



**Reminder:** The final LiDS Seminar of 2017 is today,

Wednesday 13 December, 3 - 5pm in HS1 room 203.

Dr Emma Bould and Sophia Tipping will present their current research. Join us afterwards for some drinks and nibbles to celebrate an amazing year!

**New research reveals dogs can promote social connections.**



**Above:** LiDs Research Fellow, Dr Emma Bould, (Left), Study participant, and Jimmy the Labrador.

Researchers from LiDs and the La Trobe Anthrozoology Research Group recently completed a small pilot study in collaboration with Righteous Pups Australia, to explore differences in the nature and number of encounters between people with intellectual disabilities and community members when a dog was present and absent.

On 14<sup>th</sup> November, Research Fellow, Dr Emma Bould, along with five participants, the handlers and the Righteous Pups dogs gathered at Lake Weeroona, Vic, and gave gathered press interviews, footage and photographs. The research subsequently featured on [WIN News Bendigo](#), [9 News Central Victoria](#), and in the [Bendigo Advertiser](#), [Bendigo Weekly](#), [Riverine Herald](#) and [National Disability Guide](#).

Sixteen adults with intellectual disabilities were divided into two groups, with half having 14 outings with a dog and its handler, while the other half had 14 outings with a handler alone, followed by five outings with a handler and a dog. Findings showed there were significantly more encounters between participants and strangers when a dog was present. Furthermore, those with a dog experienced more positive encounters with others, were more quickly recognised and

acknowledged and showed greater confidence to engage socially with strangers.

Righteous Pups managing director Joanne Baker, who witnessed those results first-hand said, “To see these very isolated, beautiful individuals come alive and smile, as friendships were formed and these new people addressed them by their name, was just wonderful”. The results were presented at the LiDs Roundtable, and the ASID conference in Hobart ([see presentation](#)).

Researchers are now seeking further funding to conduct a larger trial.

*Image by La Trobe University.*

## Guides to Good Group Homes released by CADR



**Above:** Covers of the three guides: Evidence, Questions to ask & plain English guide

Based on the sold-out seminars given by Professor Chris Bigby across Australia the Good Group Home guides lay out in plain language and illustrated easy access English the current evidence and indicators for assessing or designing a Group Home that will provide a good quality of life for residents.

Launched at the ASID Hobart Conference the guide is part of a series of Research to Action Guides that CADR (an initiative of National Disability Services) is producing with a National Disability Research and Development Grant via the Research and Data Working Group (RDWG), representing all Australian Governments.

[The rapid review, checklist and easy access illustrated guide can be downloaded for free.](#)

## Dr Pam Kappelides receives Thought Leadership award



**Above:** 2017 Volunteering Victoria State Awards – Thought Leadership Award recipient Dr. Pam Kappelides, La Trobe University (Second from right). Image courtesy of Volunteering Victoria and Frank Amato.

La Trobe researcher, lecturer and LiDs member Dr Pam Kappelides received the Thought Leadership Award of the Volunteering Victoria annual State Awards held in Queen’s Hall at State Parliament House on Wednesday 22 November 2017. Using her skills to advance the knowledge and management of volunteering in the area of sports, recreation and disability.

Dr Kappelides commented, ***"It's great to be recognised for helping make volunteering more inclusive for people with a disability, the benefits for the thousands of people who volunteer and those they help are immense, and I'm happy to have played a small part in the development and education of the volunteer community"***. The knowledge developed from Dr Kappelides 25-year track record of volunteering research was articulated in an [online resource](#) which aims to improve inclusion for people with a disability in volunteering and improve volunteer management procedures and practices in programs and services across Victoria.

## ASID 2017 conference presentations now available



Ten LiDs researchers travelled to the Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability 2017 Conference in Hobart, Tasmania in November. As well as sharing their research with other academics, LiDs researchers and industry representatives from across the sector heard challenging keynotes about heeding the lessons of marketization of disability services from other countries.

## [Presentations by LiDs researchers are now available](#)

### NEW RESEARCH

#### New research from LiDs.

[Communication access on trains: A qualitative exploration of the perspectives of passengers with communication disabilities.](#) Bigby, C., Johnson et al. (2017). *Rehabilitation and Society*

[‘I Feel Free’: the Experience of a Peer Education Program with Fijians with Spinal Cord Injury.](#) Chaffey, L., & Bigby, C. (2017). *Journal of Developmental and Physical Disabilities*, 1-14.

