



DEVELOPMENTAL
EDUCATORS
AUSTRALIA INC

September 2017

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Welcome to this edition of the DEAI Newsletter

Again there has been much work happening in the background with the committee working tirelessly on a range of activities including new membership certificates, participating in a range of expos (Noarlunga, Golden Grove etc) and professional development events. We are gearing up for another busy "end of year" with KYD-X expo looming (Oct 14th) workshops and our Award ceremony on 2nd November. If you have any free time and / or energy, please make contact with the committee. It is always great to have some extra helpers to promote the profession and association at such events.

Thank you to all of you who responded to the request for feedback and advice as to the place of the association newsletter. Response rates were very low, but we received some good ideas and suggestions about future professional development events, and about the type of information that might be included in any future newsletters.

One of the aims for future newsletters is to feature more stories about what you are doing in practice, as a way to acknowledge the diversity of the profession and the roles that Developmental Educators fulfil. To this end, we are considering sharing the newsletter more broadly with peak sector bodies and also with employers. Please see the short story inside re other plans for promoting the profession in the future.

In addition, the committee has a strong interest in expanding mentorship opportunities as discussed briefly in the previous newsletter. There are also more details on the website, so please take a look. The committee are still seeking people who are willing to be mentors, but whether you are interested in being a mentor OR a mentee, it is a fabulous opportunity to form a relationship with another Developmental Educator (possibly other allied health practitioners in a work team), and to build and consolidate knowledge and skills in diverse areas. Being involved in a mentoring relationship is a fabulous professional development activity!

Speaking of which, we take this opportunity to remind you to complete your professional development recording forms, which are due on 27th October, and also to consider the "outstanding achievers" in our profession. There is still time to nominate someone for one of the six award categories, and to join us to celebrate the achievements at the annual awards night on November 2nd 2017. Take a look inside for more details!



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“NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION WEEK”

Many professions have a “world day”, designed to acknowledge and recognise the role that their profession plays.

Given that Developmental Educators are an exceptionally talented and highly skilled bunch, we’ve decided to go “the whole hog” and have a celebratory week!

A small subcommittee has begun making plans for National Developmental Education week, which will begin in the week following awards night (see below), November 6th—10th 2017. The awards night will be the platform for the launch of “the week”, and the DEAI website will have a page dedicated to the week, including ideas as to how organisations and individuals might celebrate. The subcommittee are at work developing promotional packs and materials. Watch this space for further details.



4TH BI-ANNUAL DEAI OUTSTANDING ACHIEVERS AWARDS

The DEAI 4th Bi

-annual DEAI Outstanding Achievers Awards will be held on Thursday 2nd November at West Adelaide Football Club, 57 Milner Road, Richmond, 7.30-9.30pm.

This is another fantastic opportunity to acknowledge the skills and commitments of DE’s, students and others in the sector, and so we strongly encourage you to take a look at the award categories and lodge a nomination form.

The 6 award categories are:

- Dot Mills Developmental Educator of the Year Award
- Bachelor of Disability and Developmental Education Student of the Year Award
- Community Achievement Award
- Support Worker of the Year Award (frontline services)
- Innovative Service Development Award (Best Program Development by a Developmental Educator)
- Innovative Service Development Award (Best Individual Outcome by a Developmental Educator)

Award criteria are found on the **nomination forms**, which can be downloaded via the link on the following web page:

<http://www.deai.com.au/industry-news/call-for-nominations-for-the-4th-bi-annual-deai-outstanding-achievers-awards-2nd-november>. Submission deadline is **Sunday 1st October 2017**.

To register to attend the Awards please go to <http://www.deai.com.au/event/4th-bi-annual-deai-outstanding-achievers-awards-2017-2>

DEAI sincerely thanks our award sponsors.



OFFICE OF THE SENIOR PRACTITIONER

RESTRICTIVE PRACTICE LAUNCH

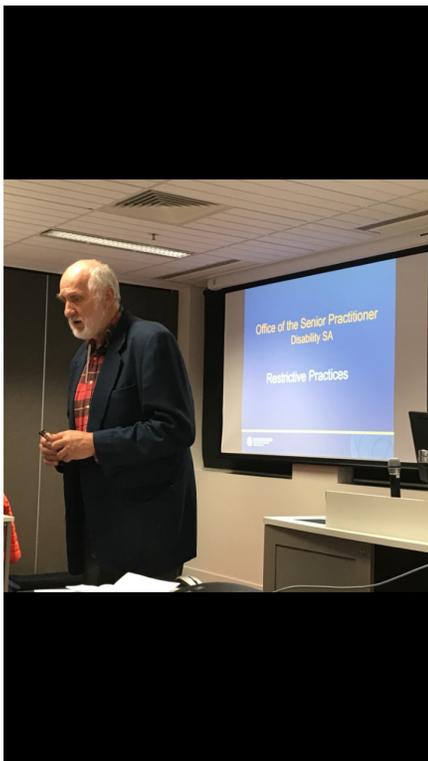
The Office of the Senior Practitioner “upholds the rights of South Australians with disability to live free of unauthorised restrictive practices. (They) seek to support service providers to provide disability services in the least restrictive way.”

