

# School-Link Ten Year Anniversary Celebration

*With a great sense of community and support, we celebrated the 10 year anniversary of the School-Link Initiative at the Children's Hospital at Westmead on Monday the 11th of November 2019 at the Lorimer Dodds lecture theatre, the Children's Hospital at Westmead. A multidisciplinary and multi-agency agenda was presented reviewing the successes and future challenges in our industry.*

## **Session One: 10 years of CHW School-Link**

*Chairperson: Michael Bowden, Network Head, Department of Psychological Medicine*

### **Presentation One:**

**10 Years of CHW School-Link Achievements** by Dr David Dossetor

Child Psychiatrist with a special interest in Intellectual and Developmental Disability

The Children's Hospital at Westmead

Dr Dossetor gave us an history of the School-Link team and the Developmental Disability Team at the Children's Hospital at Westmead. To read an in-depth review, turn to page 4 of this edition and discover this journey and its accomplishments.

In this presentation David outlines the following:

- The people and acknowledgements
- First Steps: "Leading the way"
- Establishment of the DPC and partnerships, and CDS Review (2014)
- Development of specialised IDMH for C&A
- Developmental Psychiatry Curriculum and framework
- Changing models of disability service provision and innovations in practical respite services
- Elaborating the Developmental Model
- CHW School-Link: 10 milestones in 10 years
- Future opportunity and threats
- Enhancement
- Shifting sands of collaboration and NDIS
- Research partners and promise
- The next 10 years!

### **Presentation Two:**

**The Partnership between Disability Clinicians and Developmental Psychiatry**

*Lesley Whatson*

Portfolio Manager Clinical Practice  
SAL Consulting

Lesley provided us with an insightful view of what the future of collaboration could be if we all support each other in the ever changing world of disability.

### **Presentation Three:**

**Mental Health and Schools for Children with Intellectual Disability**

*Neale Waddy*

Leader, Support and Development. Disability, Learning and Support and

*Katrina Worrall*

Principal Psychologist

NSW Department of Education

The NSW Department of Education delivered some mental health trends over time with an overall in-





crease in prevalence of psychological distress. Engagement and belonging were two topics of paramount importance.

**Presentation Four:**

**20 years of School-link, looking forwards**

*Danielle Thomas*

School-Link Program Manager

MH Children and Young People Mental Health Branch  
Danielle gave the audience an overview of the last 20 years of School-Link with visual representation of major projects over the School-Link lifespan including Project AIR, School Refusal, Brain, Body Belonging project, pathways to care and other factsheets. We look forward to reading the new strategic plan in 2020.

**Presentation Five:**

**10 years of Justice Health School-Link**

*Rene Jones*

School-Link Coordinator

Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network  
Rene presented about the complexities and challenges of youth in custody including mental health issues, access to education and Adverse childhood experiences. Details for future collaboration and considerations for the JH&FMHN were given.

**Presentation Six:**

**The relationship between Developmental Paediatrics and Developmental Psychiatry**

*Dr Natalie Silove*

Associate Professor

Department Head of the Child Development Unit at the Children's Hospital at Westmead

A beautifully depicted presentation that collated images and artworks from the Sculpture by the Sea exhibition with recent findings and rules of engagement within the MHID sector.

**Presentation Seven: Westmead Feelings Program: Why teach Emotional Literacy?**

*Dr Michelle Wong*

Clinical Psychologist

Department of Psychological Medicine

The Children's Hospital at Westmead

In this presentation Dr Michelle Wong will outline the following:

- What is emotional literacy?
- Models of skill development
- Engaging learners
- Controlled trials & translational research
- The impact of emotional literacy and the WFP

**Presentation Eight:**

**A School Clinic for Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

*Jodie Caruana*

School-Link Coordinator

The Children's Hospital at Westmead

Jodie provides a snapshot into a school clinic that is run in Western Sydney. The presentation provides an overview and outlines the benefits of this outreach service that is run by health in conjunction with the host school.

