



**Hilary Johnson**

IDA Editor

*Welcome to the  
September edition of  
IDA Magazine*

Our September edition continues the theme of rural and remote with an emphasis on a changing world of service provision. COVID-19 continues to challenge many Australians and New Zealanders with little research completed on the best and safest ways to move forward. The importance of having evidence on which to base practice is highlighted in the editorial of Research and Practice in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities journal (<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23297018.2020.1765847>). You might also like to read the guidance provided in the UK (<https://doi.org/10.1111/jppi.12352>).

Being isolated resonates with our theme of providing rural and remote services and Angela Dew and her team describe some of the challenges in planning for services delivered through the NDIS ([Page 5](#)). Sarah Flagstaff discusses the need for appropriately trained therapy assistants, not instead of health professionals but as an additional resource ([Page 9](#)). Stuart Wark and Laura Hogan provide a summary of the recent ASID webinar as ASID reaches out remotely to members ([Page 11](#)). The increased distance between the service provider and the end user has caused a huge up take in the use of platforms like Zoom in both our work and social life. Monica Wellington reports on the use of Zoom to bring people with intellectual disabilities together and minimise the digital divide ([Page 13](#)). Catherine Cataranich contributes a personal insight of being locked down in Victoria with a cry from the heart “there’s a piece missing” ([Page 16](#)). There has been an expansion of COVID information in accessible formats with the latest planning tools from Queenslanders with Disability Network ([Page 17](#)). If you are out there wearing a mask and finding it hard to communicate take a leaf out of Key Word Sign’s book and follow Libby Brownlie’s advice to use your hands ([Page 18](#)).

Don’t forget to keep up to date with the latest events and podcasts found on our website ([Page 22](#)). If you really want a challenge, go to our Quiz and do it with a colleague at the start of your next Zoom meeting - or if you’re not locked down, face-to face over coffee! ([Page 23](#)).

We will be continuing the theme of providing remote supports in the December edition with an annual round up of ASID’s training and new ideas. We welcome ideas, comments and suggestions. Please contact me.

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