



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

South Australians with an intellectual disability now have a strong voice, with the public launch of the consumer led Intellectual Disability Association of S.A. (IDASA).

In 2006 the Intellectual Disability Services Council (IDSC) transferred services to Disability SA (DSA). Many within the SA intellectual disability community have since felt inadequately represented in this new structure as consultation systems have not adequately accommodated representation of those with intellectual disability. Consequently many people with an intellectual disability despite being the largest client group within Disability SA have looked for a strong body to represent their interests

IDASA aims to correct this imbalance, with the intellectual disability sector invited to unite under one professional banner. IDASA and Disability SA are already in discussion on representation, self managed funding and innovative accommodation models. IDASA is committed to delivering client centred modern and innovative services that meet outcome focused benchmarks. Such an approach will facilitate wider delivery of services and help reduce unmet need waiting lists.

IDASA will pursue all options to ensure an equitable voice for people with Intellectual disability in the development of disability policy including recognition as entitlement to have their advocate's voice accepted *ipso facto* as the voice of the person with disability. Policy will be formed in consultation with IDASA members to deliver services that are representative of choice of members.

Anyone wishing to join the committee or work on IDASA policy groups is welcome .

IDASA is not political. The IDASA website is available at www.idasa.org.au or email idas@internode.on.net

This change is not achieved without the renewing of sector leadership and necessary evolution from non consumer focused organizations who do not reflect the wishes of clients they are funded to represent. When combined with refreshing new Disability SA leadership exploring new service models rather than forcing consumers into models embraced by some but despised by others is already having a positive effect. Self managed funding is a case in point. As an example the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability slammed shut the door on any philosophical debate when the UN affirmed in Article 19 (a) "Persons with disabilities have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live" Such philosophy matches the 2009-2013 SA Strategic Plan for disability services and is being adopted by many service organizations.

Attempts by some advocates to hijack the recent federal apology to British Immigrant children to turn back the disability policy clock highlights why some advocacy agencies struggle to

receive consumer support and inevitably will be consigned to history. The lack of voice of the maligned was omnipotent in the ABC documentary. Amazingly such lack of voice is common for people with Intellectual Disability even today. Intellectual Disability by the very nature of the impairment makes it impossible for many to speak out!

One key component of the IDASA charter is the demand that the voice of those with intellectual disability must be equitably heard. People with Intellectual disability are routinely excluded from strategy groups, policy bodies and strategic development plans. Inexplicably authorities have allowed a culture to develop whereby the voice of a person who cannot speak for themselves is excluded when new strategies are considered.

Yet of the 245,746 specialist disability clients services recipients highlighted in the 2009 AIHW report nearly 40% (and the largest common primary disability group) suffer primarily from intellectual disability. The new National Disability Strategy must legislatively address this inequity! Tragic and terrible things happen, like to the British Migrant children when some who are disadvantaged have no voice!

Many South Australians from the Intellectual Disability community have been disappointed by their representation. IDASA believes there is overwhelming SA demand from clients and advocates for a consumer driven group, that supports flexibly the voice of the intellectual disabled and works on out comes to deliver more timely and appropriate services. IDASA looks forward to meeting the needs of its supporters at both a state and national level and will in early 2010 apply to be the SA representative on the National Council on Intellectual Disability (NCID)

In the end IDASA will prosper or fail on consumer support and its ability to deliver a cohesive voice for those it purports to represent! IDASA will take public positions on all key sector events like the proposed new National Disability Insurance scheme. IDASA is a strong supporter of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and congratulates Kevin Rudd on referring it to the Australian Productivity Commission.

We look forward to your support

David Holst
Chair
IDASA
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Want to become a member of IDASA?

To join either: 1. Fill in the information below and click 'reply' on your computer or
2. Print this page, complete and post to:

IDASA
P.O. BOX 55
Wayville 5034

Name.....

Address.....

Phone.....

Email.....

Please tick the option below that identifies the IDASA membership category that best describes your status.

| Membership Category | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Person with Intellectual disability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Paid Carer / other/ sector worker |

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Distributed by Disability Speaks on behalf of IDASA

