

# 23rd PANDDA Conference

Novotel, Sydney Parramatta, Monday 26 & Tuesday 27 November 2012

## PROGRAM 2012

# GREAT EXPECTATIONS

“Take nothing on its looks; take everything on evidence.  
There’s no better rule.” Charles Dickens, Great Expectations



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Developmental Disability Australia Inc.  
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AHPRA Nursing Portfolio: A PANDDA Template

**Michelle Meachem, PANDDA committee**  
What you said last year – Your evaluation is meaningful

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## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Welcome to the Professional Association of Nurses in Developmental Disability Australia (PANDDA) 2012 Conference. PANDDA conference committee members have once again worked hard all year on a range of PANDDA tasks and organized what we hope will be a fantastic event.

This year's conference offers a full program including a number of esteemed speakers covering a range of interesting topics related to the physical and mental health of people with intellectual disabilities.

The conference is growing each year, as is the quality of presentations from nurses and other professionals from around the country. PANDDA is expecting to see more of our colleagues from other states and territories in Australia coming together to share ideas and further promote our role in meeting the health needs of people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

We thank you all for participating in our conference and encourage you to network, share ideas, brainstorm about different ways of doing what we do well to continue to make a real difference to the lives of people with intellectual disabilities and their families across the country.

Linda Goddard  
President

## CONVENOR'S WELCOME

Dear Colleagues

I am delighted to welcome you to Sydney and Parramatta for the 23rd Annual PANDDA Conference.

The diversity of the Conference Program will both stimulate and challenge you about our nursing practice. From the keynote addresses, Invited speakers to Program speakers there is something for everyone. Networking is a big part of our inspiration, be it formal or informal like the dinner dance, you will find many opportunities to meet with current colleagues or friends from the past. We look forward to meeting you all.

Bob Weaver  
Convenor on behalf of the Conference Committee

# 23rd PANDDA Conference

Monday 26 & Tuesday 27 November 2012

## Day 1. Monday 26 November 2012

08.45 Lennox Room	<b>Opening Day 1</b> Chair: Dr Chris Atkins, Convenor Technical Program <b>Welcome to Country</b> Uncle Greg Simms <b>Welcome</b> Dr Linda Goddard, PANDDA President; Bob Weaver & Damian Heron, Conference Convenor & Co-Convenor		
09.15–10.00 Lennox Room	<b>Keynote Speaker: Building resilience in children and families</b> Professor Kim Foster, Associate Professor Mental Health Nursing, Sydney Nursing School, The University of Sydney		
10.00–10.45	MORNING TEA & VISITS TO TRADE DISPLAYS		
10.45–11.10	<b>CHOIR Royal Institute for Deaf &amp; Blind Children, Alice Betteridge School</b> Chair: Janice Jankovic, PANDDA Conference Committee		
11.10–11.30 Lennox Room	<b>What you said last year – Your evaluation is meaningful</b> Michelle Meachem, PANDDA Conference Committee		
11.35–12.10 Lennox Room	<b>Medicare Locals – How they can improve the health of people with intellectual disability</b> Jim Simpson, Lawyer and Advocate, Senior Advocate, NSW Council for Intellectual Disability		
12.15–13.00	<b>CONCURRENT SESSION A</b> Madison Room 1 Chair: Michelle Meachem  <b>A model of support: working successfully and collaboratively with school aged children with disabilities and complex medical needs</b>  Diana Murphy, Principal, St Georges School & Karen Baker, Parent	<b>CONCURRENT SESSION B</b> Jarrah Room Chair: Agnes Ross  <b>Epilepsy Action Australia: Online Academy</b>  Carol Welsh, Epilepsy Action	<b>CONCURRENT SESSION C</b> Avalon Room Chair: Norma Cloonan  <b>AHPRA Nursing Portfolio: A PANDDA Template</b>  Janice Jankovic, PANDDA Committee
13.00–14.15	LUNCH & VISITS TO TRADE DISPLAYS		
14.15–15.00 Lennox Room	<b>Keynote Speaker: The health of people with intellectual disability: From Framework to Network</b> Professor Les White AM, NSW Chief Paediatrician, Co-Chair ACI Intellectual Disability Network Chair: Dr Linda Goddard, PANDDA President		
15.05–15.35	<b>CONCURRENT SESSION D</b> Madison Room 2 Chair: Damian Heron  <b>Realignment of Nursing Services and Expectations</b>  Helen Winning, Principal Nurse Manager, Accommodation and Nursing Services, Hunter NSW	<b>CONCURRENT SESSION E</b> Jarrah Room Chair: Michelle Meachem  <b>Disability Nursing: A New Frontier</b>  Gail Tomsic, Clinical Nurse Consultant, Fairfield Multidisciplinary Health Clinic	<b>CONCURRENT SESSION F</b> Avalon Room (35 places) Chair: Norma Cloonan  <b>AHPRA Nursing Portfolio: A PANDDA Template</b>  Janice Jankovic, PANDDA Committee
15.35–16.05	AFTERNOON TEA & VISITS TO TRADE DISPLAYS		
16.05–16.50 Lennox Room	<b>Invited Speaker: Mental health for children and adolescents with intellectual disability: Establishing a framework for professional practice</b> Dr David Dossetor, Senior Staff Specialist, Area Director for Mental Health, Clinical Associate Professor, The University of Sydney. Child Psychiatrist with a special interest in Intellectual Disability and Autism Chair: Damian Heron, Conference Co-Convenor		
16.50–17.10	<b>Day 1 close, followed by Welcome Drinks</b> Bob Weaver, Conference Convenor		
18.30	<b>Dinner Dance: VIVA Los PANDDA!</b> Dinner Hosts, PANDDA Committee (Tickets \$50.00)		

