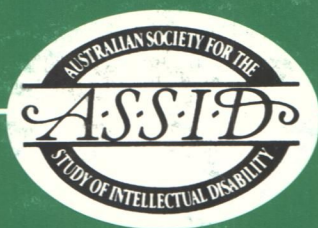


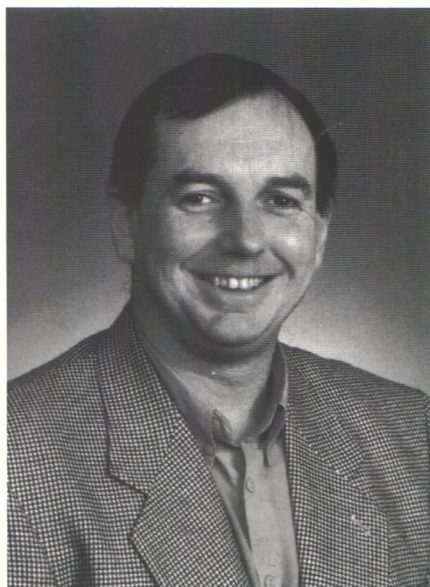
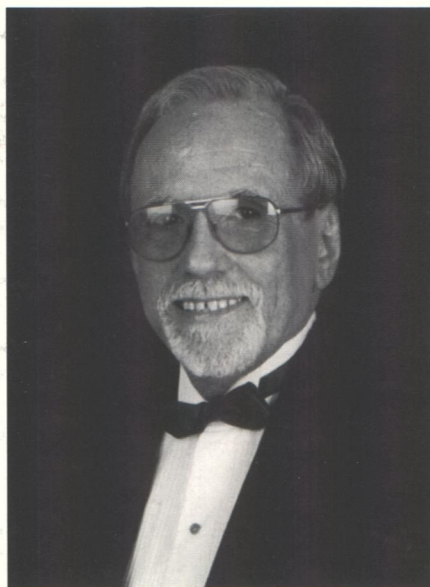
Volume 23, Issue 2, June 2002



ISSN 1446-9987

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY **A**ustralasia

A Suitable Pair of Bookends



Inside IDA interviews the the outgoing and incoming editors of 'our journal' -
The Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disability.

Inside:

37th ASSID National Conference - call for papers

Intellectually Disabled Juvenile Offenders in NSW

Communication and Choice; caught in cultural imperatives?

State updates

A Gallery of New Faces

What's going on - journals

Information Exchange

...and more

Magazine of the Australian Society for the Study of Intellectual Disability



Intellectual Disability Australasia 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.

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Unik Graphics
(02) 9550 6833

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Editorial

The annual National Conference is one of the most significant events of the ASSID calendar. Indeed the recognition of the need for a conference which bring together specialists and advocates and 'consumers' in the field of intellectual disability was, and remains, one of the core reasons for ASSID's existence. Each year the conference is organised by a dedicated, overworked and very much voluntary group of ASSID members and each year their many, many hours of organisation 'pay off' with an exciting forum for learning, discussion and debate. This year's conference will be held in one of the most beautiful cities in the world - Hobart. In my books, Hobart itself is sufficient reason to go to the conference but the setting aside, there is an enormous amount already planned that shows that, yet again, the National Conference will provide all members of ASSID and their guests with a fabulous opportunity to meet together and find out what is going on at the forefront of disability support research and practice.

So, whatever you do, **DON'T MISS THIS CHANCE!**
HOBART, November 13th - 16th, 2002.

The importance of the conference for introducing and disseminating information cannot be overstated. In the March issue of *Intellectual Disability, Australasia*, I had the pleasure of publishing articles based on some of the excellent presentations at the 2001 ASSID National Conference held in Melbourne last November. The feedback from you, the readers, to me as editor and to the individual authors indicated that these articles were well received. Feedback about other sessions you attended and would perhaps like to see published would also be much appreciated. Email me at penhall@bigpond.net.au

In this edition you will find an excellent article by Dr Susan Hayes. Susan's work in forensic psychology is very well known and highly respected and it is a privilege to have her contribution here. We are also catching up, in this edition, with some of the new faces in ASSID, including Roger Stancliffe, as Editor of the Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disability as well as saying goodbye and thanks to the esteemed Professor Phil Foreman as the outgoing Editor of that same journal. There's conference information and the regular updates, information exchange and so on. I have also been brave - or perhaps foolhardy - and included a conference presentation that I gave at the last National Conference. I have been asked for this paper on many occasions so, given its apparent popularity, I thought it might be worthwhile typing it up and putting it in here. This does not necessarily reflect, of course, that ASSID endorses the positions that I am putting forward and any inaccuracies or points of contention are all the responsibility of myself as an individual professional (how's that for a disclaimer?).

So, see you all in Hobart this November.

Cheers,
Ann Penhallurick

For change of address and/or membership enquiries,

contact Helen

in the secretariat


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hmoore@med.usyd.edu.au

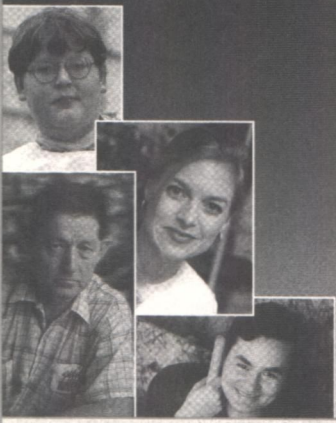
Now's your chance to be heard!

REGISTRATION & CALL FOR PAPERS



37th Annual Conference
of the Australian Society
for the Study of
Intellectual Disability

Wrest Point Casino
Hobart, Tasn



NOVEMBER 13TH - 16TH 2002

Developing and Enriching Communities.

Over recent years, there have been many changes in the provision of services to meet the needs of people with intellectual disabilities. Government policies endorse the right of people to live in their communities in the least restrictive way, ensuring the provision of a range of community support.

Quality community support needs to provide active participation by community members to develop and enrich the management and structure of the community in a way that provides resources for all its members. The aim of the 37th ASSID National Conference is to bring together a range of community members and services from diverse backgrounds to share knowledge and experiences relating to their respective communities.

Are you involved in research, in innovative practice, in advocacy, in any way in the field of intellectual disability?

Should others know about what you are doing?

Would you like to discuss your work with valued colleagues from around the country?

