

**LA TROBE**
UNIVERSITYLIVING WITH DISABILITY
RESEARCH CENTRE**Newsletter** Winter 2020

Our winter newsletter takes a look at the ongoing implications of the COVID-19 pandemic and other news from the Living with Disability Research Centre.

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Professor Christine Bigby

Director - Living with Disability Research Centre

New Projects and Partners in 2020

Enabling engagement and inclusion: Active Support in accommodation services for people with intellectual disability

Our longitudinal study of the quality of support in supported accommodation services has been running since 2009. Due to the interruptions wrought by COVID 19, we have been forced to postpone fieldwork on this project until late 2020 or early 2021. However, we are working closely with all our organisational partners to ensure that we are ready to go on the next round of data collection as soon as travel and other restrictions have been lifted. We are also pleased to announce that Rocky Bay services in Western Australia has joined our study

the study this year. We welcome our newest partner aboard.

Implementing Active Support in Sweden

We are also pleased to announce that the Living with Disability Research Centre will partner with Professor Magnus Tideman and the Ersta Sköndal Högskola University College, Sweden, on a study of the introduction, for the first time, of Active Support into supported accommodation services in Sweden. We have, to date, managed to overcome the tyranny of distance and ongoing travel restrictions by training a Swedish research team who will, in turn, train disability support staff in Active Support.

Models for facilitating community participation of adults with cognitive impairment

The Living with Disability Research Centre, in collaboration with NDS, has recently embarked on the final phase of our Community Participation project. Community participation, an ill-defined and slippery concept, has been a long held but seldom realized aim of disability policy. In the first phase of this project, we developed conceptual clarity about different types of interventions designed to support community participation for people with intellectual disabilities. The second phase prepared five in depth case studies of organisations which had a reputation for successfully using these different approaches to supporting community participation. These case studies focussed on interventions to support development of friendships, identity and belonging and convivial encounters.

The final phase of the project involves translating our research findings into accessible materials including, among other things, a guide for practice for each type of intervention and a webinar.

Links to the articles and to the overarching report and executive summary from this study to date can be found below. You may also be interested in the NDIS Sector Development Podcast, in which NDS staff and Professor Bigby discuss

findings from the project about how to design effective supports to facilitate community participation.

Article: [Community Participation - Scoping Review](#)

Article: [Community Participation - Arts Project](#)

Article: [Community Participation - Convivial Encounters](#)

Final Report: [Community Participation - Final Report](#)

Podcast: [Community Participations - Effective Supports](#)

Recent Submissions

In July, Living with Disability Research Centre staff made three submissions to the Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The committee undertakes inquiries into specific aspects of the Scheme.

Professor Bigby made a submission to the Committee's inquiry on the NIDS workforce. The central proposition of Bigby's submission was that if the NDIS is to succeed in its promise of improving the choice and control and social participation of people with disability, then knowledge and skills for working with particular groups of people with disabilities need to be identified, core competencies and training developed, and some form of regulatory or accreditation system put in place to ensure workers have the skills required to deliver quality support. Bigby recommended that training be tailored to specific segments of the workforce and based on evidence about the knowledge and skills that lead to good practice and outcomes for specific groups of people supported. She noted the need for uniform national benchmarks and accreditation for the training of those working in the sector. Bigby also spoke to the committee and answered a series of questions on notice.

Professor Bigby also made a submission to the Committee's Inquiry into the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission, which is examining systemic and ongoing issues about the operations of the Commission. Bigby's submission was primarily in relation to the adequacy and effectiveness of the NDIS Practice Standards and focused on direct support staff and front line managers supporting people with intellectual disabilities living in group homes.

Bigby recommended that the National Disability Insurance Scheme (Provider Registration and Practice Standards) Rules 2018 and the associated National Disability Insurance Scheme (Quality Indicators) Guidelines 2018, be amended:

- a. to create an additional Module to promote improved quality and safeguarding in group homes by implementing Active Support, and
- b. to require that provider's supervision practices go beyond individual supervision to include all five tasks of Practice Leadership, and
- c. to require provider's internal audit arrangements include regular structured observation of practice of Active Support, and an annual independent report on the quality of Active support practice and practice leadership in their groups which support people with intellectual disabilities.