# 23rd PANDDA Conference

Monday 26 & Tuesday 27 November 2012

## Day 2. Tuesday 27 November 2012

09.00 Lennox Room	<b>Opening Day 2</b> Chair, Damian Heron, Conference Co-Convenor <b>Welcome</b> Dr Linda Goddard, PANDDA President			
09.30–10.15 Lennox Room	<b>Keynote Speaker: Building Capacity in Intellectual Disability Mental Health: "You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two"</b> Professor Julian Trollor, Chair, Intellectual Disability Mental Health. School of Psychiatry. Head, Department of Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry, University of New South Wales			
10.15–10.45	MORNING TEA & VISITS TO TRADE DISPLAYS			
10.50–11.30	<b>CONCURRENT SESSION G</b> Madison Room 1 Chair: John Ryan  <b>Just One Crumb: A case study of respectful expectations leading to quality outcome</b> Wendy Dear, Dietician Hunter & Carole Tranter, NMANS, Kanangra	<b>CONCURRENT SESSION H</b> Madison Room 2 Chair: Ralph Forbes  <b>Nursing Expectations of the Intellectual Disability Network, ACI</b> Tracey Szanto, Manager, Intellectual Disability Network, NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation	<b>CONCURRENT SESSION I</b> Avalon Room Chair: Agnes Ross  <b>Specialist Supported Living</b> Deidre Russell, Director, ADHC, Sydney	<b>CONCURRENT SESSION J</b> Avalon Room (35 places) Chair: Norma Cloonan  <b>AHPRA Nursing Portfolio: A PANDDA Template</b> Janice Jankovic, PANDDA Committee
11.35–12.25 Lennox Room	<b>Keynote Address: Take nothing on its looks; take everything on evidence. There's no better rule</b> Dr Rosemary Bryant, Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer, Australia & President, International Council of Nurses Chair: Linda Goddard, PANDDA President			
12.25–13.30	LUNCH & VISITS TO TRADE DISPLAYS			
13.30–14.15 Madison Room	<b>Invited Speaker: Metro-Regional Intellectual Disability Network (MRID.net): A partnership model for improving health care for people with Intellectual Disability in regional and remote areas of NSW</b> Dr Robert Leitner Chair: John Ryan, PANDDA Committee			
14.15–15.15 Lennox Room	<b>Annual General Meeting</b> Chair: Russell Jones, PANDDA Treasurer			
15.15–15.45	AFTERNOON TEA & VISITS TO TRADE DISPLAYS			
15.45–16.20	<b>In the first person: A body of clinical evidence</b> Catharine Hulst, Clinical Nurse Consultant, Metro Residences, Sydney			
16.20–17.00 Lennox Room	<b>The Chris Atkins &amp; Bob Weaver PANDDA Awards</b> Alicia Rodgers, Award Convenor Chair: Linda Goddard, PANDDA President			
17.00	<b>23rd PANDDA Conference Close</b> Bob Weaver, Conference Convenor  <b>Invitation to 24th PANDDA Conference 2013</b> Damian Heron, Conference Co-Convenor			



