

Volume 29, Issue 1 Mar 2008

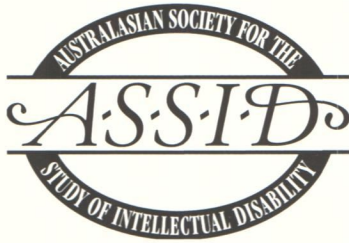
# IDA

Intellectual Disability Australasia

## community engagement



Magazine of the Australasian Society for the Study of Intellectual Disability



*Intellectual Disability Australasia* is produced and distributed by the Australasian Society for the Study of Intellectual Disability.

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

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**Printed by:**

Bloxham & Chambers Printers

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**Front Cover:**

*courtesy of Philip Marsh - see pg16 for story*

# Editorial



**W**elcome to the first edition of IDA for 2008.

As always, the new year edition contains lots of update information, so please make a note of the contact details for your regional representatives and the Board executive for 2008/09.

Each region has a nominated member to provide the regular regional updates. This year we are welcoming three new members to keep you in touch with what is happening in your local area, as well as saying hello again to our regular contributors.

As you can see, the year sees a change in the editorship of IDA. I am looking forward to taking on the challenge for 2008 and maintaining the standards for the magazine set by my predecessors.

The editor's position has been most ably filled for the last four years by Dr Deb Keen, who has sadly decided that it is time for others to have the opportunity to fulfil this exciting and developmental voluntary role.

You will find an invitation to express your interest in the position in the pages of IDA, for a four year term, commencing in January 2009. The position is a voluntary one, but the editorial assistant, Ross provides help and advice, as well as doing a fantastic job in getting the magazine distributed on time.

The editor holds an ex-officio position on the ASSID Board and has an opportunity to contribute to the strategic development and operational planning of the association. The Board recognises the important role undertaken by the editor and as such provides funding for attendance at the Board's mid year meeting in May as well as accommodation, transport and conference registration for the annual ASSID conference.

In addition there is a call for expressions of interest in the position of ASSID's representative on the IASSID council. Also holding an ex-officio position on the Board, the IASSID representative will represent ASSID members' views and interests in the broader international arena.

This edition of IDA has information on coming events, including the 43rd ASSID Conference, to be held in Melbourne in November the 2007 conference report from Western Australia, photos from the conference and a report on a great piece of work, undertaken over several years, by Dr Keith McVilly. The Disability Support Workers code of ethics was officially launched at the 2007 conference and will guide and enhance the work of professionals in the field for many years to come. It once again demonstrates the significant and important role that ASSID has in leading the way, linking research to practice. In addition, there is a 'plain English' article from a JIDD paper, a book review and all the usual news and information.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the magazine. Please do contact me if you have any ideas for future features, have some information to share with your fellow readers or feedback on the magazine.

**Sue**



report

# In Tune – ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

*by Angus Buchanan*  
Conference Co-convenor

An ASSID Conference is a unique event and experience. This was the case for the 600 people who gathered over three days at the historic Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle, Western Australia. They had the opportunity to share their research and work, build the evidence base, challenge and be challenged, connect with colleagues and form new networks.

The 42nd Conference returned to Fremantle after 7 years. Fremantle is a wonderful location for a Conference with its historic settings and modern cosmopolitan approach to life. The only risk was that the location would be more appealing than the Conference! Fortunately this was not the case and all speakers and events were well supported by the delegates.

For the first time an ASSID Conference had its own website which went live 12 months before the Conference commenced. This was updated regularly providing information to people submitting abstracts, presenter requirements, information about registration, electronic registration and details of speakers and the program. Anecdotally this was found to be a very useful resource – we wished we had put a counter on the site to see how many hits it received!



**Professor Daniela Stehlik and Dr Angus Buchanan,  
Co-convenors**

The Conference was fortunate to have four outstanding key note speakers who embraced the themes of the Conference. These included:

**Eddie Bartnik (Perth)**

*Active citizenship and community engagement – getting serious about positive pathways to relationships and contributions*, examined the fundamental importance of valued relationships in each of our lives. Eddie spoke about the importance of intentional strategies to facilitate valued relationships and create opportunities for contribution and reciprocity. A number of examples of strategies were presented including the Local Area Coordination model in Western Australia, and PLAN in Canada. The strong message was the need for new pathways which focused on people's strengths and contributions.

*continued page 4*

# Active Citizenship, Community Engagement

continued from page 3

Bruce Uditsky (Alberta)

*Engaging communities to create inclusive lives: capitalising on community capacity*, discussed that there are no shortage of examples of community inclusion but very few are at the systemic level. Bruce discussed that we are now seeing inherent limitations in human service systems impacting on the inclusion of people. It was highlighted that the capacity of communities to embrace inclusion is largely untouched. The presentation provided a conceptual overview of community capacity engagement and examples of systemic efforts to capitalise on community capacity.

Dr Levan Lim (Singapore)

*Active citizenship and community engagement of persons with an intellectual disability in Singapore: Where does it start and how to get there?* discussed the significant changes occurring in Singapore with regard to inclusive practices in the education system. Levan provided an insight into the influences and models of change that have impacted on major reforms in the Singaporean Education system for the inclusion of children with intellectual disability.

Ruth Cromer (Sydney)

*Where do I fit in?* was a powerful and moving presentation about having a good life. The opening lines of the presentation were - "I am an actor, I am an advocate. I happen to have Down Syndrome. Where do I fit in?" Ruth spoke about what made her life good - family, friends, work, and fun. A key area raised by Ruth was that she felt confident and secure in her roles and responsibilities.



**WA Governor, Dr Ken Michael AC and conference delegates**



**WA Minister for Disability Service, Hon Sheila McHale; Gordon Trewern, Nulsen Haven; Dr Olive Webb, President of ASSID; and Chris Coopes, President of ASSID WA**

## Concurrent Sessions

There were 87 papers that covered the themes of Community Inclusion, Ethics, Health, Human rights, and Life Transitions. There were also a symposium concerned with Ethics and workshops on Ethics, Human Rights, Journal Writing and Life Skills.

An innovation introduced at this Conference was the Round Table session at the conclusion of the daily program of papers. These sessions allowed people to come together to discuss issues that had been presented during the day and opportunities to further explore themes with the key note speakers. The Round Tables were very successful with over 100 people attending each day.

One of the highlights of the Conference was the development of the Fremantle Declaration about citizenship and community engagement for people with an disability. The purpose was to highlight the positive contributions to society and community that people with a disability make. Conference delegates were asked over the three days to contribute to the development of this important document via feedback forms and visiting the Declaration Space. At the closing ceremony Dr Olive Webb, President of ASSID was presented with the Fremantle Declaration (Draft) which is now being considered by the ASSID Board. Watch out for more on this over the next year.

