



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we enter 2020, across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand the way disability services are funded, structured and delivered continue to be overhauled at record speed with the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Australia and Mana Whaikaha in Aotearoa New Zealand. This coupled with two significant inquiries into the treatment of people with disability with the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability in Australia and the Abuse in Care Royal Commission of Inquiry for New Zealand, represented an unprecedented focus on the disability sector.

ASID is acutely aware that now more than ever it is important that the voices of people with intellectual disability are heard and we advocate for evidence to be put into practice. It has not gone without notice that many of our members and stakeholders have participated in the hearings of both Commissions and we champion their ongoing participation. In 2019, we formed a Board Committee, chaired by Professor Christine Bigby to focus on ASID's contribution to the Commissions, work will continue with this into 2020.

February marked the first Board of Directors meeting for 2020. It was an opportunity for Board Committees to present on their work plans for the year. It is pleasing to see a common theme of seeking to understand the needs of key stakeholders across many areas of our business including our journals, events, broader communication strategies, inclusion and the work of divisions. This is complimented by a strategic shift to focus on, manage and mitigate risk across our organisation, an important part of future proofing ASID.

It is incredible that this is my third year as President of ASID, the past two years have simply flown by. As part of seeking to understand the needs of our key stakeholders, one opportunity I look forward to over the next few months is connecting with each ASID Division. There is great diversity within and between our Divisions. This is both a strength and a challenge for our organisation.

Through meeting with Divisions, I hope to gain a better understanding of local membership, priorities and identified needs, which will in turn will inform the overarching direction of ASID across 2020.

As always, I would welcome any feedback or comments from the readers of IDA. Please feel free to email me anytime at [president@asid.asn.au](mailto:president@asid.asn.au).



**Laura Hogan**

2020 ASID President  
[president@asid.asn.au](mailto:president@asid.asn.au)