PhD Candidate, Jade McEwen, also made a submission concerned with NDIS practice standards and audit processes and outlined how methods used to determine compliance do not reliably monitor service quality in ways which identify good or poor quality support.

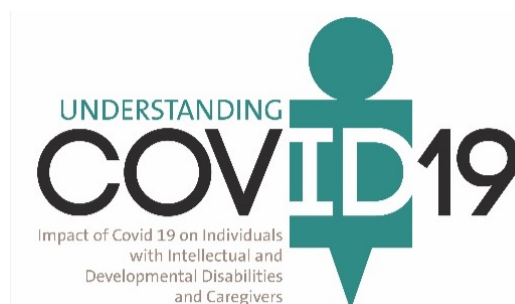
To view any of these submissions, please click on the links below:

Bigby: [Quality and Safeguards](#)

Bigby: [Workforce](#)

McEwen: [Quality and Safeguards](#)

Impact of COVID-19



You will have recently received an email from us about an international survey

our Research Centre is conducting with partners in 19 countries. The survey is concerned with the impact of COVID-19 on individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and service providers.

The survey is part of a project that is being led by the Centre for Disability Studies, University College Dublin, Ireland, and comprises a team of 26 researchers from around the world. Professor Christine Bigby, Director of the Living with Disability Research Centre, is the Australian co-investigator on the study.

If you haven't participated already, we invite you and members of your network to take part in the survey. We would also be grateful if you would share this email with others who you think may be interested. The survey can be completed by family members of people with intellectual disabilities, direct support workers or others involved in service delivery or advocacy with people with intellectual disabilities.

To take part, please click on the link below, then click on the link to the English version of the survey for Australian participants.

[Go to Survey](#)

Research Seminar Series



The Living with Disability Research Centre's 2020 Research Seminar Series continues in Semester 2. Each seminar focuses on issues important to people with intellectual disability or acquired brain injury. And each seminar usually presents findings from a current or recently completed Living with Disability Research Centre project. If you miss a seminar, you can always access slides from the completed presentations here: [Research Seminar Series](#)

Research Seminar Series - Semester 2 Programme

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Dr Alan Hough</p> <p>Sep 9</p> | <p>The NDIS Quality and Safeguarding scheme in context</p> |
| <p>Jade McEwen</p> | <p>Administrative compliance or personal outcomes? Exploring service quality from the perspective of leaders and frontline staff in day service organisations</p> |
| <p>Emeritus Professor Jacinta Douglas</p> | <p>Living well with acquired neurological disability: The things that help, the things that get in the way</p> |

Oct 14

Dr Kerryn Bagley

How personal perspectives shape health professionals' perceptions of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and risk

Professor
Christine Bigby

Emeritus Professor
Jacinta Douglas

Nov 11

Implementing the
La Trobe Support
for Decision
Making Practice
Framework

Findings from the trial of the SDM practice framework training. This training aimed to increase the capacity of those who support people with cognitive disabilities to provide rights based support. Bigby and Douglas will also reflect on the experiences of several organisations that have adopted the La Trobe Support for Decision Making Practice Framework

Disability Practice Courses



We would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new students who have joined us for the second second semester. We know that the Australian workforce is facing significant challenges during this period of uncertainty. It was wonderful to see so many new enrolments for our Disability Practice

Courses and to know that some students have taken advantage of the discounted rates for our Graduate Certificate in Disability Practice as part of the Federal Government's COVID-19 relief package.

Our flexible, online courses equip students to undertake a range of challenging and exiting roles in the rapidly growing disability sector and can lead to a satisfying career in improving the lives of people with disabilities and their communities. If you would like more information about the any of the courses we offer, please contact our course coordinator, Dr Sian Anderson, with any queries.