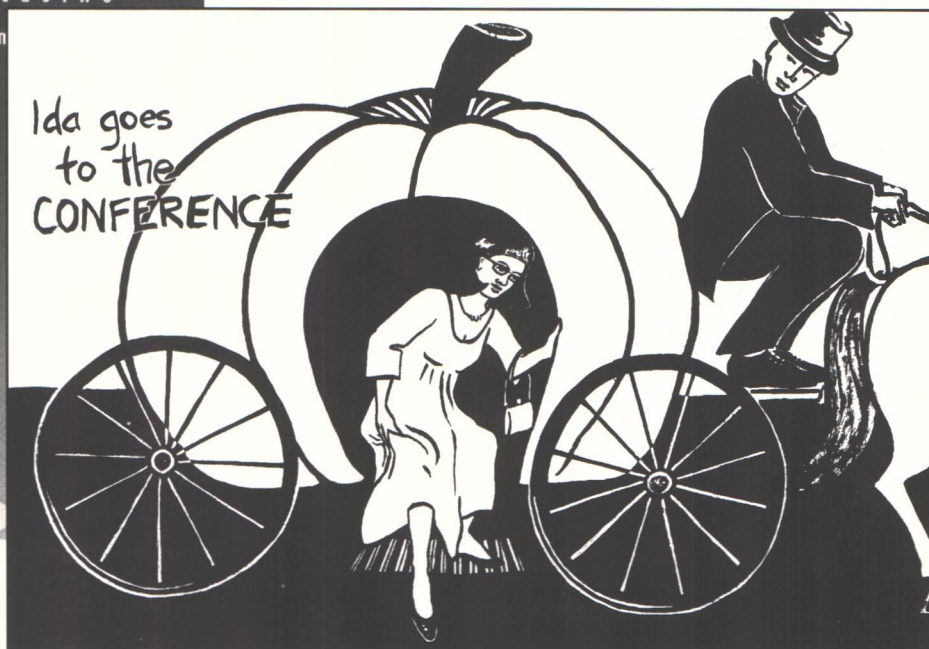
The 37th ASSID Annual National Conference is a forum for you to discuss your works with colleagues who are all dedicated to the same field of interest.

Present a paper, workshop or poster at:

The 37th Annual National Conference of the Australian Society for the Study of Intellectual Disability.

Hobart, Tasmania, November 13th – 16th 2002.

Contact: Virginia Downton at
downton@southcom.com.au, phone: 0408 951 686



Keynote speakers at the conference will include Professor Trevor Parmenter, *Foundation Professor of Developmental Disabilities in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Sydney & Director of the Centre for Developmental Disability Studies (CDDS)*, Dr Anne Bray, *Director of the Donald Beasley Institute in Dunedin, New Zealand* and Ian Dempsey (PhD) *from the Centre for Special Education and Disability Studies, Uni of Newcastle.*

Other conference highlights will include workshops, research papers, symposia, best practice examples, poster presentations, round table discussions and special interest streams.

Virginia Downton Phone: 0408 951 686

Email: downton@southcom.com.au

Assoc. Professor Susan Hayes is a forensic psychologist who will be well known to many ASSID members as a leading researcher in the area of people with intellectual disability in the criminal justice system and as an eloquent advocate for the need for more effective identification of disability to enable effective preventative and remedial intervention. IDA is pleased to be able to present the following paper which details a research project which lead to the development of a screening instrument for people entering the criminal justice system (Hayes Ability Screening Index (HASI)).

Intellectually Disabled Juvenile Offenders in New South Wales

SUSAN HAYES

In 1997, a total of 139 young people in juvenile justice centres in New South Wales were assessed on a battery of psychological tests, as part of a research project to develop a screening instrument for intellectual disability to be used in the criminal justice system.

As a consequence of this research, the Hayes Ability Screening Index (HASI) has been developed. This paper should be read in conjunction with the *Manual for the Administration of the Hayes Ability Screening Index (HASI)* (Hayes, 1998).

Both adults and juveniles participated in the research, but this paper summarises only the results pertaining to the sample of participants who were tested in the Yasmar, Reiby and Mount Penang juvenile justice centres.

Australian born

The majority were born in Australia (N=115, 82.7%).

Adaptive Behaviour

Adaptive behaviour was assessed using the Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales (VABS). The VABS was administered using self-report on the part of the participants, owing to difficulties in interviewing staff or family members who knew the young person well enough to provide a valid report. Self-report has been found to be a valid method of completing the Vineland (Voelker et al, 1990).

Table 2 below summarises the deficits in adaptive behaviour, in the subdomains of communication, daily living skills and socialisation, as well as the total adaptive behaviour Standard Score.

The area of greatest deficit is in communication skills, whereas the daily living skill subdomain was an area of strength. This is not an unusual finding and is consistent with other research using delinquent populations (Hayes, 1997). In part this may be related to the fact that it is easier to design programs to improve daily living skills than communication skills, and so participants may have had access to greater learning opportunities in daily living skills.

Cognitive abilities

These results shown in Table 3. Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test indicate that overall 15.1% of the sample suffers a moderate-mild intellectual disability (Standard Score <70), and a further 12.2% are in the borderline category (SS=70-79), when assessed using the Kaufman Brief Intelligence

Age	Frequency	Percent
<15	24	17.3
15-17	102	73.4
18-19 yrs11 months	13	9.4
	139	100.0

Age

Although all participants were tested in juvenile justice centres, not all of these participants were aged under 18 years of age. Ages of the participants ranged from 12 years to 19 years 11 months. The mean age was 16.

	Moderate ID* %	Mild ID** %	Borderline %	Low Average %	Average %	Above Average %	Mean Standard Score	N
Communication	17.3	46.8	13.7	11.5	6.5	0.7	64.2	134
Daily Living	1.4	2.9	12.9	20.9	38.8	19.4	94.6	134
Socialisation	0.7	18.0	11.5	17.3	35.3	13.7	87.6	134
Composite Standard Score	3.6	26.6	25.2	17.3	22.3	1.4	77.9	134

*Moderate Intellectual Disability (ID) refers to a standard score between 35 and 49.
 **Mild ID refers to a standard score between 50 and 69.

Table 3. Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test results

	Mean SS	Moderate ID	Mild ID	Borderline	Low Average	Average	Above Average	N
Vocabulary	83.8	0.7%	12.2	15.8	30.2	30.9	-	125
Matrices	88.8	2.2	10.8	13.7	15.8	40.3	7.9	126
Composite Standard Score	84.8	0.7	14.4	12.2	28.8	31.7	2.9	125

Test. The KBIT correlates significantly with the Stanford-Binet (.81) and the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children - Revised (range .64-.81) (Prewett and McCaffery, 1993).

A small number of participants had already undertaken a test of intellectual disability in the juvenile justice centre, and these results were used in the analyses of data for the development of the HASI, but the numbers are too small to be usefully reported here.

Social security benefits

Only two participants reported that they had received a pension or benefit.

Education

These data indicate that nearly half the participants had left school before the age of 14.

Physical impairments

Age	Frequency	Percent
<14	68	48.9
15	30	21.6
16	17	12.2
17	4	2.9
Still at school	20	14.4
	139	100.0

Seven participants (5%) stated that they had a hearing difficulty. Twenty-one (15.1%) indicated that they had a sight problem, and of these, 19 (13.7%) wore spectacles.

