

# DISABILITY GOOD PRACTICE SYMPOSIUM



7 June 2023

## PROGRAM

**Registration** **8.45-9.00**

**Opening:** Opening & Welcome to country **9.00-9.15**  
Housekeeping

**Session 1: "Setting the scene"** **9.15-10.00**

A message from the NSW Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Inclusion, the *Hon. Kate Washington, MP*

*Kate Alexander*, Senior Practitioner, Department of Communities and Justice

*Debbie Lee*, Senior Advocate, First People's Disability Network

- Why is this important? A rights-based approach
- What have we learnt? How are we responding?
- What else do we need to do?

**Session 2:** Good Practice Presentations – *One Child at a Time*

**Presentation #1 - Carers as critical partners** **9.55-10.30**

**Robyn McCall** is the long term foster carer for two young people with disability. Robyn will share the sobering story of her challenges and achievements, heartbreak and optimism which highlights gaps in the current system and challenges us to think about how we need to do things differently.

**Morning Tea Break** **10.30-10.50**

**Presentation #2** **10.50-11.25**

Focus on the Future: Doing case planning differently – a multidisciplinary approach.

**AllambiCare**

**Presentation #3** **11.25-12.05**

Building a community around a child – Leveraging community to support Aboriginal children and young people in a culturally appropriate and responsive way: a case study.

**CatholicCare Diocese of Broken Bay**

**Presentation #4** **12.05-12.20**

Why we need more research in this area – what is available? What are the gaps? How can we ensure that those with lived experience have a voice in our research efforts?

**Dr Susan Collings, University of Sydney; Lyn Ainsworth, ACWA**

**Lunch Break** **12.20-1.15**

### Session 3: Workshop sessions

Introduction to the sessions and logistics **1.15-1.20**

**Group A** **1.20-2.10**

Participants to choose 1 session to attend.

*A1 – Working effectively with children with Autism* **ASPECT**

The prevalence of autism in the general population is now well-documented and the population of children and young people in care is no different. However,

*A2 – Providing culturally responsive support to Aboriginal children and young people in care with a disability - sharing the journey* **AbSec**

Our colleagues from AbSec will use storytelling to take us on a journey, exploring concepts of “culturally responsive” and “active efforts” to strengthen understanding and enhance practice in a way that is meaningful, accessible and inclusive. Our journey will build understanding of the importance of culture and community in building positive futures for the most vulnerable children and young people.

*A3 – Making the most of NDIS Plans* **Melissa Shina & Kellie Gilbert, DCJ**

Having the right disability supports funded in a NDIS plan and using them to their full capacity has a significant impact on the lives of the people we all support. In this session we will explore how we can seek to maximize NDIS outcomes and plan utilisation by leveraging data using DCJ’s learnings about plan utilisation for children and young people in out of home care. Together we will consider the impact of plan under-utilisation, the barriers we face and discuss potential strategies and actions that can be put in place to overcome this.

*A4 – Supporting parents who are living with disability* **Dr Susan Collings**

We will explore the systemic issues for parents that can have a devastating impact on families when a parent has intellectual disability. Work in this area is bringing hope for changes and new thinking about parenting and keeping families together, including addressing questions of capacity and supporting parents to speak up for their rights and the rights of their children. Dr Collings is internationally recognised for her research about parents with intellectual disability and their children and has contributed to policy, practice and research on complex support needs, birth family contact and disability support planning. The workshop is very relevant to addressing risks of family breakdown as well as the restoration of children in care where parents live with disability.

*Changeover* **5 minutes**

**Group B** **2.15 – 2.55**

*B1 – Leaving Care & Extended Care – Challenges & Opportunities* **Uniting**

Transitioning to independence from care can be one of the most challenging periods for a young person and a time at which undiagnosed disability may become apparent. Without good support the trajectory of outcomes for a young person can be poor. This workshop explores ways to provide effective supports for sustainable outcomes, including exploring the opportunities afforded by NSW extended care legislation.

*B2 – Supporting newly arrived migrant and refugee families where disability is suspected* **Settlement Services International**

Starting with an understanding of the migration journey and potential trauma, this workshop will consider assessment and strategies that empower and educate families in order to resolve issues of stigma, access and language barriers, to ensure that services are child and family focussed and culturally responsive.

*B3 – Developing resources to help support children, young people and families with disability.*

**Council on Intellectual Disability**

Information is critical to supporting families and children, but for those with an intellectual disability, however mild, the volume and complexity of information can be a barrier to accessing and making the best use of available resources. CID are experts in developing accessible resources that support people with disability to exercise their rights in an informed way, supporting a pathway to independence and inclusion. This will be a “hands on” workshop in creating resources, that will be valuable across your entire organisation.

*B4 – Understanding Early Intervention supports*

**Koorana**

This workshop will take a different view of early intervention – a combination of curiosity and tenacity. The presentation and experience of 3 children / young person at different developmental stages will explore “what is going on for this child?” What strategies and supports might be appropriate and how can they be delivered in a way that is engaging and manageable for families, including foster families, that are already stretched. Participants will be provided with information on a wealth of resources.

*Reconvene in plenary*

5 minutes

**Session 4: Wrap & close**

2 minute wrap from each facilitator – 3 headline points from each session

**3.00-3.30**

**Closing**

**3.30-3.45**

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**Communities and Justice**