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# 23rd PANDDA Conference

Monday 26 & Tuesday 27 November 2012

## Keynote Speakers



**Dr Rosemary Bryant**  
Chief Nursing officer Australia & President ICN

Rosemary Bryant commenced in the position of Commonwealth Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer in July 2008. She was formerly Executive Director of Royal College of Nursing, Australia, a position she held for eight years. She has had a broad career in acute hospital and community nursing, as well as in government relations. Executive positions she has held include Director of Nursing at Royal Adelaide Hospital and also at the then Child, Adolescent and Family Health Service in SA and the chief government nursing position in Victoria. She also spent some time in private consulting undertaking projects on nursing and health. During this time she was a consultant to the World Health Organisation. Rosemary has had a broad experience in policy development both in nursing and the broader health sector.

Rosemary is a Fellow of the Australian College of Nursing, is Emeritus Director of Nursing at Royal Adelaide Hospital and was elected as President of the International Council of Nurses in 2009 an organisation which represents 13 million nurses worldwide. She was awarded the degree of Doctor of the University by the Queensland University of Technology in 2010 and by Flinders University in 2012.



**Professor Julian Trollor**  
Chair, Intellectual Disability & Mental Health, University of New South Wales

Julian Trollor is a clinician researcher who graduated with an MBBS (Hons1) in 1989 and his FRANZCP in 1996. Toller's post-doctoral research is focused on the understanding of the correlates and predictors of brain ageing and on the neuropsychiatry of intellectual disability. For the last three years he has held the inaugural Chair of Intellectual Disability Mental Health at the University of New South Wales. This position is unique in Australia, and in this role he has provided leadership in workforce development, service planning, policy development, development of training and teaching resources in intellectual disability mental health and the lobbying of State and Federal Governments for improved service provision for adults with intellectual disability. Trollor has made substantial professional contributions. He is an executive member of the peak medical bodies for intellectual and developmental disorders, the Australian Association of Doctors in Developmental Disability Medicine (AADDM) and the Association of Doctors in Developmental Disability (ADIDD).



**A/Professor Kim Forster**  
Sydney Nursing School, The University of Sydney

Kim has been a mental health nurse for over 25 years and is currently Associate Professor Mental Health Nursing at Sydney Nursing School, University of Sydney, where she leads the mental health education and research programs. Kim has had a longstanding interest in addressing the experiences and needs of children and families living with mental illness, and in strengthening individual and family resilience for children and adults who are experiencing challenges relating to their own or a family member's health. Kim's main areas of research include resilience in children and families where parents have mental illness; emotional intelligence in healthcare professionals; and the interface between physical and mental health. Kim is widely published in mental health and has authored two key texts. In 2011 she was awarded a Winston Churchill Fellowship to investigate programs for building resilience in children and families, particularly those where parents have mental illness. This year she travelled to the USA, Canada and the Netherlands in 2012 to conduct the Fellowship.



