENT	Jennie Blackwood	PO Box 7, Greenacres SA 5086	Phone: 8266 8512 Fax: 8266 8512 Email: idaainc@senet.com.au
SECRETARY	Wendy Falconer	IDSC 108 Kermode Street North Adelaide SA 5006	Phone: 8267 5966 Fax: 8239 0818 Email: wendy.falconer@dhs.sa.gov.au

Report from Western Australia

Sue Peden reports: Conference preparations 'are really starting to hot up here (with a temperature in Perth of 37.5 today in more ways than one!)'. This year's conference promises to be dynamic and innovative, with the involvement of the National Council for Intellectual Disability as well as ASSID ensuring that it will attract a wide range of papers and a vibrant and interactive audience.

The conference themes are:

- Promoting Rights
- Resourcing Needs
- Building Community
- Overcoming Disadvantage
- Achieving a Good Life.

The Contact Details for the Conference are:

Susan Peden:

Phone: (08) 9301 3767

Email: pedens@dsc.wa.gov.au

Address: ASSID PO Box 1429
West Perth WA 6872.

Sue won't personally be available to answer the phone but it is manned (personned? - ed) in the mornings (WA time) and has voice mail. Mark Rapley is the convenor but Sue is on registration and can answer any queries (she hopes). See elsewhere in this magazine for more contact information and Call for Papers.

As always the annual conference is taking much of the attention of the host branch of ASSID, but for WA as with all branches this is worthwhile as the conference will provide an exciting opportunity to contribute to the developemnt of new ideas, new approaches, new practices that will take the field of intellectual disability 'BEYOND..Business as Usual'.

Moving On in 2000: The Willow Court Centre Closure

Tasmania is to become the first state in Australia to totally close its Government operated institutions for people with an intellectual disability. This is welcome news and it is hoped that other states can learn from both the spirit and the process of this particular movement of people into more community orientated services and lifestyles.

I spoke with Pete Smith (Project Co-ordinator) Willow Court Redevelopment Project about the final phase of this long – but carefully planned – closure.

Willow Court in New Norfolk is a part the oldest continually operating institution in Australia. The site was first used in the late 1820s and its occupation pre-dates settlement at Port Arthur. Since 1987, two phases of community integration have occurred and led to the relocation of 175 residents into accommodation that is more suited to their needs. Planning of the third and final phase is now being finalized and implemented, and include the full closure and sale of the Willow Court site.

Initially a number of people moved from Willow Court into spot purchased group homes across the State, although many of these houses were modified. These people were mostly supported by new non-government organisations. By 1996-1997 Disability Services had begun to focus its integration efforts on the development of purpose built accommodation, that was more able to support people with high needs. This third and final phase builds on these efforts and will see the development of 21 new purpose built units in the North and South of the State.

Exciting aspects of this planning have including the high level of communication and consultation that has occurred before sites or service arrangements were determined. Clients, their families and advocates were consulted and housing sites were chosen to suit both consumers who wished to be closer to family or others who expressed a wish to stay in New Norfolk, a place that had become their home over the years. Launceston, for example, had been lacking infrastructure to enable people to return to the area, but this new infrastructure will now make this possible.

Consultation with consumers and their families is ongoing and there are consumers and their families represented on various project planning teams and committees. These have included the Launceston Establishment Team, the Day Support Project Team,

Workers Rights Groups, Client & Family Information Sessions and Transition Workshop sessions.

Another innovative aspect of the Willow Court closure has been the involvement of an independent advocate and Case Managers independent of the accommodation project. Disability Services funds Advocacy Tasmania Inc provides the independent advocate to work with, support and represent consumers and/or their families and Case Managers are also working with these clients and their families to coordinate transitional planning on an individual level.

Pete reports that the second and third phases of the project have been cost neutral on a recurrent basis. This is often a rather scary term but it is not so frightening when the details of the Willow Court case are looked at. According to Pete, considerable funds are used presently at Willow Court to maintain the site, including the old coal fired boiler and the heritage buildings. The sale of the site will now free now these funds and enable them to be redirected into service delivery, releasing much needed funds into a sector that nationally is still under-resourced.