[Literature Review of Best Practice Supports in Disability Services for the Prevention of Abuse of People with Disability. Report for the Disability Services Commissioner.](#) Araten-Bergman, T., Bigby, C., & Ritchie, G. (2017). Living with Disability Research Centre, La Trobe University.

[Spousal recollections of early signs of primary progressive aphasia.](#) Pozzebon, M., Douglas, J., & Ames, D. (2017). *International Journal of Language & Communication Disorders*.

[“So that's the way it is for me—always being left out.” Acquired Pragmatic Language Impairment and Social Functioning following Traumatic Brain Injury.](#) Douglas, J. M. (2017). *Brain Impairment*, 1-11.

[A scoping review of the working alliance in acquired brain injury rehabilitation.](#) Stagg, K., Douglas, J., & Iacono, T. (2017). *Disability and rehabilitation*, 1-9.

### LiDs Advisory Committee - Gerry Naughtin stepping down

Dr Gerry Naughtin recently announced that, sadly, he is stepping down from his role on the LiDs Advisory Committee to take up a position as an advisor to the National Disability Insurance Agency on psychosocial disability. We are sure Gerry will continue to offer his wise counsel and valuable contribution to the NDIA, just as he has to LiDs over the last few years. We thank him for his contribution and wish him every success in the future.



**Above:** Dr Gerry Naughtin

### LiDs partner in major new ARC Discovery Grant

# The disability inclusive city: understanding the impact of the National Disability Insurance Scheme on participation in mainstream urban services

LiDs researchers are partners in a major new ARC Discovery grant-funded study led by Dr Ilan Wiesel, looking at how the NDIS will affect participation in mainstream urban services, (education, health, transport, community centres, open space, recreational facilities and other urban services).

The NDIS is going to have a major impact on these services, what they deliver and how they deliver. This wide-ranging investigation will inform policy, as well as examine how people with intellectual disabilities are participating, making choices, and to what extent they are participating successfully.

The \$400k+ grant will run over a three year period and will aim to improve policy, capacity building and help the NDIS deliver on some of it's challenging goals. Stay tuned for more news as the project develops.

## Australian Association of Social Workers 2017 Symposium



**Above:** Professor Chris Bigby presenting on *Disruptions to Social Work*

Professor Christine Bigby, Director of the Living with Disability Research Centre was one of two presenters in the plenary session organised by the College of Social Work at the recent Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) symposium in Hobart. The theme of the session was Disruptions to Social Work.

Professor Bigby's paper reviewed the disruptive impact of the National Disability Insurance Scheme on social workers involved at all levels of practice with people with intellectual disabilities. She drew attention to the significant advantages likely to result from doubling funding for disability support but the inherent dangers that

people without strong family or advocacy would benefit least from the reforms, and the likely pitfalls of there being no provider of last resort for people with high or complex needs. She also discussed the lack of acknowledgement of social work skills, particularly in assessment and planning, and the value these skills add to enabling consumers to articulate the full spectrum of their needs and gain the support they need from the NDIS.

[The slides are available on the LiDs website.](#) [PDF 287K]



**Above:** Professor Chris Bigby and a rogues gallery from 40 years of Social Work at La Trobe.

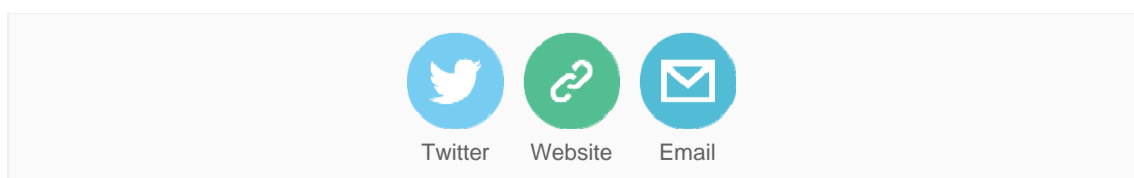
Over 200 people from the past, present and future of Social Work at La Trobe University attended an evening of presentations, networking and discussion on 21 November.

Professor Chris Bigby gave a presentation on how La Trobe's research on disability issues has paralleled and uncovered the history of deinstitutionalisation in Victoria and has made a real difference to the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. She noted that La Trobe is one of the few social work courses with a specialist field of practice on working with people with disabilities.

The audience participated in a vigorous discussion about the future direction of Social Work in Australia arguing that Social workers are one of the professions that will not be replaced by Robots - and in fact is a growth profession in Australia. We look forward to 40 more years.

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Wishing everyone a happy holiday season, and looking forward to a busy 2018.



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