Other disadvantages and disabilities

Two participants of non-English speaking background were rated by the interviewers as having poor English language skills. Speech clarity was rated as poor for 11 (7.9%) of the

English-background participants.

Nearly one quarter (N=34, 24.5%) indicated that they thought that they had a learning disability, whilst a greater proportion (N=47, 33.8%) stated that they were a slow learner.

Correlations between psychometric instruments

Table 5. Correlations between Vineland and Kaufman tests (Two-tailed test)

There were significant correlations between all of the sub-tests and the composite scores of the Vineland and the KBIT. Nevertheless, the lowest correlation was between the Vineland Communication subdomain and the KBIT Matrices scores, possibly indicating that young people who were particularly handicapped in communication nevertheless had relatively higher scores on the non-verbal Matrices sub-test.

Referrals for further diagnostic assessment

The results for each participant were scored on the items which were later selected to become the HASI. The HASI consists of several sections, background information about presence of learning difficulties and special education history, present state items assessing whether the participant appears oriented in time and place, puzzles consisting of joining dots, and clock drawing. On the basis of the scoring criteria, of the participant fails one section of the HASI very badly, they are deemed to have fulfilled the criteria for referral for further diagnostic assessment, or if they have a cumulative score of poor performance on several sections they will also be referred. Table 6 cross-tabulates whether or not the individual would have been referred for further diagnostic assessment, with the results on the KBIT and the VABS.

On the basis of these data, it can be seen that 19 (14.2%; N=134) would not be referred for further diagnostic assessment even though their VABS score was below 70, and

Table 5. Correlations between Vineland and Kaufman tests (Two-tailed test)

	Daily Living	Socialisation	VABS SS	KBIT Vocab	KBIT Matrices	KBIT SS
Communication	.43***	.33***	.72***	.48***	.18*	.36***
Daily Living		.55***	.81***	.29***	.24**	.32***
Socialisation			.78***	.25**	.27**	.31***
VABS SS				.41***	.26**	.38***
KBIT Vocab					.37***	.76***
KBIT Matrices						.89***

*p<.05 **p<.01 ***p<.001

six (4.8%; N=125) would not be referred even though their KBIT score was less than 70. (The VABS and KBIT scores are being treated as separate criteria in this analysis.) These can be regarded as false negatives.

criteria in that it is over-inclusive - that is, the proportion of individuals with "normal" scores on the VABS or the KBIT referred for further testing is greater than the proportion who would miss out on further testing even though they may

Table 6. Referrals for further assessment

	Missing data	VABS <70	KBIT <70	VABS Border-line	KBIT Border-line	VABS 80+	KBIT 80+
Refer - 1 poor score*	-	14	10	10	5	9	17
Refer - 4 ticks**	-	1	-	-	1	1	1
Refer-both***	-	9	6	3	3	-	3
Not refer	4	19	6	22	10	47	68

Note: The total exceeds 139 because most participants had results for both the Vineland and the KBIT, and these have been treated as separate criteria.

*Refers to the scoring on the HASI, where the individual fails very badly on one test section, they are referred for further diagnostic assessment although they may not have any other failures.

**Refers to the scoring on the HASI where the individual fails four test sections, at less serious levels.

***Refers to the cases where the individual would have been referred on the basis of both of the above criteria.

A total of 10 (7.5%) would be referred for further assessment although their VABS score was over 80. On the KBIT, 21 (16.8%) would be referred for further testing although their score was over 80. These can be regarded as false positives. It is clear from these data that the HASI meets its design

nevertheless have a standard score of less than 70 is greater for the VABS than for the KBIT, reflecting the greater variance of scores on adaptive behaviour, and also the greater deficits in this area in the sample.

It is clear that the cut-off point for referral needs to be carefully considered, in the light of the needs of the Department and the clients. A change from a cut-off point on the KBIT and the VABS to 80 instead of 70 would be one alteration which might be considered, on the grounds that young persons in the borderline range need assistance whilst in custody. The scoring cut-off of the HASI is being examined further, as it may be possible to refine the scoring to further reduce false positives and false negatives. Nevertheless, it is important to note that, for a screening test, the HASI is performing well in identifying those who need further assessment.

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- Voelker SL, Shore DL, Brown-More C, Hill LC, Miller LT, Perry J (1990) Validity of self-report of adaptive behavior skills by adults with mental retardation. *Mental Retardation*, 28 (5): 305-309.

For more information, contact **Susan Hayes** at s_hayes@bsim.usyd.edu.au , phone 02 9351 2776



Inclusive Education Through Universal Access

We invite your participation in the Pathways 6 Conference, the premier Conference in Australia for professionals who work with students with disabilities in education, and for students with disabilities.

Topics: Inclusive Practices, E-learning and Partnerships

Keynote Speakers include: **Dr Jerome Bickenbach**, Queens University, Canada, **Mr Matt Laffan**, NSW Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, **Mr Simon Darcy**, Senior Lecturer, University of Technology and **Mr William Jolley**, Secretary General, DAISY Consortium. All four speakers bring to the Conference a wealth of knowledge and experience.

The Conference will be opened by the Governor of NSW, **Her Excellency Prof. Marie Bashir**.

For more information visit:
www.iceaustralia.com/pathways

To receive a registration brochure, please email or fax your name and address details to the: **Conference Secretariat**
International Conferences & Events (ICE) Aust Pty Ltd
PH: (02) 9544 9134 FX: (02) 9522 4447
EMAIL: pathways@iceaustralia.com

The conference is proudly supported by the
Tertiary Education Disability Council of Australia (TEDCA) and
Australian National Training Authority (ANTA)

Communication and Choice: caught in cultural imperatives?

Edited version of paper presented at ASSID National Conference, November 2001.

- Ann Penhallurick.

Thirty years on from the first clearly articulated theories of Normalisation, and despite a massive increase in emphasis on clients as 'consumers' with 'choice', it is apparent that many of our policies and practice in disability services seem to serve the twin gods of data collection and cost-effective service delivery much more readily than they do any person. Rapley and Ridgway (1998) have argued, and I would agree with them, that this is no so much the fault of normalisation per se, as part of the wider late twentieth century discourses of corporatisation and managerialism. In this paper I supplement Rapley and Ridgway's discourse analysis with cultural analysis of particular aspects of communication and choice, with very practical implications.

In an article for *Australian Communication Quarterly* (October 2001) I argued that the link between so-called challenging behaviours and communication has resulted in increasingly requests to communication 'specialists' for systems to enable clients to express their needs and have choice. This often results in the development of augmentative boards/photo regimes which all too often present only choice between two or more foods, day to day activities etc. The wider lives of people with disabilities are ignored. Equally importantly, the communication people receive and the communication environment in which they live/work are effectively seen as neutral. So, despite the fact that a person with intellectual disability might have five or ten or more people with differing communication styles speak to them each day, the problem is seen to lie in the failure of the person living with intellectual disability to express themselves. This concentration on the client as problem is, I argued in that paper, partly due to

- the pervasive, highly valued myth that s/he understands everything I say,
- unexamined notions of what is flexible and normal,
- the sidelining by government departments of professionals and the conflict between direct care workers and professionals,
- the fact that in a world obsessed with economics and outcomes, a choice board can be costed, seen and documented,
- poor assessment strategies and tools,
- resource issues.