**Professor Les White AM**  
Co-Chair Intellectual Disability Network, ACI, DSc, MBBS FRACP MHA AFACHSM

Les White was appointed as the inaugural NSW Chief Paediatrician in September 2010. He was Executive Director of Sydney Children's Hospital (1995–2010), President of Children's Hospitals Australasia (1999–2004), Convenor of the Greater Eastern and Southern NSW Child Health Network (2001–2010) and the John Beveridge Professor of Paediatrics (2005–2010). He was awarded a Doctorate of Science for research contributions related to childhood cancer and holds a Master of Health Administration. In 2007 he received an Order of Australia award for service to medicine, medical administration and the community in the field of paediatrics.

# 23rd PANDDA Conference

Monday 26 & Tuesday 27 November 2012

## Conference Speakers

### **Ms Karen Baker**

Parent

### **Ms Diana Murphy**

Principal, St Georges School

Karen Baker's experience with people with disabilities is extensive. First and foremost Karen is the parent and carer of Ashleigh Baker, 26 years old. Ashleigh has lissencephaly and a severe physical disability.

Karen has also worked at St George Special School as a school learning support officer (teacher's aide) and as a clerical officer. Karen is currently the School's Administrative Manager. As a key contact for families at the school, Karen provides real support to families on varying aspects of being a parent of a child with a severe disability.

With Karen's personal and professional knowledge, experiences and skills, Diana Murphy has extensive experience in education as principal, consultant, school counsellor, adult educator and classroom teacher.

Diana is currently Principal of St George School for students with severe physical and multiple disabilities. Prior to this, Diana was principal of Wairoa School for students with moderate to severe intellectual disabilities.

Diana is committed to improving the outcomes for students with disabilities. Diana has been active over a many years in supporting the professional learning of teachers and leaders in the area of special education. Diana is also committed to the professional learning of allied professions working with people with disabilities. Diana supports the tertiary placements of nurse undergraduates in their study of disability.

In 2008, Diana was awarded the Australian College of Educator's Ralph Rawlinson Perpetual Award in recognition of her commitment and initiatives in special education. In 2011, Diana was awarded Rockdale Council's Citizen of the Year Award. Karen is regarded as an invaluable member of the school community.

### **Ms Wendy Dear**

BSc. (Physiology/Microbiology), Post Grad Dip Nut. & Diet.,  
MBA Dietitian Hunter Residences ADHC (Clinical)

### **Ms Carole Tranter**

RN, Bachelor of Nursing  
NMANS, Kanangra Centre, Hunter Residences ADHC

Wendy's background is clinical dietetics/administration. She has experience in a coeliac disease specialised practice and developed an interest in nutrition, nutrition assessment and diet therapy for clients with intellectual/developmental disability. For the past 18 years Wendy has worked as a clinical dietitian in this field at Hunter Residences ADHC NSW.

Carol is a registered nurse with 40 years experience working in intellectual disability and mental health fields. She has been the Nurse Manager at Kanangra Centre, Hunter Residences for the past 10 years. Kanangra is a residential facility supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities including serious challenging behaviours.

### **Dr David Dossetor**

MD(Cantab), MA, MB BChir, FRCP, FRCPsych, FRANZCP, DCH  
Senior Staff Specialist, Area Director for Mental Health,  
Clinical Associate Professor, The University of Sydney

David Dossetor is a Child Psychiatrist with a special interest in intellectual disability and autism and team leader of the Developmental Psychiatry Team in the Department of Psychological Medicine at the Children's Hospital at Westmead. He is Director of Mental Health at Sydney Children's Hospital Network, and Clinical Associate Professor at The University of Sydney. He recently published a book with Lesley Whatson and Donna White from the Statewide Behaviour Intervention Service of ADHC entitled: The Mental Health of Children and Adolescents with Intellectual and Developmental Disability: A framework for professional practice. He also manages the CHW School-link project which promotes education, prevention and early intervention and pathways to care for MH&ID, and the Centre for Emotion based Social Skills Training, which aims to provide skills for life for young people with Autism.

### **Ms Catharine Hulst**

BA (Hons) RN BN  
Clinical Nurse Consultant, PANDDA Member

I have been working in the field of developmental disability nursing since the early 1980s in various positions, including those of community nurse, nurse educator, programme officer and, most recently, that of clinical nurse consultant at Metro Residences; a formidable challenge. I plan to engage in post graduate study from 2013, in order to pursue my research interests.

