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Welcome to the March edition of IDA Magazine

It was slow and sad start to the year with bushfires and floods taking a lot of members energies and we wish them the best to get through the coming year. It's a brand new year and the first edition of IDA is ready to go. We are starting the year with a focus on oral health. Oral health is often rated low in priority yet it is vital for our overall health ([page 5](#)). The Victorian ASID committee co-hosted an oral health seminar with representatives from the Australian Society of Special Care in Dentistry and Deakin University and the cover page shows Dr Helen Marchant one of the dentists presenting at the forum. For further information see the report ([page 16](#)), and oral health resources that have been developed (www.inclusionmelbourne.org.au/projects/your-dental-health). Check out the submission presented at the Royal commission hearings too ([page 11](#)). In addition, this edition features a paper some of you might have been lucky to attend at our last ASID conference ([page 7](#)). The project highlights what can be done in a sustainable way to ensure people with intellectual disability have good oral health. You might even pick up some tips to make cleaning your teeth more enjoyable!

Many Australians have put in submissions to the Royal Commission regarding the health of people with an intellectual disability. You might like to visit the website to follow some of the submissions www.disability.royalcommission.gov.au and the outcomes. IDA will continue to follow the royal commission and highlight issues of interest to people with an intellectual disability. The Commission will be examining access and participation for people with cognitive disability that is a disability that maybe characterised by intellectual disability, autism, acquired brain injury or dementia. In 2018 there were over 900,000 people with cognitive disability in Australia.

It's been a bit quiet around the divisions but WA have put in a report from a dedifferentiation seminar held last year. Don't forget to check out ASID's dedifferentiation position statement. www.asid.asn.au/files/1479_dedifferentiation_position_statement.pdf

Meet another of ASID's eminent researchers, Bernadette Curryer – also an ASID board member. Check out her photo to see her favourite drinks. Do you know anyone with a good story – maybe a person with an intellectual disability who did something interesting? A staff member who won an award?

Arrangements for the next ASID conference in Auckland, New Zealand in November are unfolding and you can meet the organising committee ([page 22](#)). We also have our regular features including the NSW inclusive researchers reflecting on their time at the ASID conference in South Australia ([page 25](#)). The next edition for this year will be in late June and will contain articles on the theme of "Rural and remote". What is your organisation doing – How to do we make improvements to services? See the back page of IDA for more details of sending in an article or just email me with any questions ([page 33](#)).