In South Australia, the Senior Practitioner is Professorial Fellow Richard Bruggemann, and many of us were lucky to hear him speak passionately when he presented the work that the office has produced regarding restrictive practice and people with a disability when he presented at a DEAI professional development event on July 5th.

This event was closely followed by the official launch on July 18th of a number of policies and guidelines about quality and safeguarding re the use of restrictive practices within the South Australian disability sector. The extensive work undertaken is summarised in a number of key documents including the following :-

- Safeguarding People with a Disability—Restrictive Practices Policy
- Human Rights Guide for the South Australian Disability Service Sector
- Positive Behaviour Support Guide for the South Australian Disability Service Sector
- Restrictive Practice Reference Guide for the South Australian Disability Service Sector.
- Person-centred Guide for the South Australian Disability Service Sector.

These guides may be downloaded via the links from the OSP webpage as follows:



www.dcsi.sa.gov.au/services/disability-sa/office-of-the-senior-practitioner

or can be accessed via the DCSI policies and guidelines page as follows

www.dcsi.sa.gov.au/agencies/disability-sa/disability-sa-policies-and-guidelines

Richard will continue this work by developing a community of practice. Please contact him if you wish to register your interest.

Key Word Sign Workshop:-

This fun and interactive workshop is presented by Key Word Sign SA.

You'll learn all the tips and tricks needed to get you started with signing and over 100 signs to use with children and adults with complex communication needs.

Saturday 23 September 2017 from 9.00 am to 3.30 pm at Down Syndrome SA, Ridleyton.

Cost: \$130 per person.

More information from Karen Sowton on email at keyword-signsa@gmail.com

To book, see: <http://www.stickytickets.com.au> (search KWS)

For a timetable of key word sign workshops for the remainder of the year, please go to

<http://www.kwssa.com.au/workshops-schedule-2015/>

(& yes, whilst it says 2015 schedule, it really is workshops for 2017!!)



PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY HAD THE 'HIGHEST LEVELS OF LEGAL NEEDS' AND 'HIGH VULNERABILITY TO A BROAD RANGE OF LEGAL PROBLEMS' IN COMPARISON TO OTHER DISADVANTAGED GROUPS EXAMINED.

THE LAW SURVEY

WE'RE ON THE WEB
www.deai.com.au

DEAI WEBSITE

Check out the DEAI website for job vacancies, resources, news and professional development events:

www.deai.com.au

DEAI FACEBOOK

Follow us on Facebook for news and updates:

<https://www.facebook.com/DevelopmentalEducatorsAustraliaIncorporated>



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THE JUSTICE PROJECT

The Justice Project is a National Project which aims to identify and address the barriers faced by those Vulnerable Australians who are socially and / or economically disadvantaged in accessing justice. People with disability are one of the thirteen identified target groups whose experiences in accessing justice are being reviewed.

“Australians who experience disadvantage can find it more difficult to get access to justice for a multitude of reasons, including but not limited to:

- education and literacy levels
- language barriers
- financial constraints
- lack of accessibility
- access to information and digital technology
- past traumas and hesitation to engage in legal processes
- lack of knowledge around rights and where to go for advice or assistance

The Law Council wants to change this through The Justice Project.”

www.lawcouncil.asn.au/justice-project/access-to-justice

Please contribute to the review by contributing formally or informally to the review before the end of September.

<https://www.lawcouncil.asn.au/justice-project/get-involved>

DEMOCRATISING DISABILITY...TAKING CONTROL

OCTOBER 5th, 2017, 2.30—4.30 pm

Open State Dome in Victoria Square

A panel discussion examining the mechanisms for facilitating democracy in the disability sector and wider community. Dr Niki Vincent will be Master of Ceremonies for the afternoon. Register to attend at:

<https://www.openstate.com.au/events/democratising-disability-taking-control>

DEAI AGM—2nd November 2017

The 8th DEAI AGM will be held prior to the DEAI Awards on Thursday 2nd November.

6.00pm registration for a 6.15pm start—7.00pm

You must hold current full membership with the DEAI in order to vote or to nominate for the DEAI Committee (student members cannot vote however can be nominated for the DEAI Committee).

Please register for the AGM prior to 1st Nov at:

<https://www.stickytickets.com.au/58826>

We hope you will stay on for the Awards to celebrate with the nominees.