### **Dr Robert Leitner**

Director Developmental Disability Network, South Eastern  
Sydney Local Health District

Robert Leitner is a Developmental Paediatrician and Senior Staff Specialist based at the Developmental Assessment Service, Kogarah. He is the Director of the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District Developmental Disability Network and the Metro-Regional Intellectual Disability Network Pilot of the NSW Health Service Framework. Robert is a Senior Lecturer in Developmental Disability at the University of NSW. In conjunction with the Angelman Syndrome Association, he established the Angelman Syndrome Clinic at St George Hospital. Robert is the Chairperson of the Association of Doctors in Developmental Disability and a member of the Executive Committee of the ACI Intellectual Disability Network.

# 23rd PANDDA Conference

Monday 26 & Tuesday 27 November 2012

## **Ms Deidre Russell**

**RN, Bachelor Social Science/Social Welfare  
Director, Specialist Supported Living**

Deidre Russell commenced her nursing career in 1976 as a trainee Mental Retardation Nurse at Stockton Hospital, gaining registration in 1979. She obtained a Bachelor of Social Science, Social Welfare through Charles Sturt University in 2003.

Deidre has worked mainly in public sector disability for Ageing Disability and Homecare.

Deidre has a passion for making a difference in the lives of people with a disability. She believes she achieves this through guiding others to focus on the person and their support system to ensure they have the greatest opportunities to achieve what they want and those things that enable them to live a life valued by themselves and the broader community. Deidre promotes mutual respect, communication and sound ethical practice within her team. She encourages individuals to increase their knowledge, skills and experiences through supporting people with disabilities to reach for and achieve their hopes and dreams.

## **Mr Jim Simpson**

**Lawyer and Advocate  
Senior Advocate, NSW Council for Intellectual Disability**

Jim Simpson is a lawyer and advocate who has worked in the disability field for more than twenty five years. In recent years, he has done considerable policy development and advocacy in relation to the difficulties people with intellectual disability face in accessing good health care.

## **Tracey Szanto**

**Manager, Intellectual Disability Network NSW Agency  
for Clinical Innovation**

Tracey Szanto worked as a Social Worker before training as a Nurse. She has been teaching Nursing at University and most recently, was director of Nursing for a paediatric rehabilitation hospital for children and young people with moderate / severe disabilities (Allowah Children's Hospital).

Currently she works as the Manager of the NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation Network for Intellectual Disabilities across NSW, working with others to improve the health of people with an Intellectual Disability. She and her husband have four children.

## **Ms Gail Tomsic**

**CNC Disability Services, MComNurs, BSc(Nurs),  
DipSc(Nurs), GradDipPaed**

Gail is Registered Nurse who has 23 years nursing experience with qualifications in: community paediatric nursing, hospital in the home, child and family health, paediatric, lactation and infant feeding, and nursing management. Gail has practiced in a wide variety of settings including hospital paediatric units, parent craft residential unit, and in the community setting providing home nursing to children discharged from hospital to home with post acute, acute and chronic conditions and illnesses. Gail has worked in senior nursing positions for the past 13 years as Clinical Nurse Consultant (CNC) and Nurse Unit Manager. She is a mother, and currently works in a multi-disciplinary health clinic based in Fairfield for people with intellectual disability.

## **Carol Welsh**

**RN, A/Dip Rehab Counselling, Cert IV TAA  
Epilepsy Action**

I started in the field of developmental disability in 1970 when I commenced my RN training at Marsden Hospital. Since that time I have furthered my education and worked in a variety of government and non government services in residential and community settings. My roles have varied from service management, providing private consultancy services, to staff training and development. My current role is as an Epilepsy Nurse Educator with Epilepsy Action Australia. I provide education & training to people with epilepsy, their families, carers and the wider community.

