



LifeSpan

Investigating the Mental Health of people
with Intellectual Disability across the LifeSpan

Welcome to the Second Issue of the
LifeSpan Project Newsletter.

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IDSC Devolution

IDSC as a service in its current structure will cease to exist and from July 3rd 2006 will be known as Disability Services S.A. The LifeSpan Project will continue as is under the new structure but with Peter Smith and Nancy Rogers - Department of Family and Communities, joining in on the Industry Partners meetings. The LifeSpan Team warmly welcomes Peter's and Nancy's future involvement.

Richard Bruggemann's Retirement

By now most of you will also know that Richard has retired from his position as CEO at IDSC after 22 years of service and will be taking up a post at the Flinder's University, Department of Disability Studies. Richard has been a key figure in developing and promoting the existence of the LifeSpan Project in South Australia and all of us here in the Team wish him much success in his new position. Richard has been invited to continue with his involvement as a consultant and he has accepted with enthusiasm. We look forward to a continuing partnership with Richard over the next few years.

Mental Health of Older People with ID

This area of the project is progressing well. People with an ID are living longer than ever before, many having the same life expectancy as people without an ID. Older people bring with them their life long disabilities and mental health problems. Ageing itself may exacerbate or trigger mental illness. An age criteria of over 55 years has been chosen to identify this group.

Barbara Pennington

The LifeSpan Project newsletter will be a quarterly publication with updates about the progress of our research, useful information relevant to research participants, information about our team members and their extensive experience in the fields of intellectual disability and mental health, and upcoming events.

Industry Partners

The LifeSpan Project is a collaborative research project between The Centre of Developmental Psychiatry and Psychology - Monash University, Disability SA, Minda Inc and DECS.

Industry Partner meetings are held quarterly and the following people attend:

Prof Bruce Tonge
Prof Stewart Einfeld
Dr Caroline Mohr
Centre of Developmental Psychiatry and Psychology -
Monash University
Peter Smith - Disability Services SA
Nancy Rogers - Disability Services SA
Richard Bruggemann - Flinders Uni
Janice Clark - Disability Services SA
Phil Martin - Minda Inc
Dorothy O'Brien - Minda Inc
Deb Kay - DECS
Ann Rymill - Project Manager, LifeSpan

Recent LifeSpan Events

Industry Partners Meeting

The second Industry Partners Meeting for the year was held on May 30th, 2006 at the Lakes Resort Hotel Function Centre during the IDSC Staff Conference.

IDSC/ASSID Conferences

Professor Bruce Tonge was invited as a keynote speaker at the IDSC Staff Conference: "Uncover Tomorrow" 30th May, 2006 and at an ASSID event on 31st May 2006.

A display was set up at both events to showcase information relevant to the LifeSpan Project (see photo below left).

To access the power-point presentation delivered at both conferences please go to the following link:
<http://www.med.monash.edu.au/spppm/research/devpsych/lifespan-events>

First Round Data Collection

The team is pleased to have commenced the first phase of data collection with a recent mail-out to all Minda and IDSC service users over the age of 16, currently residing in the Unley/Mitchell/Bright electorates asking for their consent to participate in the research. Once that consent has been returned through a reply paid envelope to the LifeSpan project individuals will be contacted and the questionnaire sent out for them to complete and return.

If you are working with or someone you know has received one of the letters requesting their consent please encourage them to participate in the research by completing the consent and returning it ASAP.

If they need help or have questions about the research or the process please get them to give us a call as we need as many people as possible to be a part of this great opportunity



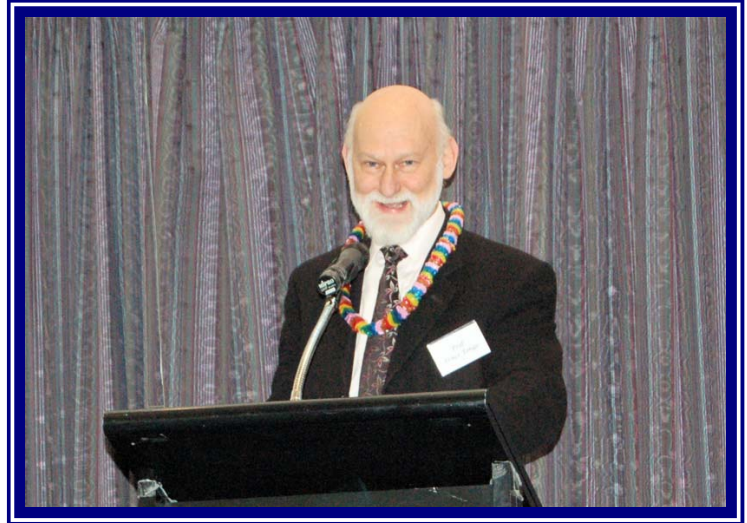
Above; LifeSpan Display IDSC Conference

Staff Profile: Prof Bruce Tonge

Professor Tonge is the head of the Monash University School of Psychology, Psychiatry and Psychological Medicine, Chairperson of the Monash Department of Psychological Medicine.

He is also Clinical Advisor of the Mental Health Program of the Southern Health at Monash Medical Centre in Melbourne. He has a distinguished record of teaching and research in child psychiatry. He established and directs the internationally recognized Monash University Centre for Developmental Psychiatry and Psychology.

Prof Tonge has research and teaching interests in the area of developmental psychiatry with a particular focus in the areas of Autism Spectrum Disorders and behavioural and emotional disturbance in children and adolescents with Intellectual Disability and treatment outcome studies in childhood anxiety and depression.



Above: Professor Bruce Tonge- Keynote Speaker at IDSC conference May 2006.

Mental Health of Aboriginal Adults with ID

I have been working closely with relevant indigenous groups, including the SA Aboriginal Disability Network to develop culturally appropriate data collection protocols and means for effective information sharing to ensure an effective review of the DBC-A and completion of demographic questionnaire that is required.

One of the initial interesting aspects of this study is the difference in the perceptions and definition of intellectual disability and mental health in the indigenous population.

This study has been extremely interesting so far and I am looking forward to continuing to learn and work collaboratively with the various parties to make the results of this research meaningful for this population

Phil Flint



Information and Upcoming Events

Information Packs - containing information about the project and details about your involvement with the research can be obtained from the address below.

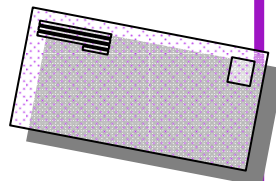
Training - Two Session times have been scheduled for training of Minda staff who will be using the DBC-A: Thursday 3rd August, 10.00 - 11.30AM and 1.30 - 3.00PM. Please register your attendance at one of these sessions by emailing or calling us at LifeSpan.

Training sessions for other agencies will be organized in the future.

Mailing list - Let us know if you want to be on our mailing list to receive our newsletters and new information as it becomes available.

Contact Details

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Research Team

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This project is consistent with the Federal Government's National Research priorities and the Third National Mental Health Policy.

Check out our Webpage - www.med.monash.edu/spppm/research/devpsych/lifespan.html and find out more about the project. It will be updated regularly as the research progresses.