



# DIVISION REPORT

**JUNE 2019**

## **Queensland**

It has been a busy few months for the committee members. Morrie O'Connor and Paul O'Dea travelled to Sydney to assist with the launch of the ASID Position Statement 'Intellectual Disabilities and Complex Support Needs' being held at the University of Sydney. Paul co-chaired the launch with Laura Hogan. Morrie participated in a panel discussion responding to the position paper.

Morrie has also been leading the organisation of an event coming up later this month. On 21st June 2019, ASID QLD is supporting a Community Living Association (CLA) and Peakcare Roundtable on Young People with Intellectual or Cognitive Disabilities and Complex Needs: Understanding and Supporting Transition. The event is being held in New Farm, Brisbane. The guest speakers are Professor Leanne Dowse, Dr Kathy Ellem, and Self Advocates. They will be discussing and promoting the ASID position paper mentioned above and their Lost in Transition research project. For further information or to RSVP for this Roundtable by contacting CLA on 07 32665633 or [reception@communityliving.org.au](mailto:reception@communityliving.org.au). You can also check [this link](#) for further information.

[www.qcoss.org.au/events/roundtable-young-people-with-intellectual-or-cognitive-disabilities-and-complex-support-needs-understanding-and-supporting-transition/](http://www.qcoss.org.au/events/roundtable-young-people-with-intellectual-or-cognitive-disabilities-and-complex-support-needs-understanding-and-supporting-transition/)

## **Victoria Tucker**

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## **Victoria**

### *Brief Update*

There have been a few changes to the Vic ASID committee in recent months. We warmly welcome Angela Dew to our committee. Angela recently moved to Melbourne to take up a position at Deakin University. Angela has kindly stepped into the role of Board Representative for us. Our long serving committee member, Sophia Tipping has tendered her resignation. Sophia on our joined in us in 2015 as we prepared for the "Making It Real Together" ASID conference. During her time on the committee she brought the ASID podcasts to life, recruited new members to ASID and helped out in various committee roles including the position of Victorian Board Representative. We wish Sophia well for her new career and completion of her PhD. Sophia will continue to help ASID with recording podcasts and hopefully for the next conference in Adelaide with a talking booth. We had a great send off dinner for Sophia at the La Trobe Golf Club on the 23rd May.



New Vic ASID committee member, Richard Zylan has kindly volunteered for the position of membership officer for our committee. We welcomed a visit to our April committee meeting from Hille who is in Melbourne on a study tour from the Netherlands. We also welcomed Nicola Grove from the UK to introduce us to Storysharing® an innovative, evidence based, collaborative approach to helping children and adults with intellectual and communication difficulties to recall and share stories about their lives. [www.openstorytellers.org.uk/what-we-do/storysharing/](http://www.openstorytellers.org.uk/what-we-do/storysharing/). This workshop was organised by Scope (Aust) in conjunction with ASID Vic and Living with Disability Research Centre, La Trobe University. We had 17 attendees with 13 attending for the whole day and becoming licensed tutors in storysharing. Please [see article X](#) for more details.

With the recent changes to our committee, it has made me pause to reflect on the value of the contributions made by each and every person who joins the committee. Sometimes it is hard to see this at the ground level. However, the knowledge and skills that each committee member brings, enables ASID to thrive and develop. Thank you to everyone for all that you bring to the table.

### End of life workshop

Our year is well underway with preparations for our upcoming workshop on End of life and people with disabilities. Michelle Wiese will be presenting the workshop. We are looking forward to her visit to the eastern suburbs of Melbourne. The event is scheduled for 26th June.

### Coral Farr

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## New South Wales / Australian Capital Territory

By: Bernadette Curryer & Sarah Wagstaff

### *Farewell to Angela Dew*

Since the last issue of IDA, ASID NSW/ACT have said farewell to our Chair, Dr Angela Dew, who has accepted an Associate Professor Disability and Inclusion position at Deakin University in Melbourne. We are all sad to see Angela go, but wish her all the best and look forward to catching up at this year's ASID Conference. While our new Chair, Linda Ward, has big shoes to fill, we are confident that ASID NSW/ACT will continue to be a robust group engaging in exciting projects and activities.