As with all good Conferences there was the opportunity to relax and socialise. The official welcome to delegates was made by Dr Ken Michael, Governor of Western Australia at the Cocktail reception on the first evening of the Conference. This event was also used to launch the Code of Ethics for Direct Support Workers. A memorable

**Photos by:-**  
Philip Marsh- Research Officer,  
Alcoa Research Centre for Stronger Communities,  
Division of Humanities, Curtin University of Technology)



**ASSID conference delegates**

champagne Melbourne Cup lunch was well attended. A Conference Dinner was held at the Tradewinds Hotel and enjoyed by all with entertainment from a local Fremantle artist and Conference Committee member – Kate Randall.

Overall the feedback for the Conference was positive with many comments about future improvements. This information has already been forwarded to the Convenors of ASSID Melbourne 2008 for their consideration in their planning. 86% of delegates said that they would attend a future ASSID conference if they had the opportunity.

The opportunity to host the ASSID Conference is initially somewhat daunting but has been a positive and exiting experience for all those who were involved. This Conference was fortunate to have a dedicated team of people who worked hard over two years to put together a great event – Angus Buchanan, Dani Stehlik, Susan Peden, Chris Yates, Jill McKenzie, Craig Glasheen, Kate Randall, Andrew Goldswain, Dolly Bhargava, Ruth Kesia-Whiteside and Mike Mulroy. Peter Rubie from HEB provided great assistance to the Committee. Thanks also goes to the Program sub committee of Professor Dani Stehlik, Dr Judith Cockram, Professor Lesley Chenoweth, Professor Linda Briskman, Dr Roger Stancliffe, and Dr Keith McVilley.

The Conference success was in part due to the excellent support it received from its sponsors – Perth Convention Bureau, Disability Services Commission, Curtin University of Technology, ACTIV, Lotterywest, Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Bentleys MRI, PIP and Nulsen Haven. ♦



**Conference helpers: Chris Coopes, Kate Randall, and Ian Mansfield**



**Delegates from South Australia**



**Gathering at the Fremantle declaration space**

*more photos page 6*

# People with Intellectual Disability & Sexuality: What Do People Think?

*A Plain English translation by Sheridan Forster of:*

*Cuskelly, M., & Gilmore, L. (2007)*

## **Attitudes to Sexuality Questionnaire (Individuals with an Intellectual Disability): Scale development and community norms.**

*Journal of Intellectual & Developmental Disability, 32, 214 - 222.*

### **Sexuality is a word the covers many different things.**

Sexuality is:

- learning about sex,
- feeling sexy,
- touching yourself,
- having a boyfriend or girlfriend,
- getting married,
- having sex,
- having a baby, and
- stopping people from having babies.

Every person has sexual feelings. Everybody thinks different things about sexuality. People think about their own sexuality. They also think about other people's sexuality.

### **What did the researchers want to learn about?**

The researchers wanted to know what people thought about the sexuality of people with intellectual disability.

How did the researchers do their study?

The researchers asked for permission from a University to do the research. This is called an ethics approval.

The researchers had two lots of question.

- (1) Questions about sexuality and people with intellectual disability.
- (2) A Questions about people who did not have intellectual disability.

261 adults answered the questions. Half of them answered questions about woman and the other half answered questions about men. The adults who answered the questions were all different ages. They did different things for work. Half of them had only been to high school, and half of them had been to TAFE or University.

### **What did the researchers learn?**

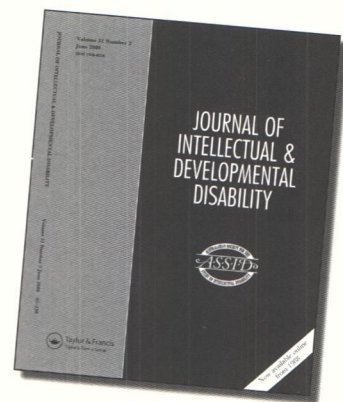
The researchers learnt how to put the questions into groups that were about a similar idea. They came up with 4 groups of questions:

- (1) Sexual rights
- (2) Being a parent
- (3) Having sex, but not to make a baby
- (4) Controlling your sexual feelings.

The researchers learnt that people had good thoughts about the sexuality of people with intellectual disability. People thought similar things about men and women with intellectual disability. They had good thoughts about people with intellectual disability being parents, but they were a little bit concerned. Some people did not like the idea of people with intellectual disability being gay (men having sex with men, or women having sex with women).

### **What do the researchers say in the end?**

The researchers said that people in the community have good thoughts about the sexuality of people with intellectual disability. ♦



## **more conference photos**



**Bruce Uditsky and Eddie Bartnick, keynote speakers**



**Registration Desk**

# The Australasian Code of Ethics for Direct Support Professionals



**Dr Keith R. McVilly**

(RMIT University, Melbourne)

**& Assoc. Professor Christopher Newell**

(University of Tasmania)

The Australasian Society for the Study of Intellectual Disability (ASSID) has recently launched the *Australasian Code of Ethics for Direct Support Professionals*. In publishing 'the Code', ASSID is seeking to further two of its stated objectives: to foster high principles and standards of work practice; and to promote and safeguard the rights of people with an intellectual disability.

Arising from conversations with and by direct support professionals, the Code has been designed as a guide to professional conduct, an educational resource, and a document to promote controversy and debate among those providing direct support to people with disability. Rather than being a book of rules and regulations, the Code is a statement of the aspirations of being a professional in the support of people with disability. As such it complements the existing legislative requirements for service providers. It is also intended to work alongside organisational codes of conduct, present in some organizations, and to assist other organisations to develop their own such documents where they do not already exist.

'The Code' is based on information gathered during a series of workshops conducted between November 2002 and November 2006, and a further Australasian-wide consultation conducted during 2007. The workshops were conducted at Hobart, Brisbane, Townsville, Coffs Harbour, Sydney, Adelaide, Perth, Wellington, Hamilton, Auckland, Christchurch, and Melbourne. Over 300 people participated in the workshops and contributed to the consultation. Contributors were predominantly staff engaged in the provision of direct support of people with disability, living in the community. Contributors came from accommodation, day support, education and employment services, across both government and non-government sectors.

During the workshops, participants reviewed a range of 'codes of ethics' from other professions, such as psychology, nursing, medicine, occupational therapy, speech pathology, social work and related disciplines. Workshop participants also reviewed the UK Code of Practice for Social Care Workers (GSCC, 2002) and the US National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals Code of Ethics (NADSP, 2001).

