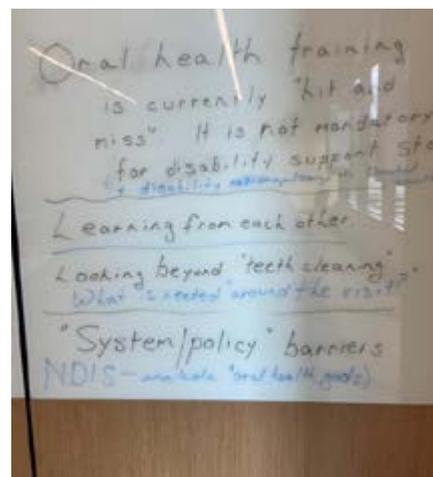


ORAL HEALTH AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

This seminar, held on February 19th, 2020 at Deakin University was a collaboration between ASID and the Australian Society of Special Care in Dentistry (ASSCID). The aim of the seminar was to discuss the state of the art of oral health and intellectual disability and to look at ways to improve oral health in an NDIS environment. There was a stellar cast including Dr Jo Watson (Deakin University) who moderated the morning; Coral Farr (Vic Chair of ASID), Dr Kerrie Punshon (Chair of ASSCID and Special Needs Dentist), Nathan Despott (Inclusion Melbourne); Dr Richard Zylan (Dentist), Dr Helen Marchant (Special Needs Dentist) Jenna Hepburn (Inclusion Melbourne) and Prof Hanny Calache (Oral Health Research, Deakin University).

The event was well attended with 23 people engaged in learning, discussion and networking. Dr Jo Watson (Deakin University) ably moderated the event recording the key issues that ensued from discussion and speakers. Coral Farr the Victorian Chair of ASID introduced attendees to ASID and enthusiastically welcomed ASSCID.

Dr Kerrie Punshon discussed the role of ASSCID and defined “special needs” dentistry. Special needs is an inclusive term that is broader than people with disability and focusses on the oral health of people adversely affected by a complex health need. She outlined the challenges in providing/accessing treatment with the proviso that there are only 20 Special Needs dentists in Australia.



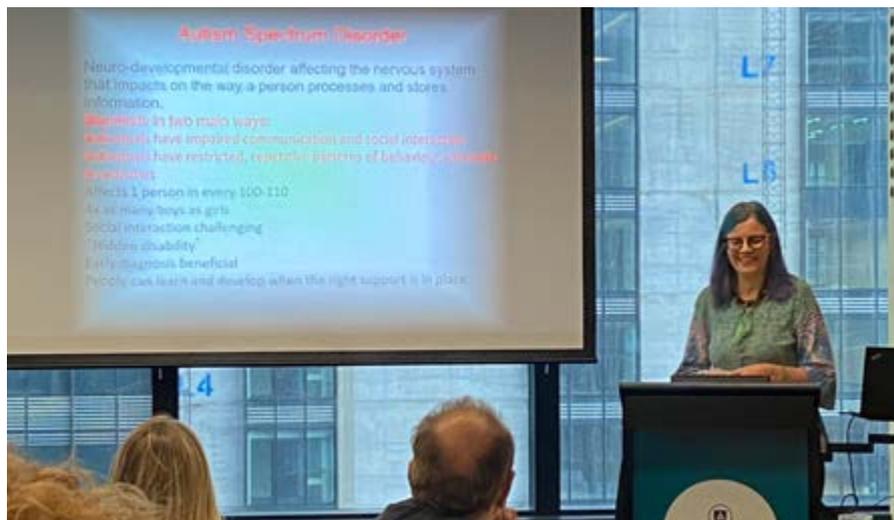
Nathan Despott (Inclusion Melbourne) discussed the role of disability support workers in oral health utilising some of their resources from the Oral Health and Intellectual Disability Guide. See Nathan's resources in a separate article in this edition ([page 11](#)).



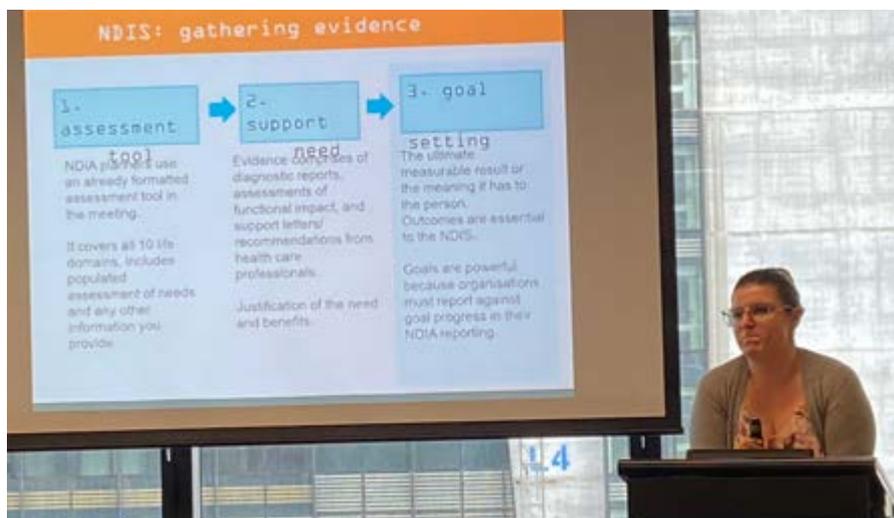
Dr Richard Zylan outlined the importance of oral health and Intellectual Disability and the problems facing parents and support staff. The importance of collaboration between sectors was highlighted and much discussion followed.



Dr Helen Marchant, a Special Needs Dentist presented on Autism and oral health and provided some practical ideas such as social stories (see www.westernspecialneedsdentistry.com.au/about-us-melbourne-special-needs-dentistry/social-story-for-western-special-needs-dentistry.) to alleviate anxiety.



Jenna Hepburn (Inclusion Melbourne) discussed ways to negotiate the NDIS in order to get the oral health supports a person might need.



The event finished with a panel of speakers Nathan Despott, Dr Hilary Johnson, Professor Hanny Calache and Dr Kerrie Punshon discussing the way forward.



For further information about oral health see the articles in this issue and for more details of the presentations contact Jo Watson joanne.watson@deakin.edu.au. You may also like to tune into a talk by Paul Glassman on Innovations in Dental Care and DentiCal - Development Disabilities at www.uctv.tv.