



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

In 2006 the Intellectual Disability Services Council (IDSC) transferred services to Disability SA (DSA). Many with an intellectual disability or their supporters have felt unrepresented in this new service structure as consumer advise systems has not accommodated representation of those with intellectual disability. Consequently many people with an intellectual disability and their representatives have felt marginalised, despite being the main client group within Disability SA (60%).

IDASA aims to correct this imbalance, with people from all parts of the intellectual disability sector invited to come together to unite under one banner. This united voice will bring with it a strength not seen before in the representation of people with intellectual disability in SA. IDASA and Disability SA are already having preliminary discussion on representation, self managed funding and innovative accommodation models.

IDASA will pursue all options to ensure people with intellectual disability have an equitable voice in the development of national and state disability policy. Equally, those with intellectual disability, where appropriate, must be recognised as being entitled to have their advocate's voice accepted *ipso facto* as the voice of the person with disability. The right to a solution of choice in service delivery to people with intellectual disability will be reinforced.

Aligned with the United National Convention for People with Disability, the IDASA philosophy will aim to work with state and national governments and Disability SA to advance debate and explore opportunities for new and innovative service delivery. This will be formed by consulting with IDASA members to evolve service delivery policy that is representative of the diversity of choice and opinion of its members. Members can expect to be surveyed regularly and actively contribute to setting the priorities of the Association on key issues.

The promoters of IDASA include David Holst, Helen Packer, Janet Gately, Patricia Brougham, Kerrie Ireland, Joy Aartsen and Teresa Colliver (treasurer). Anyone wishing to join the steering committee or work on consultative groups with DSA are welcome to contact IDASA as volunteers are most welcome. We would like to thank Cowell Clarke Solicitors (Adelaide) for their assistance in the formalization of IDASA.

IDASA is not affiliated with any political parties or advocacy agencies and aims to have significant membership by June 2010. Membership is free as sponsors have been secured.

The IDASA website is available at www.idasa.com.au

We look forward to your ongoing support and a better deal for people with Intellectual Disability in SA. Please circulate IDASA information to all supporters of people with an intellectual disability including, family, friends, workmates and carers, and encourage them to become members.

Want to become a member of IDASA?

- To join either: 1. Fill in the information below and click 'reply' on your computer
- 2. Print this page, complete and post to: IDASA P.O. BOX 55, Wayville ????

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"/>	Carer / other/ sector worker

I would like to join IDASA and give consent for my details to be kept and maintained confidentially by IDASA for the purposes of communicating with me about issues related to people with an intellectual disability in South Australia and nationally.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Distributed by Disability Speaks on behalf of IDASA