The consultation process resulted in the identification of 12 topics for ethical reflection by those engaged in the direct support of people with disabilities (i.e., Direct

Support Professionals – DSPs), and by students studying at University, at TAFEs and Polytechnics, or through Registered Training Organisations. The 12 topics (in no order of priority, as they are all considered of equal merit and importance) are:

## Professional Competence

*DSPs are committed to attaining and maintaining contemporary knowledge, skills and competence relevant to the needs of the clients they support.*

## Evidence-based Practice

*DSPs undertake their work on the basis of sound evidence, integrating scientific research and practitioner experience, together with the values and priorities of clients.*

## Professional Conduct

*DSPs acknowledge that the way they behave directly influences the quality of life of clients they support and the reputation of the services in which they work. With this in mind, they take seriously the need, and are committed to conducting themselves in a way that demonstrates respect for clients and those with whom they work.*

## Self-care and the Care of Colleagues

*DSPs take responsibility for looking after their own wellbeing and for looking out for the health and safety of their colleagues.*

## Collaboration

*DSPs support a team approach to the provision of services; they work with members of their own team and with others from outside of their organisation to achieve the best possible services for clients.*

## Accountability

*DSPs act in a way that demonstrates accountability to clients and client advocates, their employer and the community*

## Consent

*DSPs value and respect the right of every individual to make informed choices*

*continued page 8*

about issues that affect their life and the life of the group or community of which they are a member.

## Confidentiality

DSPs acknowledge and respect the trust that has been placed in them by clients, families, other professionals and organizations.

## Relationships

DSPs value, respect and foster appropriate and supportive relationships for among those with whom they work.

## Client Rights

DSPs recognise that people with disability have both rights and responsibilities. DSPs work in a way that upholds people's rights and supports them in the exercise of their responsibilities.

## Advocacy

DSPs recognise that it is important for people to express their feelings and have a say about issues that affect their life.

## Skills Development & Life-long Learning

DSPs recognise that for many people with disability, in order to become engaged in activities, achieve their full potential and experience a high quality of life, they require specific support and regular opportunities to learn and use skills.

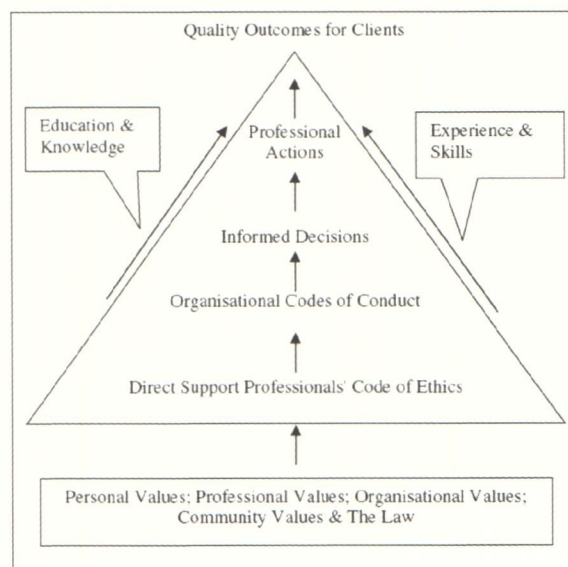
During the development of 'the Code', when discussing ethics with those involved in the support of people with disability, the conversation gravitated towards concepts of right and wrong, justice and injustice, virtue and vice, good and bad. A deeper reading however suggests, ethics are fundamentally about relationships: how people connect and interact with the various communities of which they are a member; how they relate to and work with their clients and colleagues, in day-to-day activities; and how they live with themselves and the decisions they make. "Ethical conduct is more than simply doing the right thing. It involves acting in the right spirit, out of an abiding respect and concern for one's fellow creatures" (NHMRC, 2007; p. 3).

In the forward to 'the Code', it is asserted that professional ethics are fundamentally about our relationships. With this in mind, DSPs are called to reflect on what it means to have a right relationship with themselves, with their colleagues and peers in the profession, other members of the community and, importantly, what it means to be in an ethical relationship with their clients.

Those engaged in providing direct support to people with disability (i.e., DSPs) are called to act in accord with the highest professional standards (Brophy, 2007). The needs of the people they support and the complexity of the tasks they perform require that they possess a broad range of knowledge, skills and competence. Importantly, clients, their clients' families and employers expect that those providing direct support will act ethically.

Figure 1 (adapted from McVilly, Martin-Nixon, and Neville, 2003) proposes that to achieve quality outcomes for clients we need to identify the range of values influencing direct support professionals, from which we can then develop a code of ethics. A code of ethics can then be used to inform organisational practices, which in turn influence day-to-day decisions and, together with the practical experience, knowledge and formal education of direct support professionals, shape actions that contribute to quality outcomes for clients.

Figure 1. The contribution of values, ethics, education and experience to quality outcomes for clients.



Internationally, there are strong moves to professionalise the direct support workforce. This is reflected in the formal registration, in the United Kingdom, of all those engaged in 'social care activities' by a government authority, the General Social Care Council (<http://www.gsc.org.uk/Home/>); and in the United States of America with the formation of the National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (<http://www.nadsp.org/main/>). Similarly, in Australia and New Zealand there has been strong support for the development of a professional identity (e.g., Brophy, 2007; Young & Quibell, 2002), and consequently 'the Code' for direct support pro-

continued page 9

professionals. There is a growing recognition that training, education and minimum qualifications are important, including both certificate-level and degree-level qualifications. Furthermore, at the time of preparing this article, discussions were taking place to develop an Australasian disability support professionals association.

Many thanks are due to the contributors to the current project. In particular thanks are due to those who assisted with the workshops: Dr Keith McVilly, Ms Tracy Martin-Nixon, Ms Carolyn Neville, Joni Condos, Meghan Coulter, Mr Christopher Montgomery, Ms Donna Venn, Assoc. Prof. Christopher Newell and Dr Amy Hewitt. Thanks also to David Treanor for asking the question, 'so what are we going to DO, rather than just talk about, fostering professional standards?' Time and resources for the project were also contributed by The University of Sydney's Centre for Developmental Disability Studies, RMIT University's Division of Disability Studies, the University of Tasmania's Faculty of Medicine and the University of Minnesota's Institute on Community Integration.

To further this project we now need to do two things. First, we need to develop a suite of educational resources to support both people currently involved in direct support work and those students studying to enter the profession, in doing 'the Code' (that is reflecting on and being the values) in their daily work practices. We also need, as Young and Quibell (2002) argued, for those involved in the daily support of people with disability to recognize their work as a worthy vocation, and to lay claim to the tradition and professional values vital to the support of people with disability in living out their full human potential. To this end, ASSID would encourage DSPs from across Australia and New Zealand to come together with the view to forming a professional association, to support their own education, training, professional and ethical development. ♦

Copies of 'the Code' are available for purchase from the ASSID Secretariat, PO Box 84, ROSANNA, Victoria, Australia, 3084; [www.assid.org.au](http://www.assid.org.au).