The final closure of Willow Court is anticipated before the end of 2000. People will be moving into housing that better meets their specific needs. Some will move into more 'traditional' groups homes, with three or four bedrooms, whilst others will move into one or two bed units. This planning aims to meet the needs of current and future clients, by providing a better range of accommodation options and configurations to clients than the earlier integration phases.

New day options are also being established and another notable aspect of this particular devolution process is the concept – and practice – of developing more responsive day programs, which are provided as a service separate to the accommodation service. While the 'classic' 9.00 am – 3.00 pm program might be available and appropriate for some people, individual home or community based programs and more vocational options are also being extended or developed to match the interests and needs of clients.

There are some aspects of this redevelopment which will raise slight concerns with some, such as the use of some "cluster style" housing. However, Pete reports that the selective use of this style of housing better suits the needs of some clients and maximises available staff support.

continued on page 15

The Proud History of ASSID.

Although, like any organisation which serves an ever changing membership, ASSID can seem like a (relatively) recent invention it has, in fact, a long and proud history. A project of ASSID National Council has been to record some of that history, so that not only the facts and events of the early years will be retained but also some 'flavour' of the personalities who founded and formed AGSSOMD (Australian Group for the Scientific Study of Mental Deficiency) and later ASSID.

The history project implicitly recognises that ASSID has only ever been as good as the composite strength of its membership and Sue Pascoe is working away at the University of Newcastle, speaking with the dedicated individuals who helped found and build ASSID, to ensure the history is available to all members, past, present and future.

One of the members interviewed to date is Dr David Pitt. Dr Pitt spent much of his working career at the Kew Cottages in Melbourne, having a particular interest in children with intellectual disability and perceptual disabilities. Dr Pitt is an Emeritus Member of the Human Genetics Society of Australasia. He is also an author and his in-retirement work includes a book on his life and work - 'For the Love of Children: My Life and Medical Career', which Dr Pitt has self published (inquiries to Pitt Publishing, 2/82 Westbrook St, East Kew, Victoria, 3101).

In future editions of Intellectual Disability, Australia, we will keep you up to date with the history project and feature short information blurbs about other founder members and significant contributors to ASSID. So, as they say, watch this space! ♦

You, too, can be welcomed to ASSID-L,

a mailing list for people with an interest in intellectual disability. Access to this list is included as part of "Australian Society for the Study of Intellectual Disability" membership and is intended to improve communication between us all.

ASSID-L operates in the same way as any e-mail list.

To subscribe, send a message to ddu@med.monash.edu.au, leaving the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type 'subscribe ASSID-L (your email address)' - making sure you put your email address in!

Then, sit back and smile, you will be notified in a couple of days.

To send a message to all the list members, just address it to: ASSID-L@med.monash.edu.au and make sure that the subject line is indicative of what it is you are talking about.

If you are replying to the list about someone else's message, make sure that a small portion of that person's message is included in yours so that we all get the gist.

The life and activity of **ASSID-L** depends on its members. Use it to search for research collaborators, to discuss disability-related news stories, to recommend new literature etc. etc. You'll receive early notification about conferences and about the contents of ASSID's journal and magazine.

To unsubscribe from the list, send a message to ddu@med.monash.edu.au

and you will be taken off manually. This may take a few days.



Sharing the Road in Queensland

Since 1998, the Sharing The Road conference for Direct Support Workers has become one of the most significant events in ASSID (Qld)'s annual calendar. This year the State organisation, in a co-sponsorship arrangement with Disability Services Queensland, is trialling a regional conference in the northern half of the State in addition to its regular Brisbane event. To date the conference has shown strong growth and development and its future looks bright and assured.

*Inaugurating a Conference

In June 1997 the Queensland Department of Families, Youth and Community Care (DFYCC) inaugurated the Sharing The Road conference for direct support workers. Disability Operations officer Mike Kelly and his team convened the conference as an adjunct to an internal direct support worker tele-conferencing project (the RCO Network) that had already been successfully operating within the Department. The conference seemed a natural outcome of the networking project, providing a significant vehicle for sharing ideas and departmental best practice across the State. It would also provide an opportunity for valuable inter-agency discussion across both public and private sectors.