And behind all of these real issues above, lies the almost 'fetishised' interest in choice. I want now to consider choice in some detail.

Firstly, it is important to note that choice is a western concept. It is also a recent one; it didn't appear often even ten or twenty years ago. It is not a valued concept in Chinese societies or Iranian societies, for example, certainly not at the individual level. It is also an economically driven concept; one that I would argue arose when we began to move from a labour-based economy to a commodity based one. The Western economies now can only survive if we buy more. For example, with the GST, we will not receive welfare or have public services such as education and health unless we consume enough goods and services that the 10% add up. Choice has come about so that we are able (forced?) to buy a new and slightly different car, washing machine, sport shoe, plastic wrap or detergent and so on. Which is not to say I don't enjoy choice, but it is very important to understand that choice is a cultural and economic imperative, not a right that is intrinsic to the human condition - or at least not to the extent that it is currently promoted.

Neumayer and Bleasdale (1996), in presenting the results of interviews they conducted with people living with intellectual disability on personal lifestyle preferences found that while 47% of participants felt it was important to have a number of choices available in lifestyle issues, the other near-half (43%) thought it was not important or even preferred to have less choices. The authors then went on to argue that 'more research in this area would help to explain the benefits of teaching choice making skills to people with intellectual disability'.

While Neumayer and Bleasdale are known for their wish to empower people with disabilities, their interpretation here can only be seen as yet another instance of the client as the problem - the person with disabilities needs to learn the skill of choice making and then they will know 'what is good for them'. This is not to say that some people living with intellectual disability may well not prefer many more options than they currently have; more it is to argue that they equally might not care if choice is not the first thing to change in their lives.

'... it cannot be assumed that simply giving choices and self determination to people with learning difficulties necessarily allows for any meaningful redefinition of the scope of subjectivities, materially and discursively constructed, into which they are inserted. People's choices are conditioned and limited by forces which are not so easily perceived as we might think.' (Simpson, 1999)

In other words, choice by itself does not necessarily change the way people feel about themselves or the position they

continued on page 10

South Australia

Although things have been quiet recently in SA, the state council has been engaged in a range of activities and there are a number of events either 'about to happen' or are in the planning process.

The SA branch is currently working on publishing two lectures by Professor Roy Brown, which he delivered before he departed for Canada last year. The lectures provide an overview of issues associated with service delivery to people with an intellectual disability, their families and communities. We anticipate making this publication available at a reasonable cost to members via events to be held later in the year. We shall inform the membership when the monograph is completed.

In partnership with the Intellectual Disability Services Council (IDSC) the ASSID State committee have been involved in arranging IDSC's 20th birthday celebrations. There will be events that are specifically for IDSC staff (arranged by IDSC) as well as public events. We are currently negotiating with senior decision makers regarding their availability for a dinner, where they will be asked to reflect upon the achievements of the public sector agency on its 20th birthday as well as project into the future their vision for supporting people with an intellectual disability in their community of choice. It is anticipated that this will occur in August. In a separate event, the issue of where we have been and where we are going will be considered by

NSW

Our largest and looming event is the Wollongong conference, the abstracts have been received and culled, we have 32 papers covering a range of topics from health, education, case based funding, employment, self determination, ethics ethics. A panel has been organised with panel participants offering a 2-3 minute overview of their career. This will be followed by a debate style discussion with plenty of questions coming from the floor. The team at Wollongong have been working really hard and we are hoping that many ASSID members from around NSW and other parts of Australia will join us for what looks like being a very eventful conference. We are currently taking registrations, for further information contact Isla Bowen isla_bowen@uow.edu.au or John Brown on jbec@illawarra.hotkey.net.au

Date: Fri 6, Sat 7 July, Wollongong University

We are still concentrating on our seminars, there is one planned for Coffs Harbour in November which concerns working with sex offenders. A health seminar is to be held in Sydney in July. Energies are still being focused on other seminars and written publications.

Regards Linda

Email: lgoddard@csu.edu.au

an imminent panel. Consideration will be given to range of possible futures and what we can do to influence the path taken. This will also occur in the latter half of the year.

Coming up soon (June/ July - although dates and such have yet to be finalized), we are planning to hold an event looking at recent developments and their implications in the field of genetics in relation to intellectual disability. One of the prominent researchers in the field (Dr Jozef Gecz) had indicated a willingness to participate in such an event. In the meantime refer to the following internet site to get as sense of the work that Dr Gecz is doing:

http://www.wch.sa.gov.au/media/2002/110302_media_release.html

The state branch of ASSID has commenced discussion with the Australian association of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy looking at a co-sponsored event (aiming at September) looking at utilizing cognitive behavioural strategies when working with people with an intellectual disability. These presentations may be within the context of a state conference with the theme being innovative practice.

Information will be provided to members, as dates and venues are finalized.

Richard O'Loughlin

Email: rolstmarys@esc.net.au

Tasmania

Events planned in Tasmania for the near future include a Hot Topic Night - to take place in the North of the State and a one day workshop in July which will concern issues around ageing and care provision.

Our hard working committee is focusing most of it's energy on the National Conference in November, with abstracts and registrations increasing in number daily! So far the abstracts submitted are of a very high quality and cover a broad range of topics, including ageing, discourse, advocacy, sexuality, forensics, education and indigenous issues, with a wonderful consumer stream presently under cover of secrecy - all to be revealed soon!

No more to report this month, but watch this space next issue!

Cheers, Virginia

For details of dates and venues contact Virginia on

Ph: 0408 951 686

Email: downton@southcom.com.au



Sta
Up

Victoria

As the weather gets colder the Victorian committee is warming up with many new faces to help organise upcoming activities and contribute to monthly meetings. Now is a great time to be involved in Victorian ASSID as a range of people are voluntarily helping in activity development and their ideas and contributions are truly making for a dynamic period in the state branch.

Collaborating with Direct Support Workers (DSW) and final year students from Disability Studies, we have been able to further work with the idea of supporting a Direct Support Worker (DSW) Network. The DSW Network is still in a preliminary planning stage and was generated by the ideas and feedback from DSWs who participated in the 2001 DSW Conference.

To further ensure the Network reflects the ideas and direction of its potential membership we are aiming to link it with the second DSW Conference to be held in November this year. Over 300 people attended the 2001 DSWs Conference and this years conference will provide an excellent opportunity for DSWs to meet, explore the latest in disability practices and contribute to the direction of their network. The two activities are somewhat intertwined and advice and ideas from DSWs will also inform the content of the conference.