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## Queensland

by Hamish Millard

After a restful, if somewhat wet Christmas, the ASSID-Queensland Committee met for a planning day on 19 January. A number of exciting initiatives were discussed and we look forward to implementing these in 2008. We spent considerable time discussing options for increasing professional development opportunities within regional areas. Two related options we will be investigating further are those of video-conferenced sessions, and "the traveling circus". The latter involves regional presentations of videoed key-note speakers, accompanied by panel discussions and facilitated discussion. We will continue to investigate these concepts and report back later in the year.

Later this year we will also be introducing a program of "site visits", in which ASSID members will take turns hosting informal visits, and use the opportunity to promote their work to a wider audience. Wine and cheese will, of course, be optional. Stay tuned for more detailed information in the next IDA issue.

Many IDA readers would be aware of the recent "Carter Report". Activities following from this report continue to gather momentum, including the commencement of recruitment processes for key positions, and the announcement that The University of Queensland will host the "Centre of Excellence for Behaviour Support" at its Ipswich campus.

ASSID Queensland held its Annual General Meeting on 02 October. At the AGM, the Committee welcomed Janene Suttie and Madonna Tueker to the roles of state president and vice president respectively. Jodie Brownlee took on the role of state secretary, Lisa Fraser and Paul Grevell accepted roles as national board members, and Lyn McPherson has accepted the role as state treasurer. Hamish Millard, Chris Montgomery and Karen Grogan complete the formally appointed committee. The committee farewelled Lesley Chenoweth and Ron Jaochim, and will sadly miss their presence.

The AGM was followed by a dinner with Gary Lavigna, which was well attended by 66 people. The committee looks forward to organising further themed dinners in 2008.

That is all for this edition. We look forward to updating you on our progress again next time.

## Tasmania

by Craig Jones

Following our successful Celebrating Support Workers conference in October 2007 we have been able to have a little relaxation time but have still managed to conduct our regional meetings, albeit with reduced numbers due to holidays, Christmas parties and the like.

We have our Planning Day scheduled for 10 March 2008 and one of our main focuses will be on the preparations for our 2008 Celebrating Support Workers Conference which this year is to be a two day event.

Preparations are also continuing for the 44th ASSID Conference being held in Hobart in 2009. For those of you

who attended either the 42nd ASSID Conference in Fremantle or the DSW Conference in Melbourne, you would have received a bookmark with details about the conference. For those of you who weren't able to attend these conferences, our theme is Power and Passion: Progress through Partnerships and I would encourage everyone to start planning their presentations now. Darryleen Wiggins and myself are the Co-conveners for the conference and our organising committee are committed to ensuring we make the conference successful and memorable.



region

## Western Australia

by Chris Coopes

The 42nd ASSID National Conference was held in Fremantle between 5th and 7th November 2007. It was a huge success with well over 600 people attending.

There is a separate article about the Conference elsewhere in this edition of IDA.

ASSID WA hosted a breakfast for WA presenters on the last day of the conference to thank everyone for their support, and encourage interest in the branch activities for the coming year.

We have just published the first edition of the electronic newsletter of ASSID WA under the title "Tuning In". The rationale was to share information with local members in a timely way. Our aim is to produce several newsletters over the next twelve months. Our thanks to Jill Mackenzie and Sue Peden for compiling the newsletter and to Nulsen Haven ( a non government organisation with a representative on the State Council ) for formatting the newsletter .

In January instead of our normal Council meeting we held a special meeting to review the WA Strategic Plan to assist with our progress in 2008.

Planning has already started for the 2008 ASSID WA State Conference which is tentatively planned for August.

There has also been some initial planning for the next IDNetwork forum which is planned for April.

## Victoria

by Daniel Pennefather

Having just had a very successful strategic planning day, the Victoria region committee is confident that we have a plan for the next three years that aligns with our mission, our board and our members. The plan is in draft form at the moment, but will be available to members soon.

Sheridan Forster recently resigned from the position of Secretary, but will stay on the committee and Australasian Board. We thank Sheridan very much for her time and dedication over several years of work as Secretary, and warmly

update

welcome Paul Tomazewski to act in the role. Good luck filling those shoes Paul!

With the Australasian conference being held in Melbourne this year, in the same week as the Disability Support Worker (DSW) Conference, the committee is well into preparations. The call for papers has gone out for the Australasian conference, while an analysis of the feedback from the last DSW conference has been developed. This feedback is being used in planning both upcoming conferences, and is available on the website. These conferences are expected to book to capacity, so be sure to get your registration in early if you would like to attend. See the ASSID website for details.

## South Australia

by Richard O'Loughlin

Although we have not held an event since our AGM held in conjunction with the Loneliness and Isolation forum in October 2007, the SA committee has met and several activities are underway along with planning for a number of events in 2008.

A communiqué summarising the issues raised at the Loneliness and Isolation forum has been drafted and circulated for consultation. We are currently producing our final draft that will then be sent to various agencies, organisations, decision makers and individuals of influence in the area of intellectual disability for their consideration (as well as those who participated in the forum along with our SA /NT membership.) We will also submit this document to the magazine in the hope that the editor will want to publish it. This shall all happen soon.

The next event we are planning for will involve co-hosting a workshop with the South Australian Council on Intellectual Disability (SACID). This workshop will involve a presentation by Simon Duffy from Edinburgh in the UK presenting on self determination and self managed funds. For more information check the following websites:

[www.paradigm-uk.org/selfdetermination.html](http://www.paradigm-uk.org/selfdetermination.html)  
[www.wellbeingandchoice.org.uk/link2IndBudgets.htm](http://www.wellbeingandchoice.org.uk/link2IndBudgets.htm)

Although not confirmed, it is expected that this event will occur in February (and will probably have already have occurred by the time this magazine goes to print).

We are also planning for a session later in the year with the Executive Director of Disability SA, asking her to discuss her vision for people with disabilities in our community.

We have other ideas that we are working on – including the need to engage with our membership in the Northern Territory.

Any thoughts ideas or comments from our membership are always welcome. Contact me at [richardoloughlin@bigpond.com](mailto:richardoloughlin@bigpond.com)

## New South Wales & ACT

By Tina Purdon

There has been much activity regarding ASSID in NSW since the last edition of the newsletter.