## **Ms Helen Winning**

**Principal Nurse Manager Accommodation and Nursing Services**

Helen's background is that of registered nurse in the field of disability commencing her nursing career in 1973.



# 23rd PANDDA Conference

Monday 26 & Tuesday 27 November 2012

## Abstracts

### **Keynote Address: Take nothing on its looks; take everything on evidence. There's no better rule**

**Dr Rosemary Bryant, Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer, Australia & President, International Council of Nurses**

Advancing nursing research, knowledge development and evidence-based practice is vital to creating a stronger health care profession, which simultaneously promotes a stronger health care system.

Knowledge and technology in the health care sector is continuously and rapidly advancing, and it is the profession's ethical duty to give patients the very best of care, and use evidence-based practice as the foundation of clinical decisions and care. Recent and significant research can have significant implications for patient outcomes. Furthermore, with increasingly scarce resources and informed public expectations, nursing and midwifery care needs to be efficient and innovative to respond to the needs of the health care consumers of the twenty-first century.

Along with technological advancements, policy-makers also need to contend with increasing and changing demands in health care, as well as new and emerging patterns of illness and disease, and workforce shortages. This is true for all sectors in the health care industry.

As the Commonwealth's Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer as well as President of the International Council of Nurses, Rosemary will outline the reasons why evidence-based practice is synonymous with improved and innovative care, as well as discussing the ways in which new nursing models of care and expanded roles promote a more resourceful health care system.

### **Just One Crumb: A case study of respectful expectations leading to quality outcome**

**Wendy Dear, Dietician Hunter & Carole Tranter, NMANS, Kanangra**

In the 20th century, exceptional improvements were made in health care facilities and education of health professionals. This continues. We can now offer a wide scope of quality care to clients in crisis. It is therefore reasonable for these clients to have high expectations for their care compared to that of past generations. This case study shows that even so, one of the biggest risks to our clients is the risk that we each bring when we fail to remember that "we don't know what we don't know". In the busyness of the day we often do not take the time to communicate with each other effectively. When we recognise and address this, clients can have quality outcomes to meet their expectations. Those clients who cannot advocate for themselves or cannot comprehend the implications of decisions are at highest risk. Combining our knowledge respectfully takes time, but leads to discussions that provide understanding and information about risks enabling effective and innovative interventions.

This Case Study describes best practise dietary interventions for coeliac disease and implications for clients and follows the pathways

used to track why this client's previously successful interventions started to fail resulting in outcomes that were unpleasant for both staff and client. It is a story of varying and sometimes conflicting expectations of staff followed by miscommunication that lead to poor outcomes. Taking the time to talk proved to be insightful and beneficial. The extent of the miscommunication and how simply the process was solved once identified was revealed.

### **Realignment of Nursing Services and Expectations** **Helen Winning, Principal Nurse Manager, Accommodation and Nursing Services, Hunter NSW**

The presentation will discuss a project that is underway to review existing generalist nursing in a large residential centre and to look at a different model of nursing services to meet existing and emerging needs of clients particularly as they relate to ageing, complex health and challenging behaviour, and to respond to the changing skill mix in nursing disability services.

1. Historical context of generalist nursing services
2. Challenges, problems and the need for change
3. The project aims and process
4. New model for disability nursing services
5. Where to next

### **Epilepsy Action Australia: Online Academy** **Craig Hutchinson, Epilepsy Action**

Lack of education about epilepsy is widespread in Australia. Unfortunately this prevents people with the condition from experiencing the best possible care and quality of life.

There is also a shortage of quality epilepsy training for health professionals and carers in Australia.

To begin to address these needs Epilepsy Action Australia has launched an Online Academy providing epilepsy learning and education to the community – the first of its kind in Australia.

This new initiative cuts across barriers by delivering tailored epilepsy education cost-effectively via the internet, complementing and expanding existing education services and drawing on Epilepsy Action Australia's rich base of expertise in the area.