Queensland

Things have been relatively quiet here in Queensland for the last couple of months, although planning and preparing for the two Sharing the Road conferences for Disability Support Workers has been progressing at quite a rate recently. These two conferences in Brisbane and Cairns will be our major events for this part of the year and they are shaping up to be very interesting. I will post the timetable and abstracts to ASSID-L for those who may be interested in the programs.

Apart from that planning is also well under way for the National Conference in 2003. I can't say too much at this stage, but by all accounts it is going to be quite an event, something to look forward to.

Chris Montgomery
Email: cmontgom@families.qld.gov.au

This years State Conference Organising Committee also boasts involvement from people other than the state committee and is shaping up to offer a fantastic program over one day in August. The first Research Seminar Series was held in April with participation from four universities in Melbourne and major service providers. Staff from all levels of academia and service settings gathered to discuss current research initiatives and future directions in disability research.

A dinner was held more recently in May that was fully attended by Victorian members at a Melbourne restaurant reminiscent of a grand old home. The occasion was to honour Dr Stephen Trumble with a Distinguished Service Citation, Ms Julie McGillvary and Ms Helen Moore for winning the 2001 National ASSID Research Award and the students that volunteered at the National Conference in 2001.

That's about it from all of us here in Victoria (and certainly enough to keep us going for awhile).

Regards,

Alex Phillips
Email: Alex.Phillips@med.monash.edu.au

Western Australia

The WA committee of ASSID holds bimonthly planning meetings at the Captain Stirling Hotel. The next meeting is on the 15th of June when the programme for the second part of the year will be finalised. Contact me for dates for upcoming meetings.

The AGM will be held in September - tentatively Wednesday 11th. We hope to have Errol Cocks as guest speaker, and look forward to an event as successful and well attended as last year's AGM.

Other events in the pipeline include an evening meeting with a speaker from the Office of the Public Advocate and a half or full-day workshop on staff-client interactions. The latter is a follow-up to Mark Rapley's stimulating presentation at our State Conference earlier in the year. Many people expressed an interest in exploring this subject in greater detail. Transition to retirement is another topic generating interest at the moment and will be the subject of a "hot topic" panel towards the end of the year at a pre-Christmas meeting. The committee has a lot of work to do to make plans reality but we're well on the way. It promises to be a stimulating second part of the year!!

Janine Smith
janinesm@dsc.wa.gov.au

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date

occupy in the society and, given that all of our choices are limited by forces outside ourselves, the simple giving of choice is not reliable in opening up new and powerful meanings – or enjoyments – for people. This, I might add, is particularly so when, for people with intellectual disability, choice is all too often reduced to whether they get to go to Pizza Hut or MacDonaldis on a Friday night.

So, returning to my choice boards – and they are really only a metaphor for the concentration on the client as problem – it is also clear that expressive communication programs and/or augmentative aids are highly valued by a society in which commodities are all the go. You can see them, you can have them in the house or at least have the program filed neatly, tucked away so someone's privacy won't be threatened. Resource strapped government departments and NGOs both love something they can count and itemise.

As a private professional I see how often people invite me back if I give them something like this to display and how much money they are prepared to spend on systems such as Boardmaker, without ever questioning how the people around them would gain from using them. They don't want to see me again so readily when I say 'you will have to change the way you are communicating and presenting choice if this person is to have more control in the world.' Yet, both the research and practice of using augmentative systems, particularly to ameliorate challenging behaviours supports the contention that the communication of caregivers must be adjusted, trained as much as, or even more than, that of the person with disability (Carr, 1994, Johnson, Baumgart, Helmsletter and Curry, 1996, for example). Communication is, by definition, two way.

We also know – if we care to remember – that people with intellectual disability have specific difficulties with making choice. Nearly two decades ago Sigelman et al. (1983) identified the prevalence of "yes" or affirmative responses in people with disabilities when they did not understand what was being said. Recently Stancliffe and Parmenter (1999), in developing a "choice questionnaire", noted the difficulties of response bias because of acquiescence, nay-saying and recency. Recency, as they explain, "arises in relation to either/or and multiple choice questions when the last ... alternative is selected regardless of its content". Furthermore, Hatton (1998) reports that the communication environments people with intellectual disability find themselves in, can actually reduce the opportunity to develop pragmatic skills, while Stacey (2000) shows, in an analysis of police interviews with people with intellectual disability, that the difficulties of suggestibility, excessive congruence and recency prejudice the information both given and received.

What is also very important to note, here, is that few people highly value something they have difficulty doing or

achieving – which is perhaps why nearly 50% of those in Neumayer and Bleasdale's study wanted no more or even fewer choice.

In short, the issue of 'giving choice' to people living with intellectual disability produces a fascinating slippage, so that the disabling effect of the environment/the communication of others/ external expectations can be ignored in favour of seeing the people living with intellectual disability as someone who needs to be 'treated'. At the same time the workers can see themselves to be liberating as they insist that their client 'is just like everyone else' even though this statement is clearly inaccurate and only works to homogenise people with disability under a mythical banner of 'everyone else'. Similarly that myth 's/he understands everything I say' is part of this liberation notion, while it ignores the serious impacts that disability can have on a person.

Normalisation is riddled with jargon...being party to this exclusive language creates a sense of belonging to a select and enlightened group. (Chappell, 1996) The same could be said for the 'doctrine' of choice.

So what can we do, practically? The first step must be to attend to the issues around caregiver and environmental communication, to see communication as interactive. Further to that, a greater variety of available lifestyles and options needs to be promoted, rather than giving lip service to choice by choosing between meals or outings. Similarly, the insistent requirement that people make a choice – and then stick to it (even if they do have memory impairment) – must be devalued.

A 'technique' I have also found useful is to shift the emphasis from choice to values. To this end I have been running life story groups (for want of a better term). In these I don't ask questions or elicit lists of facts. Instead I sing or play some music or show a video. Memory tags – such as an Elvis Presley song or a old tape of Gilligan's Island - set off associations and sometimes the quietest person becomes voluble. Finding out whether a 50 year old wore mini-skirts or whether a person with apparently severe impairment giggles when 'Happy Days' is a good way to begin to understand what is meaningful and interesting to the individual. Tim Booth (1996) also promotes the idea of narrative as providing an opening to understanding lifestyle issues and Alex McClimmens presented a paper at the 2001 ASSID Conference arguing along the same lines.

In conclusion, then, I am arguing that choice is not a 'natural right' but rather a culturally and economically determined imperative which has more or less talked people with intellectual disability into a corner. The impact of their impairments are ignored under the guise of myths such as 'they understand everything I say', myths that serve to validate the workers as knowledgeable and the

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A Gallery of New Faces.

In the past few months ASSID has seen – or had signalled – a number of significant changes in its personnel. Most of ASSID's considerable work is undertaken by members who volunteer their time and their skills. This voluntary work includes the Editorship of *The Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disability*; a huge job and one which will make an enormous contribution. We have included profiles of the outgoing and incoming editors of 'JIDD' below.