The Fremantle conference dinner was not only a great night, but also provided the opportunity to speak with Olive Webb and get the ball rolling. The next day Ron Joachim became involved and as they say 'the rest is history'.

A meeting on January 16th at Parramatta, was attended by 11 enthusiastic participants and ASSID NSW was reborn!

We welcome the new NSW President – Tony Harman, Secretary – Dennis Robson and thank Trish Wetton for continuing as Treasurer.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank Tony Tinlin and Jennifer Avery – outgoing President and Secretary for their efforts to date with the NSW branch of ASSID.

Tony attended the January meeting and had a wealth of information and ideas for all present.

We would also like to thank Ron Joachim for his efforts in co-ordinating and attending the meeting, sharing his experiences with ASSID in Qld and knowledge of ASSID in general.



**Back LtoR: Tina Purdon, Trish Wetton, Sheila Frater, Tony Tinlin, Dennis Robson, Jean McCardle, Tony Harman, Ron Joachim.**



**Seated LtoR: Miriana Gazivoda, Michele Wiese, Linda Ward.**

**Dennis Robson, Trish Wetton, Tony Harman**

The new team at ASSID NSW has some great plans for 2008. Meeting dates have been set and we are organising a One Day Event for May (tentative date is Friday 16th), which will be the first of many great events to be staged in NSW over the next few years!

The May event is planned to focus on information relevant to service provision in NSW and topics will aim to attract people employed in disability and related services at all levels. The event will also aim to raise awareness of ASSID within the state with a view to increasing membership numbers. Further information will be forwarded to all States as soon as it is available.

## New Zealand

Not available at time of going to press ♦

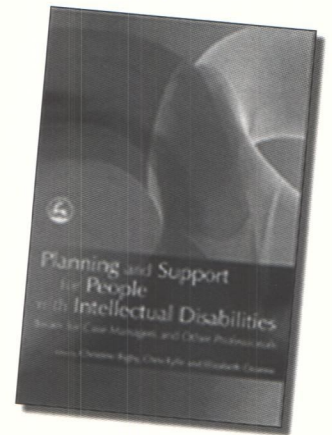
# Planning and Support for People with Intellectual Disabilities: Issues for case managers and other professionals

*Bigby, C., Fyffe, C. & Ozanne, E. (Eds.) (2007)*

Sydney: UNSW Press.

*Review by Jayne Clapton PhD*

School of Human Services, Logan Campus, Griffith University,  
University Drive. Meadowbrook. 4131 J.Clapton@griffith.edu.au



As the title of this edited book suggests, activities involving planning and support for people with intellectual disabilities raise many issues. How case managers and other professionals negotiate and navigate such issues in contemporary practices is significant, not only for the implementation of good practice, but more importantly, to seek good outcomes for people with intellectual disabilities. However, whilst such imperatives for achievement may appear to be self-evident, the various contributions of this book suggest otherwise. The attainment of good practice seemingly may not be straightforward due to a range of considerations, many of which are outlined within the various chapters; but the consequences of a lack of good outcomes for people with intellectual disabilities would be notably concerning for many who read this book. The editors and contributing authors are to be congratulated for highlighting the complexities of the issues; and offering their works to provoke further exploration, deliberation and research about these topics.

The book indicates how planning and support for people with intellectual disabilities are provided through many guises. Case management, care management, person centred planning, family centred planning, futures planning, lifestyle planning and individualised planning are but a few examples that are explored. Furthermore, the various authors highlight how such activities are negotiated in a complex context where considerations about individuality, autonomy, self determination, independence, freedom, choice and rights are considered, often in tension, with notions of a collective good, dependency, competing rights, duty of care, risk management, organisational policies and distribution of, and access to resources. Other significant considerations also include the impact of neo-liberalism, the nature and manifestation of power in professional relationships, and issues about the quality of professional knowledge and inherent skills and abilities for communicative, collaborative and inclusive practices. As commonly discussed throughout the book, a challenge is to not only create good practices, but also to develop sustainable principles of practices, often for and with people whose lives can be complicated, unpredictable and subject to the particularities of specific transitions across a life

course. Where case managers and other professionals fail to achieve these goals, people with intellectual disabilities and their families may suffer. Accounts of professional failure need to be heard, and some of these are presented to the readers. Therefore, a strength that this book offers is the opportunity given for practitioners to learn from the insights provided by the range of contributors, and, for case managers and other professionals to take these insights and utilise them in reflective professional processes that may lead to improvement.

It is useful then to look at the specific examples within the text. Complexity is a common theme across the book presented in 18 chapters. Although not stated, the contents can be clustered according to specific themes.

Christine Bigby, Chris Fyffe and Elizabeth Ozanne introduce the readers with an overview of the changing nature of case management over the past few decades in functional, structural and procedural terms. In Chapters 1 to 6, the reader is presented with contextual considerations that may initiate, facilitate or complicate case management practices. Bigby highlights how the various forms of case management have been influenced by changes in practices for people with intellectual disability resulting in different purposes, goals and policies. Fyffe presents how various understandings of intellectual disability also may contribute to a need for more than one best practice model of case management, a view that is not readily sought by proponents of case management within disciplinary practices. How the tension of risk management and safety issues is addressed and shared with the protection of rights and the establishment of trust is outlined by David Green and David Sykes. When Lesley Gough asks the reader to walk a day in her shoes and share the frustration of an inability to undertake the best possible practice wished for, the complexity of practice issues, along with affecting constraints, are painfully portrayed. Tim Stainton identifies inherent conflicts in case management processes when the rights of people with intellectual disability are impacted by professionals who also control the distribution of resources; hence asserting that there needs to be defined separation between planning and resource distribution in order to protect people's rights. Estelle Fyfe contends that for effective, coherent and

holistic case management to occur, case managers need to undertake collaborative planning and educative roles across organisations and sectors, in formal and informal contexts, to ensure both value coherency and sustainability.

