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research to practice

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Minister for Disability Services address to be confirmed

ROBERT STRIKE AND SARAH BUTLER - Our time: lived experience



Robert Strike, Vice President of Self Advocacy Sydney, is a man who has overcome great adversity to become one of the most influential advocates for people with intellectual disability in Australia. Robert is well known and respected throughout the NSW disability sector. Over the past 25 years Robert has made a major contribution towards people with intellectual disability being confident to make their own life choices and live normal and positive lives in the community. He has

also had a major impact on the attitudes of service providers and the broader community so that they are more respectful of the views and rights of people with intellectual disability and more supportive of their right to live “normal” lives. In recognition of his important work, Robert was awarded the Minister’s Lifelong Achievement Award at the National Disability Awards ceremony at Parliament House in Canberra in 2009.



Sarah Butler, as Vice Treasurer of Self Advocacy Sydney, has responsibility for the financial management of the agency. Sarah is highly respected for her work on disability awareness training and advocating for people with intellectual disability. She attends the Inclusive Education Program at Sydney University to help people with intellectual disabilities who want to do courses at university. She is also

interested in research and is currently involved in research with the Centre for Disability Studies at the University of Sydney about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Intellectual Disability. Sarah has qualifications in both disability and aged care. As well as her advocacy and research work, Sarah is also now studying for a Certificate IV in Disability Work.

Robert and Sarah will together address the conference theme of “Our Time”, and the lived experience of disability.

ANGELA NOVAK AMADO - person- centred practices and inclusion



Angela Amado PhD, of the University of Minnesota’s Institute on Community Integration, has worked in the field of disability for over 30 years in a variety of capacities, including national research, direct support, international consulting, and government policy. She is also the Executive Director of the Human Services Research and Developmental Center. For the last twenty years Angela has worked on strategies to bring individuals with disabilities together with ordinary community members in friendships and relationships to promote fully inclusive communities. She is internationally known for her key books on friendships

between individuals with disabilities and community members, and has provided training across the U.S., Canada, Netherlands, and Israel concerning inclusion, community membership, person-centred planning

and self-determination. Angela's address to the conference will centre on person-centred practices and inclusion.

MICHAEL WEHMEYER – transition to adulthood



Michael Wehmeyer, Ph.D. is Professor of Special Education; Director, Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities; and Associate Director, Beach Center on Disability, all at the University of Kansas in the USA. Dr. Wehmeyer is engaged in teacher personnel preparation, and research and model development on the education and support of youth and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He is the author of 285 peer-reviewed journal articles or book chapters and has authored or edited 30 books on disability and education related issues, including issues pertaining to self-determination, positive psychology, transition to adulthood, the education and inclusion of students with severe disabilities, and technology use. Dr. Wehmeyer has been active in numerous professional associations including the American Association for Intellectual and Developmental Disability (AAIDD), Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), American Psychological Association, and the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IASSIDD). He has edited two journals in the disability sector, and is co-author of the AAIDD *Supports Intensity Scale*, and the 2010 AAIDD *Intellectual Disability Terminology, Classification, and Systems of Supports Manual*. Michael's address will focus on issues about the transition to adulthood.

SUE READ – loss



Professor Sue Read PhD, from Keele University, United Kingdom, has worked in the area of intellectual disability since 1976. Her PhD involved developing a unique, specialist bereavement counselling and support service for people with intellectual disabilities in North Staffordshire, UK. Sue's research interests include loss, death, dying, end-of-life care and bereavement specifically, although not exclusively, with people with an intellectual disability, and aspects of user and carer engagement in research. She is primarily interested in applied research that has a demonstrable impact on practice, and has developed a range of resources (e.g. leaflets and booklets) to support loss, bereavement and end-of-life care, Toolkits to promote health access, and most recently (in conjunction with people with intellectual disabilities and other professionals) a flexible, computer based, interactive bereavement tool to support loss and transition. Sue's address to the conference will focus on her work around loss.

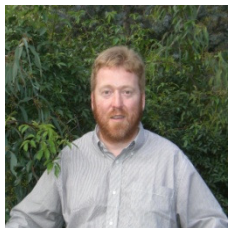
ERIC EMERSON – outcomes



Eric Emerson PhD, is Professor of Disability & Health Research at the Centre for Disability Research, Lancaster University, UK and Co-Director of the English specialist Public Health Observatory on intellectual disabilities. He is also Professor of Disability Population Health at the Centre for Disability Research and Policy at the University of Sydney. He worked as a clinical psychologist in the UK and Canada before becoming a researcher. Eric is a member of the Council of IASSID (the international community of researchers and research centers in intellectual and developmental disability) and is responsible for liaison between IASSID and the World Health Organization. He has been a member of several advisory groups to government and non-government organizations. He has written widely on issues related to the health and social inequalities faced by people with disabilities, especially children and adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Eric's main research interests lie in understanding and

addressing the health inequalities faced by people with disabilities. Eric will address the conference on conceptualizing and measuring outcomes.

KEITH McVILLY – positive behaviour support



Associate Professor Keith McVilly PhD, is a Clinical Psychologist and Principal Research Fellow in the School of Psychology at Deakin University, Melbourne. He has a particular interest in working with and researching the support needs of adults with intellectual and developmental disability who present with severe challenging behaviours, including those with forensic profiles, together with the needs of support staff and family members. Much of his research is conducted in applied settings, working directly with people with disability, their families and services providers. Keith has worked as a direct support worker, a clinician and service manager, in public health services and in private practice. He has worked as a researcher at the University of Sydney's Centre for Disability Studies, in the UK at the University of Wales' Welsh Centre for Learning Disabilities, and in the USA at the University of Minnesota's Research Centre on Community Living. Keith will address the conference on person-centred positive behaviour support and the challenges of restrictive practices.

TREVOR PARMENTER – positioning for the future



Professor Emeritus Trevor Parmenter, AM BA PhD FACE FAAIDD FIAASSID FASSID, has a career in the disability sector spanning almost 60 years. He held the Foundation Chair of Developmental Disability Studies (CDDS) University of Sydney from 1997 until his retirement in 2009. He is Honorary Professor in the Faculties of Education and Social Work and Health Sciences at Sydney University, and Adjunct Professor in the School of Rural Medicine, University of New England. He has published widely on the full range of issues faced by people with disability, and served on the boards of several disability agencies. In 2005 Trevor was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for his contributions to the disability sector. His international activities have included, membership of the ILO sponsored Global Applied Disability Research and Information Network on Employment and Training (GLADNET), past President of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IASSIDD), ex-officio member of the Board of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disability (AAIDD), as well as World Health Organisation (WHO) and International Labour Organisation (ILO) collaborations. In Australia, Trevor chaired the Advisory Committee on Australian and International Disability Data at the Australian Institute of Health & Welfare, (AIHW), Canberra, from 2001-2009, and assisted the AIHW in its role as the Australian Collaborating Centre for the revision of the 2001 WHO International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF). Trevor will draw on his long international and national experiences in the sector to give a perspective on the future of intellectual disability.