ASSID also has a few paid hours of administrative support; the Secretariat and, very recently, the editorial assistant for *Intellectual Disability, Australasia*. (There is also a paid Editorial Assistant for the *Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disability*, funded through the publisher's Taylor and Francis.) The Secretariat position is sited in an organisation which is sympathetic to the goals of ASSID and the people who take up the administrative positions are people who are aware of ASSID's mission and objectives. Wendy Grant, as the 'keeper' of the Secretariat for many years gave a great deal to ASSID professionally and personally. ASSID is now delighted to welcome Helen Moore at the Centre for Developmental Disabilities, Sydney (CDDS) to the Secretariat position. CDDS is a strong supporter of ASSID and Helen has a history of being personal assistant to its head, Professor Trevor Parmenter, so she has had a good chance to become familiar with ASSID already.

ASSID, and in particular IDA, welcomes Karen Vance as the new editorial assistant to this magazine. Karen has been doing the most magnificent job of moulding the copy that I, as IDA editor, send to her into a shape that is not only very readable but extremely attractive and professional in appearance. She is multi-skilled and also draws the graphics that you see. The chance for her to provide further administrative and organisational support was too good to miss! To welcome both Helen and Karen, and so that the membership has some idea who are the people putting in the hours of work from which they benefit, I asked both Helen



and Karen to give us just a teeny bit of information about themselves.

Helen says: I was born in Scotland and emigrated here with my parents to join up with other family members. I returned to the UK after 4 years and stayed there for 6 years during which time I got married. Then my husband and I returned

to Australia and lived in Sydney. I have two children, and two grandchildren. I also lived in Melbourne for 7 years before returning to Sydney.

I started work in the Special Education Centre at Macquarie University in 1978 and left the Centre to join Trevor (Professor Trevor Parmenter) in 1994 as his Secretary. I was fortunate enough to go to Helsinki with him for the IASSID conference in 1996.

I came to CDDS (Centre for Developmental Disabilities Studies) with Trevor, when it commenced, in 1997 as his Secretary and Office Manager.

Now, I work here Mondays, Tuesday and Wednesdays. Most of Wednesdays are devoted to ASSID but if I am not busy with Trevor I sometimes do ASSID work on other days too. I am available for ASSID telephone queries any day and the phone is answered by another staff member when I am not in attendance.

Karen Vance comes from a background of printmaking and community arts. As a mother of two young sons she now works from home in graphic and web design, and illustration, for community groups, government organisations and small corporations.

-Ann P.



The Editors of The Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disability

The *Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disability* (JIDD) - known to some as 'The ASSID journal' - is a significant international journal, which publishes peer reviewed papers that have an important part in the furthering of knowledge in the field on intellectual disability research and support practice. Many of these articles are from contributors in the Australasian region, with researchers from the UK, Europe and the Americas also represented. The Editor of JIDD is firmly locally based and one of the criteria for appointment is that the Editor be an ASSID member. Previous editors of JIDD have included Professor Trevor Parmenter and Dr Bob Cummins – both extremely well known, dedicated and highly regarded researchers, and advocates, in the field of intellectual disability.

For the past decade, ASSID has been privileged to have as Editor of the *Journal*, Professor Phil Foreman. Phil has expanded the content and the readership of the journal and has also been a keen contributor to ASSID, at both State and National Council level.

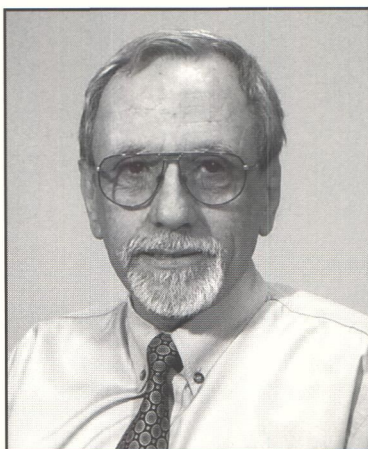
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At the end of this year, Professor Foreman will hand over the Editorship to Dr Roger Stancliffe. Roger, and the excellent work he has done, will be well known to many ASSID members already; he is equally well known and highly respected in the international arena.

In this edition of *Intellectual Disability Australasia*, ASSID would like to say a hearty thanks to Professor Foreman and give an equally hearty welcome to Dr Roger Stancliffe. Three cheers to both!

In consideration of the significance of the contribution of both the outgoing and incoming editors, I asked each of them a few questions so that all ASSID members might know a little more about the people behind the names.

Outgoing Editor: Professor Phil Foreman



IDA: Phil, Could you please tell the membership of ASSID what attracted you, in the first place, to taking on the large amount of extra work editing the Journal involves?

I have been a member of ASSID (then AGSSOMD) since the 1970s and was always an avid reader and user of the Journal. I was honoured in 1991 to be invited to take over from Trevor Parmenter as Editor. Trevor had made a very

significant contribution to the Journal through his international contacts, and it was already in a strong position when I took over. Some members of the current Editorial Board were invited to the Board by Trevor, or by his predecessor, Bob Cummins. Both Trevor and Bob continue to make an outstanding contribution to the Journal's editorial processes.

The work involved in producing a Journal is considerable, but I have been very ably assisted throughout my editorship by my Editorial Assistant, Wendy Grant. Wendy manages the administrative aspects of the editorial processes with minimal direction. Until recently, she used her desk-top publishing skills to produce the Journal in camera-ready form. Our latest contract with Taylor & Francis means that the final production and proofing processes are done by the publishers.

Do you feel that the readership of the Journal has changed over the time you have been Editor and if so, in what ways and perhaps why?

There have not been huge changes, but we do have more international and organisational subscriptions. We also have more submissions from local and international researchers, to the extent that we have a delay in being able to publish accepted articles.

The main change in process has been the negotiation of a publication contract with international journal publishers, Taylor & Francis, who are based in the UK. This has really placed the Journal into the mainstream of academic publications, as it is now part of a very significant list of learned journals published by Taylor & Francis. This

Communication and Choice *continued from page 12*

'expression' of people living with intellectual disability as an almost intentional failure. The overvaluing of day to day choice allows us to ignore the need to adjust our way of communicating and reduces service to something as inconsequential as a choiceboard, while the development of more lifestyle options, valued by the individual, can safely be put on the backburner.

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- contact: penhall@bigpond.net.au

arrangement has also been to the financial benefit of ASSID.

You have presented a paper on the content of JIDD, and made some interesting comments on the changes in interest and emphasis that you have seen in papers submitted. Can you say something about that here?

I guess the main change has been from one with a very strong medical orientation to a focus on issues such as quality of life, assessment, behaviour, and education. However, we continue to publish some very significant articles on medical issues. Other changes are that authors now tend to be affiliated with universities rather than hospitals or training centres, and the articles are more adult-focused.