### **Disability Nursing: A New Frontier** **Gail Tomsic, Clinical Nurse Consultant, Fairfield Multidisciplinary Health Clinic**

This presentation will provide an overview of my nursing career and pathways that have provided me with opportunities to grow and develop into a position of leadership alongside other health professionals in developing a new service model for improving the health care of people with an Intellectual Disability.

This paper is a reflective one, partly autobiographical, that will focus on the career path and opportunities within the author's nursing career has enabled the development of new skills including

# 23rd PANDDA Conference

Monday 26 & Tuesday 27 November 2012

project planning and developing new models of care within a disability framework. It will focus on the challenges and enabling factors learnt, such as developing networks, creating partnerships and resources for service establishment. It will also focus on the importance of embracing both educational and work opportunities within nursing and how they assisted career development and service modeling.

## **Medicare Locals – How they can improve the health of people with intellectual disability**

**Jim Simpson, Lawyer and Advocate, Senior Advocate,  
NSW Council for Intellectual Disability**

Around Australia, divisions of GPs have been broadened into Medicare Locals, one of the roles of which is to address gaps in the primary health system. NSW Council for Intellectual Disability has developed fact sheets to encourage action by Medicare Locals on the inadequate health care experienced by people with intellectual disability. NSW CID has produced 3 fact sheets:

1. For Medicare Locals on the health inequalities facing people with intellectual disability and how Medicare Locals could act on these, including in collaboration with local intellectual disability groups.
2. For intellectual disability groups on how they can work with Medicare Locals.
3. Resources and references for both groups.

A case study shows how Inner West Sydney Medicare Local is already acting on the health of people with intellectual disability through strategies including:

- A health promotion officer making practice visits to GPs to discuss the use of Medicare health assessments and other Medicare items, and assist GPs to develop systematic patient care.
- Providing GPs with information on disability services.
- A Disability Special Interest Group for GPs and practice nurses.
- Building a partnership with the area transitional care team for young people moving into adult health services.
- A project aimed at better health care for young people with disabilities who live in aged care facilities.

NSW CID is now promoting the fact sheets and action on them by Medicare Locals and intellectual disability professional, advocacy and service provider groups. The fact sheets are online at [www.nswcid.org.au](http://www.nswcid.org.au)

## **Specialist Supported Living**

**Deidre Russell, Director, ADHC, Sydney**

Specialist Supported Living has evolved as a part of the Large Residential Centres and Specialist Supported Living Directorate in Ageing Disability and Home Care.

In 1998 the NSW Government announced its disability services 10-year plan, Stronger Together and its commitment to redevelop

Large Residential Centres (LRCs) over time and increase the range of accommodation services available to people with disabilities. Since the announcement, a number of ADHC operated and funded LRCs have closed and a number of new services have opened with the intention to:

- Deliver better accommodation for residents which responds to their support needs and interests;
- Provide accommodation that is more like a home; and
- Deliver services that provide residents with opportunities to learn new skills and participate in community life and that are more closely aligned to community standards and expectations.

This presentation will provide an outline of current Specialist Supported Living services and those next to transition.

Whilst some would say some the redeveloped models are newer versions of Large Residential Centres (i.e. LRCs in new buildings), we believe we are establishing contemporary services that are better able to meet individual need. The Specialist Supported Living services are for people the overall support system has not always been able to support adequately in the usual 5 bed group home style of accommodation support. The concept is about creating flexible services that enable a true person centred approach – i.e. the service needs to be designed for the individual and their current needs.

## **In the first person: A body of clinical evidence**

**Catharine Hulst, Clinical Nurse Consultant,  
Metro Residences, Sydney**

Clinical evidence is written on the body, but how do people read it? It may seem in some instances that all there is to go on is looks; that this is evidence. Is this good enough for nursing work? How do nurses ensure quality care when it is evidence that guides practice?

### **Content of presentation**

In considering the nature of evidence, this paper examines how people who have developmental disabilities give their [clinical] evidence, and (for some) examines the nature of their relationships with others in order to make it seen. Such an examination brings to light the evidence of developmental disability nursing, in a series of vignettes.