Email: Sian.Anderson@latrobe.edu.au

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Podcast

Identity, Sexuality and LGBTIQ+ People with Intellectual Disability

Tune in to the latest he ASID podcast to hear Dr Lizzie Smith, from the Living with Disability Research Centre, and her colleague, Kathryn Bartlett, share findings from their project titled Rainbow Me. Episode 2, Season 3 of the ASID podcast series is devoted to exploring how far we have come in understanding and celebrating the sexuality experiences and identities of LBGTIQA+ adults who have intellectual disability. To listen to our colleagues talk about what supports or impedes social inclusion of people with intellectual disability who are LGBTQIA+ or gender diverse in disability and LGBTQIA+ spaces and services, click on the link below.

[Listen to Podcast](#)

New Research

New research publications by our staff at the Living with Disability Research

Centre.

Araten-Bergman, T., & Bigby, C. (2020) Violence Prevention Strategies for People with Intellectual Disabilities: A Scoping Review. *Australian Social Work*.

DOI: [10.1080/0312407X.2020.1777315](https://doi.org/10.1080/0312407X.2020.1777315)

Bertram, T., Power, E., Douglas, J., & Tougher, L. (2020) Friendships after severe traumatic brain injury: A survey of current speech pathology practice. *Brain Injury*. 34(1), 1020-1030.

DOI: [10.1080/02699052.2020.1764100](https://doi.org/10.1080/02699052.2020.1764100)

Bigby, C. (2020) The significance of research to practice during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Research and Practice in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*. 7(1) 1-4.

DOI: [10.1080/23297018.2020.1765847](https://doi.org/10.1080/23297018.2020.1765847)

Bigby, C., & Anderson, S. (2020). Creating opportunities for convivial encounters for people with intellectual disabilities: "It looks like an accident". *Journal of Intellectual & Developmental Disability*.

DOI: [10.3109/13668250.2020.1812178](https://doi.org/10.3109/13668250.2020.1812178)

Browning, M., Bigby, C., & Douglas, J. (2020) A process of decision-making support: Exploring supported decision-making practice in Canada. *Journal of Intellectual & Developmental Disability*.

DOI: [10.3109/13668250.2020.1789269](https://doi.org/10.3109/13668250.2020.1789269)

Brown, M., Bishop, G., Winkler, D., & Douglas, J. (2020). Young people in Australian residential aged care: Evaluating trends from 2008 to 2018. *Australian Health Review*.

DOI: [10.1071/AH19172](https://doi.org/10.1071/AH19172)

Linehan, C., Aranten-Bergman, T., Beadle-Brown J., *et al.* COVID-19 IDD: A global survey exploring the impact of COVID-19 on individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their caregivers. *HRB Open Res*.

DOI: [10.12688/hrbopenres.13077.1](https://doi.org/10.12688/hrbopenres.13077.1)

Oliver, S., Gosden-Kaye, E., Winkler, D., & Douglas, J. (2020) The outcomes of individualized housing for people with disability and complex needs: A scoping review. *Disability and Rehabilitation*. 1-15.

DOI: [10.1080/09638288.2020.1785023](https://doi.org/10.1080/09638288.2020.1785023)

Shoreland, J., Douglas, J., & O'Halloran, R. (2020). Cognitive-communication difficulties following traumatic brain injury sustained in older adulthood: A scoping review. *International Journal of Language and Communication Disorders*.

DOI: [10.1111/1460-6984.12560](https://doi.org/10.1111/1460-6984.12560)

Stagg, K., Douglas, J., & Iacono, T. (2020). The perspectives of allied health clinicians on the working alliance with people with stroke-related communication impairment. *Neuropsychological Rehabilitation*. 1-20.

DOI: [10.1080/09602011.2020.1778491](https://doi.org/10.1080/09602011.2020.1778491)

Tilbury, C., Bigby, C., & Hughes, M. (2020). The Production and Dissemination of Australian Social Work Scholarship: A Citation Analysis. *Australian Social Work*.

DOI: [10.1080/0312407X](https://doi.org/10.1080/0312407X).



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