Given your experiences, what do you see as the likely significant issues that will arise in the next few years, in the Journal and in the field of intellectual disability generally.

From the Journal's perspective, I think it may become a bit more difficult for authors to get their articles accepted for publication. We have always taken a developmental or educational approach, allowing potential authors significant opportunity to revise their submissions in line with reviewers' comments and recommendations. If we continue to receive many more submissions than we can use, there may have to be more rejections than at present. We are also planning ways of publishing one or two more articles per issue through a minor re-formatting of the Journal.

Regarding intellectual disability generally, I am worried about some recent trends. My personal view is that the community has been subtly but deliberately encouraged to become less committed to social justice issues. An obvious example of this has been the demonisation of asylum seekers as "illegal immigrants" and "queue jumpers". Unfortunately, it is a short step from this to demonise other marginalised groups. There are many people who are not entirely supportive of anti-discrimination legislation, and there is evidence that the government is willing to water down the legislation to fit in with particular ideologies and to allow services to close due to lack of adequate funding. We must remain constantly vigilant if we want to ensure continuing fair and non-discriminatory treatment of people with a disability.

As well as your work at the University of Newcastle, you are involved in a voluntary capacity in a number of organisations. Can you give us a 'flavour' of that work and how you came to be so involved?

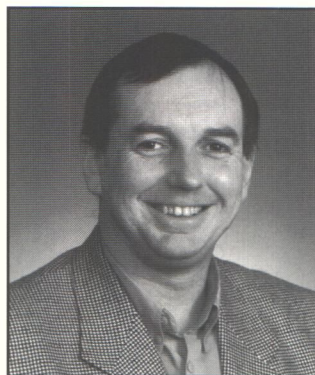
Following a research project which identified a serious local need, we obtained Commonwealth funding in 1992 to start an access service for people with severe disabilities, Newcastle & Hunter Community Access. The service

now operates six projects and provides services to over 100 people, with an annual budget of over \$1m. I have been President since the service began. I am also foundation President of Disability Advocacy Service - Hunter, which provides a range of individual and systemic advocacy services, and has just been funded for an advocacy partners project. An interesting feature of both of these services is that their constitutions provide that at least half of the Management Committee must be people with a disability, or their carers.

Do you have any parting words for us?

I would like to thank ASSID for the privilege of editing its Journal for the last 10 years or so, and to thank the Associate Editors, the Editorial Board Members, and my Editorial Assistant, Wendy Grant, for their outstanding support. I also want to say how delighted I am that Dr Roger Stancliffe has accepted appointment as Editor. Roger has been an outstanding Book Review Editor, Editorial Board Member, Associate Editor, and Guest Editor. I have no doubt that he will make an excellent Journal Editor, and I look forward to watching the Journal thrive under his leadership.

Incoming Editor:



Dr Roger Stancliffe

IDA: Roger, can you tell us how you came to be involved in the field of intellectual disability and what practical experience you have in working with people with disabilities?

I became involved totally by accident really. When I graduated from the University of Newcastle, a psychologist job came up at Marsden Hospital (Sydney). I applied and was successful and ended up staying six years. I found that I enjoyed working with people with intellectual disability and their families and felt that I could make a contribution. Those were exciting days as we began to take the first steps in community living and provide an alternative to institutions. After Marsden, I managed the community living program at Mater Dei (Camden, NSW) for several years. I was involved in the final closure of the on-campus congregate residential facility at Mater Dei and its replacement by community group homes and family support services. After that I worked as an independent consultant and as a member of the NSW Guardianship Tribunal for its first five years. In addition, I have served long terms as a board member of two non-government services in Sydney - a supported employment agency and

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an accommodation support service. Another aspect of my ongoing practical involvement has been acting as an advocate for a friend with intellectual disability for over 20 years.

What sort of research projects have you been involved in?

I've been involved in projects ranging from clinical research with individual participants to large scale program evaluation. Much of my work has involved evaluating outcomes of services received by adults with disabilities, such as studies of deinstitutionalisation and different approaches to community living. I have also done a fair bit of research in the areas of choice, decision making and self-determination. One thing I have consistently tried to do in my research is to ensure that people with disability have the opportunity to express their own views about their lifestyle, the services they receive, or whatever the research issue is.

What do you see as the value of research in relation to practice and to quality of life for people with disability and their caregivers?

Policy initiatives and human services do not always achieve the outcomes that were intended and sometimes have unforeseen consequences. For example, large-scale segregated settings like institutions were not intended to be oppressive when they were set up, but research has identified a number of unintended negative outcomes and a detrimental effect on quality of life. Likewise, various interventions have become fashionable, but when subjected to careful evaluation some have been found not to deliver the claimed benefits. Research can help sort the wheat from the chaff, so that services and clinical treatment are evidence based.

How important do you think 'real-life experience', clinical and direct care work are in developing the impetus for what is studied under the 'banner' of research?

These factors are fundamental to identifying important issues that deserve to be researched and to correctly interpreting research findings. Without a thorough understanding of practical realities, researchers can misinterpret their findings or fail to see the relevance to policy and practice. Stakeholders with real-life experience, and researchers need to work together closely to ensure that research is relevant and useful. The feasibility of an intervention in real-life settings is an important consideration when researching the effectiveness of a new approach. A school principal once told me that when it comes to educational programs for students with disabilities "the best programs are the ones that teachers can use most effectively".

If you see research as 'informing' best practice in some way, what strategies do you feel might be most effective in disseminating research information in a way that is can be 'taken on board' and effectively implemented?

There is no single best dissemination method that meets the need of all audiences. Journals such as the Journal of Intellectual & Developmental Disability provide one important dissemination method that has the benefit of being peer reviewed and providing a published permanent product that can be consulted throughout the world for years to come. However, not everyone likes to read journal articles so more accessible dissemination methods are obviously also important. Pre-service and in-service training, conferences, the internet, books, other training materials, demonstration programs and so on are all important dissemination methods.

What do you see as the role for JIDD? in the antipodean and international contexts?

JIDD is a multidisciplinary international journal that brings Australia to the world and the world to Australia. It provides a forum for original research, systematic reviews of the research literature, and an examination of policy, practices and perspectives in the our field.

Rumour has it that you are already thinking ahead to the first edition of JIDD under your editorship. Can you share with us any ideas that you have for new sections or inclusions?

Your spies are well informed! Two new sections are planned for the Journal commencing with Volume 28, Number 1 (March 2003). These sections are: (1) *Opinions and Perspectives* and (2) *Data Briefs*. Both new sections are intended to provide an addition to the peer-reviewed, full-length articles that form the main content of the Journal. The *Opinions and Perspectives* section will provide a forum for lively, thought-provoking discussion and debate about important current issues, innovations and policy perspectives. I would especially encourage non-researchers (self-advocates, family members, policy makers, service providers) to contribute to the *Opinions and Perspectives* section. Researchers, opinions are very welcome too! The *Data Briefs* section will contain summaries of significant current data (usually national data) on trends in demographics, service provision, expenditure and other issues. The emphasis will be on providing readers with easy access to important current information.