### **Points of conclusion**

As developmental disability nurses, we may have to work harder, or differently than some, using our creativity to confirm clinical evidence for practice; working with the person but always ensuring that he or she has the lead.

The people whom I work with will soon be experiencing a major life change, moving to new accommodation in, for many, their later years. Whilst I hope for positive outcomes for all, my greatest expectation is that care outcomes will continue to be based on clinical evidence, rather than looks.

# 23rd PANDDA Conference

Monday 26 & Tuesday 27 November 2012

## The Conference Awards

In the 1990s PANDDA decided to acknowledge Nurses who presented papers at the Annual Conference with two awards.

The awards recognise the best overall presentation and the presentation with the most promise by a novice presenter.

The selection criteria stipulate that the winners of these two awards must be either a Registered or Enrolled Nurse and that the presentation must be of relevance to Developmental/Intellectual Disability Nursing. The winners of the two awards are determined by a select group of conference delegates.

In 2011, the PANDDA committee decided to name the awards in honour of two Nurses who have consistently demonstrated commitment, advocacy, leadership and compassion for people living with a disability, their families and to the Nurses who support them.

These two Nurses are Dr Chris Atkins and Mr Bob Weaver.

In 1984, Chris and Bob were members of a small working party to determine what knowledge, skills and attributes Nurses required on graduation from Nursing studies at Colleges of Advanced Education. It was through this project that the idea of a professional organisation for Nurses working in disability was first conceived. After a suitable gestational period, PANDDA was born. Chris and Bob were, of course, founding members.

### CHRIS ATKINS AWARD

The CHRIS ATKINS AWARD is to be awarded to the presentation voted as the best at the conference.

Chris Atkins has a younger brother with an intellectual disability and has worked in the area of Developmental/Intellectual Disability Nursing since 1969. During her career Chris's focus has been on the education of Nurses about the complex health care needs of people with disabilities. Chris has consistently advocated for the role of Nurses in the provision of health care to people with disabilities through various committees, conference presentations and publications.

With the assistance and commitment of many Nurse clinicians, Chris was awarded her PhD in 1999 for her research on Nurses' perceptions of quality of life for people with severe multiple impairments. As a clinician, Chris has been pivotal to the success of one service's devolution from an institutional setting to the community by developing a model of Nursing and health care planning that supports clients with complex and chronic health care needs, their families and the work of the Nurses who support them. Chris' services to PANDDA include the roles of President, Secretary and Technical Program Convenor for the annual conference. Chris believes that people with disabilities and their families have a right to a professional service from the best educated and creative Nurses who practise from an evidence base.

### BOB WEAVER AWARD

The BOB WEAVER AWARD is to be awarded to the presentation voted as the one with most promise by a novice presenter.

Bob Weaver has worked in the area of Developmental/Intellectual Disability Nursing since 1975 as a clinician, lecturer, leader and manager. He is known for his strong advocacy for people with disabilities through his work on the Guardianship Tribunal, the establishment of a disability recreation project in the Blue Mountains, the devolution of an accommodation service, membership of various committees, and action on behalf of individuals. He holds a Diploma of Administration (Nursing) and Graduate Certificate in Nursing (Disability). Bob is a Member of the NSW Council for Intellectual Disability and is a Foundation Fellow and Life member of the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses an organisation in which he held positions at both state and national levels through the late 1980s and 1990s and early 2000.

Bob has served as PANDDA President, Vice President, Executive member and Conference Convenor for 19 of the 23 Annual Conferences. It is in this latter role that Bob is known for his encouragement of Nurses to present their knowledge and experiences to others. Bob also convened the working party that developed PANDDA's Standards for Professional Practice. Bob represents PANDDA on both state and national committees and has, over the past 23 years, often been the sole voice on these committees advocating for the recognition of the role Nurses play in supporting people with developmental/intellectual disability. Bob remains passionate about the right of people with intellectual disabilities to live their lives to their fullest potential and the professional role that Nurses play in supporting them to achieve their goals.



Professional Association of Nurses in  
Developmental Disability Australia Inc.  
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