



Located at
the Mater Hospital,
Potter Building,
Annerley Rd,
South Brisbane
61- 07-31632412
qcidd@uq.edu.au



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND

September 2010

Vol 3, Issue 3

Our aim is to improve the health and wellbeing of adults with a developmental disability in Queensland, through multi-disciplinary research, education and clinical practice.

Clinic is full (for the moment)

Dear QCIDD supporters

Unfortunately we have reached capacity at the QCIDD clinic. Due to **very high demand** for our services, we are not able to offer any appointments to new patients at this time. We have now closed our waiting list as it is unlikely for new appointments to be scheduled until 2011. We apologise for any delay in notifying you of our lack of capacity to accept new referrals.

In terms of accessing alternative services, families and carers may be able to arrange a health assessment through your GP. When making the appointment, please explain that you are seeking a **comprehensive health assessment** and request a longer appointment (this can be billed under Medicare item 701, 703, 705 or 707 depending on the length of visit). If the assessment needs to be done at the patient's home, the GP can charge extra under item 719. Family members or support staff should ensure that all relevant medical records and current medications are taken to the assessment. Someone who knows the client well should attend the appointment to help provide the information the doctor needs. To support this process, the CHAP Health Review is available for all individuals receiving Disability Services Queensland (DSQ) funding, or support through a DSQ funded service.

We sincerely regret not being able to provide the requested service as we appreciate that few services exist. To discuss possible alternatives, you may contact QCIDD's clinical co-ordinator on 3163 2412 or qcidd@uq.edu.au. **New referrals will be considered from January 2011.**

Sarah Tocker on behalf of the QCIDD Clinical Team

Farewell Lisa Bridle!

In July 2010, we bid farewell to our Clinical Coordinator, Dr Lisa Bridle. Lisa has been working with QCIDD for the past four years, coordinating the QCIDD clinic and supporting families and our doctors around getting the best health outcomes for adults with intellectual disability.

Lisa brought great skills, knowledge and perspective to the Clinical Coordinator role, she will be greatly missed!!

We wish Lisa all the best in her new role with the Community Resource Unit and hope that our paths will cross again in the near future.

Clinic Coordination enquiries can now be directed via our general QCIDD number, 07 3163 2412 or qcidd@uq.edu.au

Communication interest group

For QCIDD, communication (or the lack of a means to communicate) is essential to taking a good health history, as well of living a decent life!

In our many conversations with people, communication is the key to good health outcomes. There are many concerns about the lack of research into two-way communication especially in healthcare settings, and lack of organisational support for communication strategies.

A group of people got together in August to talk about these issues and about lobbying for better communication support for people.

If you are interested, our next meeting is at QCIDD on Friday 8th October at 9:30am. Email Miriam on m.taylor3@uq.edu.au or call on 07-31632446.

In this issue:

Vol 3, Issue 3

- ⊗ Clinic full
- ⊗ Farewell Lisa Bridle!
- ⊗ Communication interest group
- ⊗ Workforce Council
- ⊗ Oral health
- ⊗ MBBS students as health advocates
- ⊗ CHAP in Philippines
- ⊗ ASSID 2010
- ⊗ Collaborations
- ⊗ Latest publications



Promoting Good Physical & Mental Health

GETTING BETTER HEALTH CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH
AN INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

Commonly unrecognised and poorly managed mental and physical conditions were discussed as well as appropriate management and assessment. The key issues identifying underlying physical and mental problems, the use of medication and behavioural management were explored along with strategies to enhance the delivery of healthcare and understanding the complexity of delivering high quality healthcare to people with intellectual disability.

Family/Parent Carer
Workshop:
Wednesday 18 August 2010
9.30am to 3.00pm

Seminar for Disability
Sector Staff:
Wednesday 25 August
9.00am-4.00pm
(aimed for support workers,
coordinators and managers)

The sessions were both well attended. Professor Lennox and Dr Lisa Bridle presented on the family/parent carer workshop, and Prof. Lennox and Dr Jodie Carter presented on the staff seminar day. QCIDD would like to thank the Workforce Council for supporting these information sessions for families and support workers.

1000 Voices

The Healthy People and Healthy Places research unit at Griffith University focuses on research that addresses disability, chronic illness and rehabilitation while responding to contemporary issues. *1000 Voices* is being led by Professor Lesley Chenoweth in collaboration with a team of people including Research Fellow, Dr Naomi Sunderland.