Finally, when are you coming back to Australia and where will you be able to be contacted when you return?

My family and I return down under at the beginning of August 2002, and I will be back at work at the Centre for Developmental Disability Studies soon after. People can reach me at:

Centre for Developmental Disability Studies
P.O. Box 6 Ryde NSW 1680, AUSTRALIA
Tel.: 02-88780518 Fax: 02-98077053
E-mail: rogerst@med.usy.edu.au

What's going on - journals

There have been a number of articles published in the past 12 months focussing on health issues for women with intellectual disability. Professor Trevor Parmenter has alerted IDA to these and IDA thanks him for this.

Contraception of women with I.D.: prevalence and determinants

Journal of Intellectual Disability Research. 46(Part 2):108-119, 2002 Feb.

The results of this Brussels based study of women with intellectual disability attending government funded facilities shows that the contraceptive useage of the women differs from the general population. Study results are discussed in the light of the commonly assumed indications for women with disabilities.

Breast cancer screening for older women with I.D.

Journal of Intellectual Disability Research. 45(Part 3):253-257, 2001 Jun.

Women with intellectual disability are living longer and are often nulliparous and are therefore at increased risk of developing breast cancer. The study reported here aimed to review the uptake and knowledge of breast screening in women with intellectual disability. Results also show that primary health care professionals may also be missing opportunities for health promotion in this area are discussed.

Menstrual and contraceptive management in women with an I.D.

Medical Journal of Australia. 176(3):108-110, 2002 Feb 4.

This Melbourne based study concludes that the management of menstruation and contraception needs should be similar to that of the non-disabled population and that surgical intervention is infrequently required.

Report Back: ASSID National Council Mid-Year Meeting.

This year it was decided to have a face-to-face mid year National Council meeting in Melbourne, as there had been a fairly high turnover of councillors at the last AGM and a number of people had not even 'set eyes on each other'. There was also a considerable amount of work to get through.

The meetings on the 11th and 12th of May were a tough schedule but succeeded in covering the full agenda. As has been the case over the past few years, the ASSID National Strategic Plan was reviewed and the performance measures – did we do what we said we would do? – were assessed. The Strategic Plan is a working document – one that identifies how ASSID will fulfill its mission and objectives on an annual basis. Copies of the plan are available through your state councils and it is worth reading as it sets out clearly and concisely what our organisation does and why.

The mid year meeting had an agenda which included discussion on membership and how to encourage a greater and increasingly active one. ASSID is dependent on membership subscriptions for income and as costs go up ...– well, you can see that each and every ASSID member should be out there recruiting another person to join! There was also all the usual reports – financial, organisation, state based and good news about the income from the Melbourne conference last year as well as on the planning for the Tasmanian based National Conference for this year. More discussion was had on ways to formally include the very active New Zealand contingent and how to deal with any resultant constitutional change. We had to look at all the boring bits – GST, insurance and the like – and the more interesting bits such as the establishment of a new ASSID web-site with a very straightforward address that will enable anyone looking for information about ASSID to find that easily. (Anyone with significant web experience who is interested in contributing to this discussion should get in touch with Daniel Leighton: Daniel.Leighton@dhs.vic.gov.au).

- Ann P

Information exchange

The National Disability Administrators Group funded a National Project that examined **Day Options for Older Adults with Disabilities.**

The research was completed during 2000-1 and is now available. It seems that no funds were allocated were for printing or dissemination so it is only available electronically.

The project documents include a short report, an executive summary, the full report and various appendices which provide further details of the various research components. One of the most useful of these is probably the extensive literature review of day support programs for older people with disabilities.

The short report and summary can be downloaded directly from the DHS web site.

<http://hnb.dhs.vic.gov.au/ds/disabilitysite.nsf/pages/research#old>

or go to the DHS site then to Disability Division and you will find it under whats new
<http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au>

The full report, lit. review and other appendices will be sent electronically on request. Details of who to contact are one the web site.

More on this in the next edition of IDA

Women, Health and Development Program Website Launch

Division of Health and Human Development (HDP) Pan-American Health Organization, PAHO/WHO Announces the launch of their new website devoted to Gender and Health issues.

<http://www.paho.org/genderand-health>

Download gender & health fact sheets or advocacy kits, virtual library, mailing list, links to related organisations and much more.

Upcoming Events . . .

8th - 10th July, 2002

Sharing the Road conferences for Disability Support Workers Nathan campus of Griffith University and the **25th and 26th** in Cairns at the Cairns Colonial. Special event - *Lilah Pengrah*.
Contact: Chris Montgomery Ph: 3813 3304
Email: cmontgom@disability.qld.gov.au Web:
<http://www.disability.qld.gov.au/events.cfm>

18th - 20th September, 2002

Australian Cerebral Palsy Association
National Conference - "Shaping the Future"
Star City, Pyrmont, Sydney
For info: Wendy Simpson, Conference Secretariat
Ph: (02) 9437 9333 Fax: (02) 9901 4586
Website: www.acpa-inc.org.au/shaping/

11th - 13th September, 2002

IASSID Joint Physical Health / Mental Health SIRGs Meeting
UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW SCOTLAND
Contact: Mrs. Isobel Hodge
Tel : + 44 (0) 141 211 0690 Fax : + 44 (0) 141 357 4899
E-mail : ih51h@clinmed.gla.ac.uk
Registration and conference info: www.iasid.org

11th - 13th October, 2002

Conference to Mark **50 years of the Fred & Eleanor Research Centre**, School of Education, University of Queensland. Customs House, Brisbane City (Fri) & Bardon Conference Centre, (Sat & Sun)
Closing date for registration 27th September 2002
Contact: Meredith MacLeod Ph: 0419 170 193
Email: meredith.macleod@bigpond.com

4th - 8th November, 2002

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SPECTRUM
A Professional Development Program on the Autistic Spectrum Disorder
Bardon Conference Centre - 390 Simpson Road, Bardon, Qld
For info: Maria Lyne at the Caroline Chisholm Centre
Ph: (07) 3255 0651
Email: chisholm.centre@mailbox.uq.edu.au

13th - 16th November, 2002

ASSID 37TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Theme: Developing and Enriching Communities
Venue: Wrest Point Casino, HOBART
Call for papers by 5th September, 2002
Inquiries: Virginia Downton
Ph: 0408 951 686,
Email: downton@southcom.com.au

15th - 16th November, 2002

Call for Papers
1st Aust, Post Graduate Students Critical Psychology Conference - *Contemporary topics in Critical Psychology*
Venue: Uni of Western Sydney, Bankstown Campus, Sydney
Ph: (61) 2 9772 6726
Email: ccp@uws.edu.au
Web: <http://www.uws.edu.au/criticalpsychology/>