Chapters 7 to 11 then present readers with challenges facing people with intellectual disability and their families to experience effective case management, especially when case managers and agencies do not adequately encompass the experiences of people with intellectual disability and/or their families. Gordon Grant and Paul Ramcharan indicate the tensions that occur when care management practices actually disempower families rather than empower them, although practice rhetoric suggests otherwise. They highlight how attending to structural challenges will remain elusive, whilst policies and practice systems fail to coherently support empowerment. Marie Knox's chapter provides an insightful account from a parent's perspective to illustrate the constraints of case management practices when services fail to appreciate tensions that parents experience in terms of involvement or non-involvement in decision making across their son's or daughter's life course as parents negotiate care and concern with self-determination and autonomy. In the narrated chapter by Margaret Flynn and Peter Flynn, such non-appreciation led directly to experiences of abusive consequences when practitioners and systems simply disregarded respect for Peter's well being, instead prioritising inappropriate and coercive practices that denied family knowledge and participation. The writers ask significant questions of care management systems that result in increased vulnerability and failure to listen to concerns that are raised. Colin Hiscoe, with Kelley Johnson, also asks questions about case management systems and practitioners who do not, or cannot, deliver what people with intellectual disability want, that is, to 'be there' for the person. As a possible positive case management framework, Margaret Spencer and Gwynnyth Llewellyn advocate for a collaborative case management approach that they highlight is beneficial for parents with intellectual disabilities. In contrast to traditional case management which involves assessment, implementation and evaluation, collaborative case management is dynamic and flexible, facilitating case managers to respond to unpredictability and to work with parents and others to achieve shared understandings of good outcomes.

How case management is practised to enhance people's lives is the focus of chapters 12 to 16. Gary Lavigna and Thomas Willis highlight how case management is more challenging when people's intellectual disability is associated with biopsychosocial disorders. The need for comprehensive case management practices that contribute

to a better a quality of life is outlined, as are the relevant steps by which to achieve this, such as those that focus on comprehensive assessment; evaluation of outcomes; multi-element planning; crisis management, monitoring and evaluation; along with the development of objective standards by which to determine good quality. Importantly, Lavigna and Willis highlight how a failure to apply such a comprehensive case management approach with such people will most likely result in inadequate and ineffective support. The importance of friendship in the lives of young people with intellectual disability is highlighted by Brenda Burgen and Christine Bigby. They contest that case managers need to be alert to the needs associated with a young person's social and emotional development; and to facilitate adequate opportunities for friendship in case management processes. Bigby also implores case managers to be aware of transitional needs as people with intellectual disability and their families age; and to be responsive to senses of security, belonging, continuity, purpose, achievement and significance. Supporting communication as a role of the case manager is the focus of a chapter by Susan Balandin, who asserts that good communication is a key component contributing to a good quality of life and hence needs to be encompassed in case management activities. Philip Graves contends that in order to achieve good quality health care for people with intellectual disability, access to health services needs to take place within mainstream health systems which seemingly continue to remain unprepared for the inclusion of such people; resulting in an ongoing challenge for people's rights to be fulfilled.

The book concludes with chapters 17 and 18 that explore the efficacy and evaluation of case management practices. In the context of supporting children and their families, Susana Gavidia-Payne highlights how case management is characterised by inconsistent practices that inadequately account for childhood issues, and proposes that conceptual and definitional differences contribute to the resulting practice variability. Practitioner understanding of this complex context is presented as paramount if effective case management is to occur; and Gavidia-Payne provides strong rationale for the pursuit of these goals in practice. In the final chapter, Janet Robertson and Eric Emerson present a review of evaluative research on the outcomes of case management for people with intellectual disability, contesting that whilst there is a paucity of such research, there is also emerging evidence that lifestyle planning, particularly person-centred planning, can have effective results. However, the writers warn that planning itself may not necessarily result in increased experiences of inclusion to be experienced in social relationships and employment.

*continued page 14*



expression of interest  
Board Representative  
**International Association  
for the Scientific Study of Intellectual  
Disability (IASSID)**

**E**xpressions of interest are called for an ASSID member to represent the Society on the IASSID board commencing in August 2008.

The ASSID representative to IASSID is appointed by the ASSID Board. They may hold a co-existing position as a Regional Representative, but will hold an ex-officio position on the Board of ASSID during the designated term of office.

Consistent with the objectives of IASSID, the ASSID representative will be a person actively engaged in scholarly activity such as research, publication and teaching. Typically the representative will hold an academic post at a university. In line with the membership cycle of the IASSID Council, the ASSID representative to IASSID is appointed for a term of four (4) years.

**Note** - While some limited funding is available to support the IASSID representative, it is expected that the representative will be responsible for funding their own airfares and other expenses related to IASSID. It is anticipated that by co-ordinating attendance at IASSID meetings with attendance at conferences and workshops attended during the course of their usual work-related activities the out of pocket expenses of the position will be minimal. The representative will be required to attend international board meetings, which are usually timed to coincide with IASSID Conferences and Seminars.

Funding to support their attendance at ASSID Board meetings is provided.

The ASSID representative to IASSID will:

- Be the identified point of contact between ASSID and IASSID.
- Attend IASSID Board Meetings on an annual basis.
- Negotiate with IASSID for shared funding of the position of IASSID Council Representative.

- Attend meetings of the ASSID Board (bi-monthly teleconferences, and twice yearly face to face meetings, including the Australasian Conference).
- Provide the ASSID Board with regular reports of IASSID activities, together with a projected budget.
- Participate in meetings of the ASSID Executive and other relevant Board sub-committees.
- Actively promote ASSID including providing regular contributions for the IASSID Newsletter (usually 2 to 3 times per year), featuring ASSID activities.
- Co-ordinate conferences and other events to maximise collaboration between ASSID and IASSID.
- Identify and advance opportunities for inter-organisational membership benefits such as discounted attendance at conferences etc.
- Monitor and take action to ensure currency of Web linkages between ASSID and IASSID.

The successful applicant will be committed to attendance at the 13th IASSID World Congress in South Africa from 25th to 30th August 2008.

Expressions of interest will be evaluated by the ASSID executive and recommendations made for appointment in May 2008. Applicants may be invited for a telephone interview to assist the selection process.

Applicants are invited to submit a covering letter and a copy of their curriculum vitae ( e-mail preferred) to;

**Attention Registrar,  
ASSID Secretariat,  
PO Box 84 Rosanna,  
Vic. 3084 Australia  
assid.national@bigpond.com**

CLOSING DATE FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IS:  
24TH APRIL 2008.

## Planning and Support

*continued from page 13*

In conclusion then, this book provides a contemporary account of case management practices with people with intellectual disability. The complexity of understandings, the inadequacy of practices and the ways that case management can be applied are comprehensively presented. However, inasmuch as the book offers to fill a void of

knowledge in this area, it also exposes significant gaps remaining in need of attention in order for people with intellectual disability to have good qualities of life when in relationship with service systems. It is hoped, then, that this book will provide a springboard for further analysis.