*Angela Dew,  
Exiting NSW Chair*

### *Disability Scholars Connect*

One such exciting project was identified at ASID NSW/ACT's planning day as a way to engage with new and emerging researchers. Thanks to generous funding from ASID's board, our division has been able to support a new initiative led by research students from UNSW, Sydney University and UTS called Disability Scholars Connect. This group is running a series of events to support students, from any university or faculty, as they undertake research with a disability focus. The first event was held on the 15th May, at UNSW, with over 20 attendees, half of whom expressed a specific interest in intellectual disability. The afternoon included a chance for students to connect based on research topic as well as stage of candidature. Three guest speakers then spoke to the group about their own experiences of 'Knowledge Mobilisation'.

- Dr Kathryn Boydell spoke about an innovative study of young people experiencing psychosis, in which art-based methods were used to create, translate and disseminate research results (partnership between The Black Dog Institute and NIDA)
- Michele Wiese described her experiences during and post-PhD, identifying the importance of mentorship and having a passion for your topic. She spoke of one outcome of her research, a free web-based resource for supporting people with intellectual disability to understand and plan for end-of-life (Talking End of Life - [www.caresearch.com.au/TEL](http://www.caresearch.com.au/TEL)).
- Julie from the Diversity Disability Alliance spoke of the importance of peer mentoring and her experiences from a CALD perspective.
- Two more events are planned — a structured writing day at UTS in July and a session at Sydney University towards the end of the year focussed on developing post-PhD pathways and connections towards academic, disability service provision or government policy positions.



*Sallie-Anne Moad (PhD student from UNSW) as MC*



*Students discussing their different areas of research*

### **Other Events**

The day after the inaugural Disability Scholars Connect event, many of our members attended the launch of ASID's position paper on people with intellectual disability and complex support needs, which was a huge success.

### **Linda Ward**

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## South Australia

We are busy preparing for the ASID Conference being held in Adelaide in November but had time to run an event in March and one scheduled for the 25th June.

Our first event for the year was held on March 13th.

*Learn about a well-researched Therapeutic Accommodation Support model using a Human Rights Framework, contribute to a discussion on success support models, enjoy a light meal and a glass of wine with like-minded people.*

Over 40 people attended the event and there was a great deal of interest particularly how the model is being funded in the NDIS framework.

One of the identified issues with NDIS is the compartmentalisation and transactional view of funding. For those with complex needs a more fluid approach is required.

Although it is early days Community Living Options (CLO) are having some success in having their model of support funded. This has taken significant negotiating and has been assisted by the support of the Chief Psychiatrist.

Those that attended the event supported the idea of inviting Dr David Caudrey to participate in an event. Dr Caudrey is the Disability Advocate to support NDIS implementation in South Australia. Dr Caudrey has a long history working in the disability sector, having held positions including Executive Director of Disability SA and CEO of Novita Children's Services. The Advocate is independent of disability service delivery, with responsibility to identify and improve any systemic issues as a result of the disability reform process, including the introduction of the NDIS.

Members felt there would be value in hearing Dr Caudrey's findings so far in relation to those living with an intellectual disability and to provide him with feedback.

At this event we will also be discussing the ASID Position Paper Intellectual Disability and Complex Support Needs.

### Denice Wharldall

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## Aotearoa, New Zealand

The Aotearoa New Zealand Division met by Zoom May 27 2019. Discussion was centred around plans for New Zealand hosting the Australasian event late 2020. Two of our division members, Hamish Taverner and Rickardt van Dyk agreed to promote ASID's profile at the New Zealand Disability Providers (NZDSN) network conference held in Wellington on May 29 & May 30 2019. Hamish and Rickardt represented us well as the attached photo illustrates. We are sure their efforts will attract new members and increase attendance at the Adelaide 2019 conference and at the Australasian conference to be held in New Zealand next year. Two of our committee members Dr. Brigit Mirfin -Veitch and Dr Carey- Ann Morrison gave papers at the NZDSN conference. The four working groups tasked with the portfolios of communication, family, whanau and people with intellectual disability, events and partnerships all reported on activities at the recent Zoom meeting in May. The Division is meeting again at the end of July and the 2020 Conference themes will be decided by then.

### Debbie Espiner

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