On the 11th and 12th of June, after much planning and hard work, 138 delegates from 34 different agencies, including 16 Disability Operations Area Offices within DFYCC, met at the Department's Warilda Conferencing Centre, for two days of paper and workshop presentations, fine food and excellent company. Most delegates hailed from areas proximate to Brisbane although DFYCC sponsored delegates from Townsville and Rockhampton and the Endeavour Foundation sponsored two delegates from its Mount Isa branch.

Joining these representatives, many of whom delivered papers, were Michael Kendrick from the United States, Anne Greer, of Townsville, Lesley Chenoweth, then of Brisbane's Griffith University, and Anne Cross, Director of the Brisbane based Community Resource Unit (CRU). The event was judged by all to be a success and one worth repeating. A planning session was held on the second day of the conference and a commitment made to a similar event the following year.

Sharing the Road in 1998

By 1998 Mike Kelly had moved on and ASSID (Qld) Inc had indicated an interest in co-sponsorship with the

Department. A new convenor was needed to coordinate the event and implement decisions made by the conference advisory committee. I came to that position in March 1998. A new venue was needed and Griffith University chosen, in part for its academic and professional association, but mainly because the price was right, its capacity was ideal and because it was available at the right time. This has turned out to be an excellent decision.

The Sharing the Road in 1998 conference was held July 15 and 16. Attendance was nearly double 1997, with a significant increase in representation of agencies outside the city. Also in 1998 there was a pleasing increase in NGO attendance.

The Conference Grows

Attendance at the 1999 Sharing the Road conference again almost doubled the previous year's figures, with 463 people registered. The number of agencies attending also increased, with participation from the private sector extending to Cairns in the north of the State and Emerald to the west.

A factor in the increase in numbers in 1998 was the extension of an invitation to non-government agencies in the northern half of New South Wales on the basis that, despite differences in State Government policy, working conditions and constraints were similar in NSW to Queensland. Therefore it was assumed

that useful dialogue could occur across the State divide.

Seven NSW agencies attended, sending a total of 19 delegates. It will be interesting to see the response in 2000.

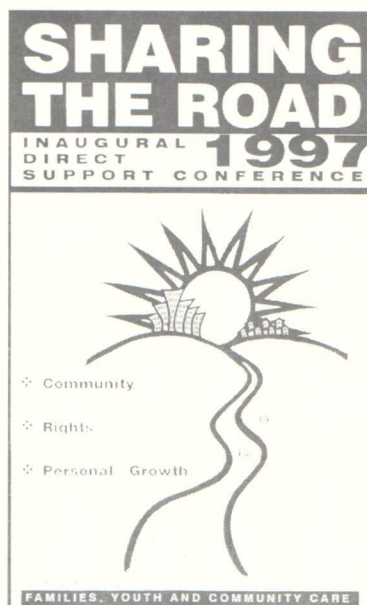
Commensurate with a growth in attendance figures has been an increase in presentations, from 22 papers and 9 workshops in 1997 to 45 long papers, 6 short papers, 25 workshops in 1999.

A Change in Focus

The character of the conference has also undergone significant change in the last three years, with a particular and deliberate change of focus in 1999.

In 1997 and 1998 the majority of papers and workshops focussed on best practice in service delivery to people with intellectual disability. Feedback suggested that conference delegates would like more emphasis on direct support workers and their practice. Papers

continued on next page



delivered in 1999 included such topics as Stress Management: building better habits, Peer Support: an integral part of the SDI protocol and Further Education and Training Opportunities for Direct Support Workers, with a plenary panel discussion on professionalism and the direct support worker.

This is not to say that the number of presentations about best practice was reduced in favour of direct support worker concerns. Rather, with the increase in papers, a more satisfactory balance between these two largely complementary concerns has been achievable.

Conference Proceedings

Since 1998 ASSID (Qld) has, with the support of DFYCC, has published a Proceedings of the Sharing the Road conference.

Although production of conference Proceedings is rare these days, we believe that availability of papers is an important way of supporting workers and furthering best practice.

Future Directions

The future of the Sharing the Road conference is looking bright and assured.

For some time now there has been a call for a conference to be held in the State's north to allow smaller, geographically disadvantaged, agencies to participate. Analysis of the attendance statistics from the 1999 conference supported this. Accordingly the year 2000 will witness the trial of an inaugural 2-day regional conference in Townsville in July.