◆

# 2007 ASSID Awards

## Fellows of the Australasian Society for the Study of Intellectual Disability.

*In 2005 the ASSID Board introduced a new category of membership, to honour longstanding members of the association.*

*The award of a Fellowship of ASSID recognises the member's exceptional and significant contribution to the field of intellectual disability. Their contribution will have been in one or more of the following areas:*

- *Research,*
- *Service provision (including service development or improvement, administration),*
- *Advocacy and/or self-advocacy,*
- *Professional practice, and*
- *Teaching and staff training.*

*In 2007 ASSID is proud to honour the following two recipients of the award:*



**Dr Anne Bray**

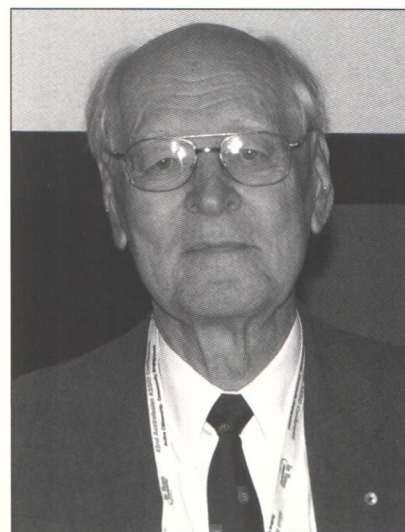
Dr. Anne Bray has made an exceptional and significant contribution to the field of intellectual disability both in New Zealand and internationally as teacher and researcher with a particular focus on inclusive education and the legal, health and ethical issues affecting people with intellectual disabilities.

In 1984, Anne was appointed as Assistant Director of the N.Z. Institute of Mental Retardation Inc. (now known as the Donald Beasley Institute). In 1986, Anne became Director of this Institute, a position she held until July 2007 and she continues to work part-time as a Professorial Research Fellow. In 2000, Anne was appointed part-time senior Research Fellow, Health Sciences at University of Otago and she continues this association today in the role of Research Associate Professor.

During her career, Anne has been involved in research and publications covering a wide range of topics and issues

affecting the lives of people with intellectual disability. Anne was co-author of *Disability and the Law* (2001) published by the New Zealand Law Society and participated in a nation wide project to train lawyers and other interested parties in aspects of current legislation impacting on the lives of people with intellectual disabilities

Throughout her distinguished career, Anne has been in demand as a keynote presenter at numerous conferences and has presented on a wide range of issues to government policy analysts and disability and parent support groups. Anne is noted for her passionate advocacy on behalf of people with disability, the clarity of her vision and her ability to inspire others.



**Dr Guy Hamilton OA**

Dr Hamilton was a pioneer in the development of services to people with disabilities. Over a period of 40 years he led a revolution in the culture of

*continued page 16*

care of people with intellectual disabilities, moving from a medical, institution-based model of custodial care to one of social development, education and skills training, and community participation. In the 1960s he oversaw the development of alternative models of accommodation and care, and supervised the shifting of more than 400 people with intellectual disabilities out of mental hospitals in Western Australia into more appropriate community based hostels and group homes, a process taking some 20 years and facing considerable political opposition.

Guy was responsible for the creation and training of the first 'Disability Support Professionals', known as 'Social Trainers' to provide developmental skills and community participation training for people with disabilities, based on the principles of Social Role Valorisation.

He intervened to stop the placement of babies and children with intellectual disabilities in mental institutions for a lifetime of inertia, and instead oversaw the development of early childhood intervention services for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities

When he retired in the mid 1980s Dr Hamilton left a radically transformed but well-established paradigm where the rights, well-being and opportunities for community participation for people with intellectual disability are safeguarded

Guy is a founder member of OGSOM the forerunner of ASSID, and has always had a strong commitment to the education, research and learning of people working in the field of intellectual disability. ♦

## Media Award 2007

The media award for 2007 was awarded to **Natasha Johnson**.

Natasha received the award for her positive and sensitive reporting on a story about Gerard and Tracy Zapelli, a

couple with intellectual and physical disabilities, and their struggle to marry and share their lives together.

To see the full report go to:

[www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2007/s2042963.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2007/s2042963.htm)

IDA's front page features Natasha and the team (**Steven Baras-Miller**, Editor, and **Vince Tucci**, Cameraman) at the 7.30 Report ABC, with **Gerard Zapelli** who presented Natasha with her award. ♦

## ASSID Student Research Award 2007

The recipient of the 2007 student award is **Ms Allyson Thomson**.

Allyson is a PhD candidate at the School of Exercise, Biomedical and Sport Sciences at Edith Cowan University, Western Australia

The award will assist in addressing 'Family and community-based studies of major syndromes causing intellectual disability', including Prader- Willi and Angelman's syndromes. ♦

## Australasian Research Prize 2007

(for a paper published in JIDD during 2007 and judged to be the most innovative contribution by an Australasian author/s resulting in positive life changes for people with an intellectual disability):

Awarded to:

**Fiona Rillotta & Ted Nettelbeck**

for their paper titled

**"Effects of an awareness program on attitudes of students without an intellectual disability towards persons with an intellectual disability"**

(JIDD Volume 32, Issue 1) ♦

## JIDD Editor's Prize 2007

(for the paper judged to be the most outstanding contribution among all papers published in JIDD throughout 2007)

Awarded to:

**Yona Lunsky, Jan Frijters, Dorothy M. Griffiths, Shelley L. Watson & Stephanie Willison**

for their paper titled

**"Sexual knowledge and attitudes of men with intellectual disability who sexually offend"**

(JIDD Volume 32, Issue 2) ♦

# 13th IASSID World Congress

Cape Town, South Africa

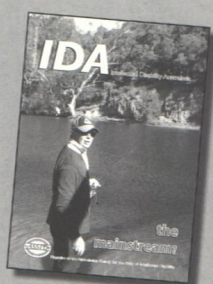
25th – 30th August 2008

## Opportunity for ASSID members to attend the 13th IASSID World Congress at IASSID member rates!!

ASSID's IASSID representative, on behalf of the ASSID Board, has negotiated a special deal for all categories of ASSID Members, who can now register for the 2008 World Congress at the IASSID Members' Rate.

You MUST include the word "ASSID" AND your ASSID MEMBERSHIP NUMBER on the IASSID on-line registration form at the box that says "Organisation / Society". If, for other purposes (e.g., postage) you need to include the name of your employing organisation, you can insert this underneath, into the Address field. Only forms which include your ASSID Registration Number will be accepted.

*For registration and further information: [www.iassid.org](http://www.iassid.org)*



expression of interest  
EDITOR

## Intellectual Disability Australasia

4 Year Term

Expressions of interest are invited for the honorary position of Editor for the official magazine of the Australasian Society for the Study of Intellectual Disability (ASSID) – IDA

The Editor is an ex-officio member of the ASSID National Council and, in addition to participation in teleconferences and the annual mid-year meeting, attends the ASSID Annual National Conference.