Do you have a story to tell? Go to www.1000voices.edu.au/content/power-sharing-life-narratives

Oral health of people with intellectual disability

People with intellectual disability suffer very poor oral health which has an enormous impact on the health of the body in general.

Attending the iADH (International Association for Disability and Oral Health) 40th year Congress in Belgium recently brought home to me how bad the oral health of people with intellectual disability is but also demonstrated how many solutions are out there. www.iadh.org

Who would have thought that athletes would have such poor oral health but they do. The Special Smiles program (www.specialolympics.org/healthy_athletes_resources) at the Special Olympics all over the world provides free dental screening and oral health promotion for athletes with intellectual disability.

The Congress presenters focussed very much on the oral health of people with specific syndromes and on improving communication (www.iadh.org/pdf/2010Winter) .

It was heartening to hear of such great work going on around the world and it made me wonder what are we doing here? Whilst we have specific services in Sydney and Adelaide, we have nothing in Queensland.

The QCIDD Oral Health Interest Group has been trying to lobby government and dental services to take seriously this issue. If you are interested in joining us to promote better oral healthcare for people with intellectual disability, please let me know.

Miriam Taylor
m.taylor3@uq.edu.au



International Association
for Disability and Oral Health

Medical Students to help People in medical consultations

In collaboration with QCIDD, Endeavour Foundation will support MBBS Year 2 students assisting people with intellectual disability to attend GP consultations, along with a support worker. The students will be supported by the MBBS curriculum to utilize this experience in their coursework. The student would be required to give a commitment of up to 10 hours per annum or more if all parties chose to do so. The rationale is to expose MBBS students early to understand people with intellectual disability, their health needs, their support networks, the needs of the GP and the GP consultation process and potential flaws in the current system. It provides MBBS students with an opportunity to interact with people with intellectual disability, learn how to communicate with them and thus develop better communication skills.

The first students will start this month. QCIDD thanks our colleagues for their dedication and decisiveness in getting this project up and running, particularly Jenny Schafer, Deputy Director of the MBBS Program, Lucie Mudie and Bav Manoharan as MBBS Student Reps, and Melinda Ewin at Endeavour Foundation.

CHAP in the Philippines

Claire Brolan from the School of Population Health (SPH) Research Mentoring Scheme

(UQ) took the CHAP to the Philippines in June, to NORFI in Bacolod City which is a WHO Collaborating Centre and which provides whole-of-life support to people with disabilities

The aim was to identify whether the Comprehensive Health Assessment Programme (CHAP) can be adopted to support the health needs of people with intellectual disability in the Philippines. People with intellectual disabilities have higher health needs that are unrecognised and unmet, experience chronic ill health, and premature death. QCIDD's CHAP produced substantial increase in Australian GPs' attention to health needs of intellectually disabled adults, suggesting longer-term health benefits.

Claire found that the CHAP was well received by medical practitioners, support workers, families and individuals with intellectual disability in the Philippines, with some obvious changes for different socio-cultural environments. She will expand her ideas in some upcoming publications.

The research support team is A/P Fran Boyle, Dr Robert Ware, Prof. Nick Lennox and Miriam Taylor.

**Are you registered
for the 45th
ASSID Conference
(29th September to 1st October)
Brisbane, Queensland?**

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!
Go to www.assid.org.au



Latest Publications

Taylor Gomez M. Hysterectomy will not solve the problem: Response to "In that case". Bio-ethical Enquiry. in press.

Lennox NG, Ware RS, Bain C, Taylor Gomez M, Cooper SA. Effects of health screening for adults with intellectual disability: A pooled analysis. British Journal of General Practice. in press.

Lennox NG, Simpson JC. Invisible People? Med J Aust. in press;tba.

OUR COLLABORATIONS

- Intellectual disability coordinator, Queensland Health, Mental Health
- BOLD, a group of services interested in supporting parents with intellectual disability
- Intellectual Disability and Neuropsychiatry Working Group
- Relationships and Sexuality Disability Network
- Queenslanders with Disability Network Inc.
- Queensland Advocacy Inc.
- Oral Health Interest Group
- Workforce Council Queensland
- Endeavour Foundation
- ASSID Qld