Forced rescheduling of the Brisbane based conference (Griffith University is an Olympic host!), enabled this winter timing and ASSID (QLD) and the newly formed Disability Services Queensland (DSQ) are working together again for the regional conference.

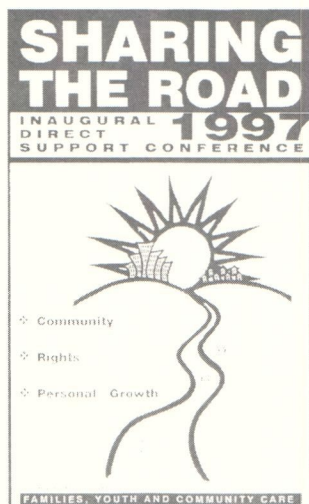
If the regional conference is a success, DSQ has indicated it might co-sponsor a State conference, with the 'venue' on an alternating basis. So, in 2001 the State conference would be convened in the north, in 2002 it would return to Brisbane and so on.

Disability Services Queensland has also indicated that it would welcome a slight change in the emphasis of the conference to embrace a broader purview of disabilities. This is in line with its own broadened agenda, which, as its new name suggests, includes an increased emphasis on all identified forms of disability within the State.

Such a change in emphasis should not necessarily result in a significant change in the nature of the conference, since cross-field discussion has already been taking place. Significantly there have been presentations from agencies engaged in the support of people with psychiatric disability, for example, and the Cerebral Palsy League of Queensland has been an important supporter of, and presenter at, the event since its inception.

If anything I expect that the usefulness of the conference, particularly to those involved in the support people with intellectual disability, will be improved through the inclusion of a broader disability focus, especially given that many people with intellectual disability also have a physical or psychiatric disability. Support workers employed in the field of physical or psychiatric disability should also have important insights to gain from their colleagues working in the support of people whose disability is primarily intellectual.

As conference convenor, I am convinced that if the conference is managed appropriately, direct support workers from across the whole spectrum of disability support will discover in the Sharing the Road conference a vehicle for valuable and fruitful discussion. I am also convinced that a primary focus on intellectual disability support need not be lost as it takes its place within the broader arena of disability.



The Role of ASSID

Of course the conference advisory committee has a vested interest in maintaining a focus on the support of people with intellectual disability. Apart from the fact that its members are presently exclusively employed within the field, the co-sponsorship role of the Queensland branch of ASSID has been absolutely crucial in the successful organisation of the conference since 1998.

Without the active participation and co-sponsorship of ASSID (Qld) the Direct Support Workers' conference would not have progressed to its present state. The name ASSID and the inclusion of the ASSID logo on conference brochures have been helpful in generating interest from within the industry. The association with ASSID (Qld) has added true value and credibility to the fledgling forum at a critical time in its development.

Furthermore, the active involvement of State executive members on the conference advisory committee, as well as an active interest on the part of ASSID's State Executive itself, has ensured a high level of engagement, with expert

Sharing the Road *continued from page 14*

and sensible suggestions that have ensured a professional and relevant outcome for those who attend the event. I, for one, as convenor of the conference, am grateful for the guidance and expert opinion that has so often been provided.

Importantly, in spite of the broadening scope of the Direct Support Worker conference to include the discussion of broader disability concerns ASSID (Qld) has committed itself to continue its direct involvement in the event in 2000.

This is certainly good news for Queensland. But it also encourages me to reflect upon a possibility which I find personally quite exciting: that other States might follow Queensland's lead – although Tasmania was, I understand, the true pioneer in this kind of event – to develop conferences for their own direct support workers, with the further possibility that there might develop from these State conferences a regular National forum.

The involvement of an association such as ASSID at both a local and national level would, I believe, be absolutely vital in the establishment and running of a system of complementary State and National conferences should it ever come about.

In the meantime, as this article goes to press, planning

will be underway for the State's first regional direct support worker conference, as well as for Brisbane's first spring event. Both the conference advisory committee and ASSID's local executive will have discussed the ramifications of a broader agenda, brochures will have been designed, venues will have been secured and key speakers for both events considered.