National Council provides financial support to cover out of pocket expenses including conference registration, air fares, and some incidental expenses.

The Editor, in conjunction with other ASSID members, is responsible for attracting and editing articles, book reviews, conference reports, advertising, and regional reports, as well as writing quarterly editorials.

An editorial assistant provides administrative support, and the publications sub-committee of ASSID National Council provides advice and support as required.

*For further information contact*

*Richard O'Loughlin: [richardoloughlin@bigpond.com](mailto:richardoloughlin@bigpond.com)*

*Expressions of Interest are sought immediately via -*

*email: [assid.national@bigpond.com](mailto:assid.national@bigpond.com)*

*OR*

*post: ASSID National Secretariat,  
PO Box 84 Rosanna Vic 3084 Australia*

Your expression of interest should include: a brief summary of the reasons for your interest, previous experience within the field of intellectual disability, and previous experience in publication and/or journalism in a volunteer or professional capacity.

Demonstrated proficiency in written communication is essential.

Enthusiasm, a commitment to team work, an ability to set and meet goals, and an interest in ASSID and its objectives are considered essential.

Previous experience in publishing/journalism is an advantage but not a requirement.

On taking up the position of IDA Editor, membership of ASSID is a requirement.

# meet the board

## Australasian Executive

Australasian President	Dr	Olive	Webb	owebb@iahs.com
Australasian Vice President	Mr	Richard	O'Loughlin	richardoloughlin@bigpond.com or richard.oloughlin@dfc.sa.gov.au
Australasian Secretary	Ms	Darryleen	Wiggins	diggins@montagucommunityliving.net.au
Australasian Treasurer	Mr	Glen	Jose	Glen.Jose@dhs.vic.gov.au
Australasian Registrar	Dr	Angus	Buchanan	angus.buchanan@dsc.wa.gov.au
Journal Editor	Dr	Roger	Stancliffe	rogerst@med.usyd.edu.au
Magazine Editor	Ms	Sue	Peden	susan.peden@dsc.wa.gov.au
IASSID Rep	Dr	Keith	McVilly	keith.mcvilly@rmit.edu.au
Conference Convenor 2008	Ms	Karen	Nankervis	karen.nankervis@rmit.edu.au
Conference Convenors 2009	Mr	Craig	Jones	craig.jones@startas.org
	Ms	Darryleen	Wiggins	diggins@montagucommunityliving.net.au

## NSW & ACT Councillors

	Mr	Tony	Harman	tonyharman@med.usyd.edu.au
	Ms	Patricia	Wetton	Forsight@bigpond.com

## VIC Councillors

	Ms	Sheridan	Forster	Sheridan.Forster@med.monash.edu.au
	Mr	Glen	Jose	Glen.Jose@dhs.vic.gov.au
	Mr	Sam	Murray	sam.murray@yooralla.com.au

## QLD Councillors

	Ms	Lisa	Fraser	lfraser@bne.catholic.net.au
	Mr	Paul	Grevell	pgrevell@disability.qld.gov.au

## SA & NT Councillors

	Mr	Richard	O'Loughlin	richardoloughlin@bigpond.com or richard.oloughlin@dfc.sa.gov.au
	Mr	Peter	Rankine	Peter.rankine@dfc.sa.gov.au
	Ms	Ruth	Davey	ruthd@barkuma.com.au

## WA Councillors

	Dr	Angus	Buchanan	angus.buchanan@dsc.wa.gov.au
	Ms	Jill	McKenzie	jill.mackenzie@dsc.wa.gov.au
	Mr	Chris	Coopes	ccoopes@bigpond.net.au or christopher.coopes@dsc.wa.gov.au

## TAS Councillors

	Mr	Craig	Jones	craig.jones@startas.org
	Ms	Darryleen	Wiggins	diggins@montagucommunityliving.net.au
	Ms	Libby	Richardson	erichardson@lwb.org.au

## New Zealand Councillors

	Dr	Olive	Webb	owebb@iahs.com
	Ms	Sharon	Brandford	sharon.brandford@idea.org.nz
	Mr	Adrian	Higgins	adrian@cct.org.nz

## upcoming events

14 - 15 April 2008	<p><b>24th Annual Pacific Rim Conference on Disabilities</b> at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel &amp; Resort, Honolulu, Hawaii. Further information at <a href="http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/">http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/</a></p>
12-15 May 2008	<p><b>Inclusive learning Technologies Conference</b> to be held in Surfers Paradise. For more information : <a href="http://www.adcet.edu.au">http://www.adcet.edu.au</a></p>
14 - 15 May 2008	<p><b>Every Child Matters: National Conference on Children and Young People with Disability and Their Families</b> to be held in Melbourne. Hosted by National Disability Services and Families Australia. Further information at <a href="http://www.nds.org.au/conferences/CYF2008/home.htm">http://www.nds.org.au/conferences/CYF2008/home.htm</a></p>
4 - 6 June 2008	<p><b>ACE Annual Disability Employment Network Conference</b> to be held in Canberra. Further information at <a href="http://www.acenational.org.au">http://www.acenational.org.au</a></p>
25 - 30 Aug 2008	<p><b>International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities (IASSID)</b> <i>will be holding its 13th World Congress</i> in Cape Town, South Africa. Information available from <a href="http://www.iassid.org">www.iassid.org</a>.</p>
29 - 30 Sept 2008	<p><b>Australian Disability and Development Consortium International Conference</b> to be held in Canberra. Further information from <a href="http://ww.addc.org.au">http://ww.addc.org.au</a></p>
3 - 6 Oct 2008	<p><b>Early Childhood Australia Biennial Conference</b> To be held in Canberra. Further information <a href="http://www.ecaconference.com.au/">http://www.ecaconference.com.au/</a></p>
23 - 25 Oct 2008	<p><b>Early Childhood Intervention Australia Biennial Conference</b> to be held in Sydney. Further information <a href="http://www.ecia.org.au/">http://www.ecia.org.au/</a></p>
24 - 26 Nov 2008	<p><b>Principles, Policies &amp; Practices: The Search for Evidence. 43rd ASSID Conference</b> to be held in Melbourne. For information email <a href="mailto:assidconference08@rmit.edu.au">assidconference08@rmit.edu.au</a> or visit the ASSID website <a href="http://www.assid.org.au">www.assid.org.au</a> and click on ASSID 08 conference link.</p>



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NOVEMBER 24-26 2008

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Website: [www.assid.org.au](http://www.assid.org.au). Click on ASSID 08 conference link

Ph: 61 3 9925 7899 Fax: 61 3 9925 7303

Convenor: Associate Professor Karen Nankervis