**Session Two: The advances in the mental health services for people with intellectual disability in NSW.**

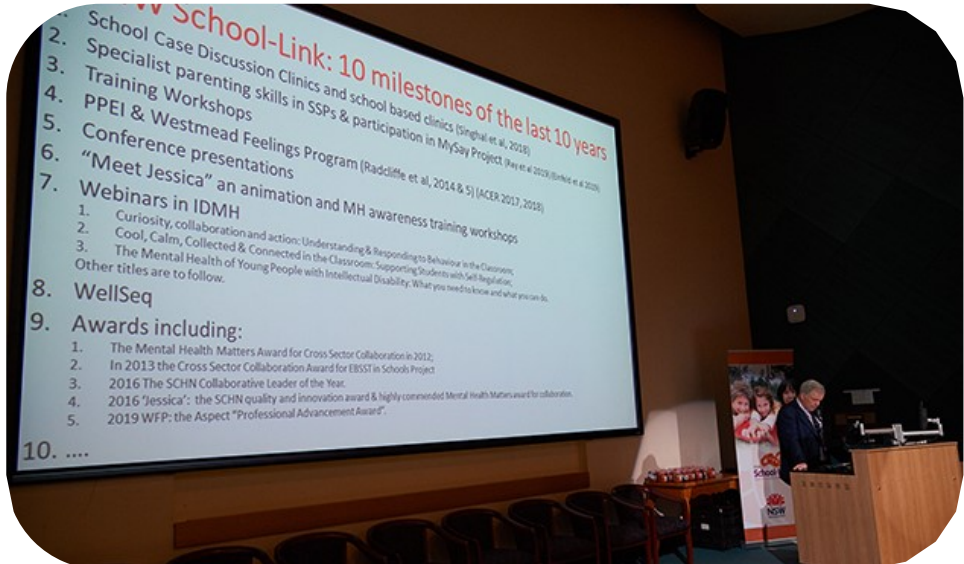
*Chairperson: Adam Guastella*

Professor, Michael Crouch Chair in Child and youth Mental Health. Brain and Mind Centre and Children's Hospital Westmead Clinical School

**Presentation Nine: Intellectual Disability and Mental Health: a state-wide perspective**

*Vince Ponzio*

Director, Intellectual Disability Mental Health. Mental Health Branch, NSW Ministry of Health.



- School-Link: 10 milestones of the last 10 years**
1. Specialist Case Discussion Clinics and school based clinics (Singhal et al, 2018)
  2. Training Workshops
  3. PPEI & Westmead Feelings Program (Radcliffe et al, 2014 & 5) (ACER 2017, 2018)
  4. Conference presentations
  5. "Meet Jessica" an animation and MH awareness training workshops
  6. Webinars in IDMH
    1. Curiosity, collaboration and action: Understanding & Responding to Behaviour in the Classroom
    2. Cool, Calm, Collected & Connected in the Classroom: Supporting Students with Self-Regulation
    3. The Mental Health of Young People with Intellectual Disability: What you need to know and what you can do.
  7. Other titles are to follow.
  8. WellSeq
  9. Awards including:
    1. The Mental Health Matters Award for Cross Sector Collaboration in 2012.
    2. In 2013 the Cross Sector Collaboration Award for EBSST in Schools Project
    3. 2016 The SCHN Collaborative Leader of the Year.
    4. 2016 'Jessica': the SCHN quality and innovation award & highly commended Mental Health Matters award for collaboration.
    5. 2019 WFP; the Aspect "Professional Advancement Award".
  10. ....

In his presentation Vince outlines the following: challenges in accessing mental health care for people with ID; NSW state-wide strategic priorities; funding for Intellectual Disability and Mental Health; state-wide tertiary ID/MH hubs; cognitive impairment and forensic reforms; key lessons for future development of Intellectual Disability Mental Health

**[Presentation Ten: The contributions from academic Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry](#)**

*Julian Trollor*

Chair

Intellectual Disability Mental Health

Head, Department of Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry UNSW.

Julian discusses how people with an intellectual disability are core users for mental health services, and how research is being used to advance mental health services in NSW. Further details and resources are available at <https://3dn.unsw.edu.au>. Follow 3DN on twitter @3DN\_UNSW.

**[Presentation Eleven: Partnering for improvement- the work of the ACI Intellectual Disability Network](#)**

*Tracey Szanto*

Manager, Intellectual Disability Health Network, Child and family stream.

Care across the lifestyle and Society, Agency for Clinical Innovation

Tracey shares important work from the ACI Intellectual Disability Network such as:

- Needs analysis from NSW LHD's
- The Service Framework to Improve the Health of people with Intellectual Disability
- 10 principles of good health care for people with ID
- Guidelines on pathways to care for children and adolescents with intellectual disability and mental health/challenging behaviours
- Say Less Show More resources
- Responding to the Needs of People with a Disability during Hospitalisation
- Building capability in NSW health services for people with intellectual disabilities: the Essentials

**[Presentation Twelve: Have the needs of the carers been heard?](#)**

*Barbara Lewis*

Manager

Carer Support Service

Northern Sydney Local Health District

Barbara gives an insightful presentation on the important role of carers for people with an intellectual disability and debates if their needs have been met.

She then concludes her talk with where improvements

in the sector are most needed.

**[Presentation Thirteen:](#)** The role of NDIS in supporting people with disability with severe emotion and behavioural difficulty

*Michelle Henwood*

Director Planning

Complex Support Needs Branch

Service Delivery and Performance

National Disability Insurance Agency

There is a complex care pathway

**[Presentation Fourteen: Do people with disability feel there is progress in caring in health/mental health?](#)**

*Jim Simpson*

Lawyer and Senior Advocate

NSW Council for Intellectual Disability

Jim discusses how health and mental health has been a key advocacy issue for the Council of Intellectual Disability.

**[Panel Discussion](#)** with all speakers Chaired by Associate Professor *Patricia O'Brien*

Director

Centre for Disability Studies

Professor of Disability Studies, the University of Sydney School of Medicine

**Panel discussion topic : The mental health of young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities: current opportunities and threats**

Please check the School-Link website for access to some of the presentations from the day. We look forward to working collaboratively with our partners into the future for the mental health needs of children and adolescents with an intellectual and developmental disability.

<http://www.schoolink.chw.edu.au/webinar-series/>