This is a year that I am eagerly anticipating. The workload will of course be heavier due to the additional conference, but at least as far as the Brisbane event is concerned the administrative infrastructure is in place and the contacts have already been established. I am confident, however, that with the support of local ASSID members and local organizations the first regional conference for Queensland will be every bit as successful as its Brisbane counterpart has been. We will, I am sure, continue to 'share the road' for many years to come.

For further information about the Direct Support Workers' conference or about obtaining copies of the conference Proceedings, please contact

Chris Montgomery at (07) 3813 3304 (w), or by Email at cmontgom@families.qld.gov.au or chris@gil.com.au ◆

Willow Court Closure *continued from page 12*

The up-side of this is that it means Tasmania will have a better range of housing stock, across the State, in a variety of sizes, styles and configurations. For Tasmania this means that in the short to long term people will have more choices than the present system and housing that is more appropriate to their specific needs.

In all, this is extremely good news for people with disabilities, their families and advocates. The active inclusion of consumers in the consultation, planning and implementation process is terrific, the support of the Minister (Judy Jackson) and bipartisan support for the program has been invaluable, the provision of housing across the State laudable and the involvement of independent advocates something many have long been waiting for! Should like to discuss these developments further, please contact

Pete Smith at pete.smith@dchs.ta.gov.au or give him a ring on **0419 381 026**.

Ann P. with Pete Smith ◆

What is happening in the services and organisations near you? Let the editor know asap so we can follow your information up for **Intellectual Disability, Australia**.

**Never forget that you
are invited to
contribute to this
newsletter.**

Send your news, views, letters, remarks, notes on research, reports on best practice to

penhall@bigpond.net.au

If you can't access email, you can post, fax or phone (see page 2 for details),

but please remember
that email is SO much easier
for us to work with.

Deadline for contributions to the next issue of Intellectual Disability Australia:

Wednesday May 3rd.

Contributions to penhall@bigpond.net.au or your nearest state contact (see pages 8,9 & 10)

Upcoming Events

23 - 26 March 2000

7th World Down Syndrome Congress Sydney.

Contact: ICMS Australasia Pty. Ltd.,
Phone: **61 2 9241 1478**, Fax: 61 2 9251 3552,
Email: down@iemsaustralia.com.au or
Website: www.icmsaustralia.com.au/DownSyndrome.

17 - 20 April 2000

2nd International Conference - Primary Health Care 2000 Melbourne.

Contact: Conference Secretariat,
2nd Primary Health Care Conference,
PO Box 365 SOUTH MELBOURNE VIC 3205,
Phone: 03 9696 2799, Fax: 03 9690 0430,
Email: conference@vha.org.au or
Website: www.dhs.vic.gov.au/acmhlphlnews/whatsnew.htm

2 - 3 June 2000

CHERI Annual Conference - Hippocrates & Socrates V - A powerful partnership "Positive Solutions for Challenging Behaviours" University of Sydney.

Cost: \$175 two days, \$95 one day (including morning tea & lunch)
Contact: Leslee Edwards, CHERI,
The New Children's Hospital,
PO Box 3515, Parramatta NSW 2124
Email: LesleeE@nch.edu.au

1 - 3 July 2000

Early Childhood Intervention Australia Brisbane.

Contact: Conference Secretariat, PO Box 3496 South Brisbane 4101
Phone: 07 3844 1138
Email: ecia@iems.com.au
Website: www.iems.com.au/ecial or

2 - 4 July 2000

AREA National Conference Melbourne.

Contact: Organisational Solutions,
PO Box 1251 St Kilda SouthVIC 3182,
Phone: 0418 585 190,
Email: area@area.org.au
Website: www.netspace.net.au/area

1 - 6 August 2000

11th World Congress of IASSID. New Millenium: Research to Practice Seattle, Washington, USA

Contact: Convention Services Northwest "IASSID Congress"
1809 7th Avenue, Seattle, Washington, USA 98101
Phone: **206-292-9198** Fax: 206-292-0559
Email: loni@csnwseattle.com

22 - 25 October 2000

ASSID 7th Joint National Conference BEYOND - Business as Usual Fremantle, Western Australia

Contact: Sue Pedder
ASSID WA PO Box 1429, West Perth, 6872
Phone: 08 9301 3767
Email: peders@dsc.wa.gov.au