



INSWABI Progress Report

January - June 2007

Hi everyone

Please find an initial progress report into the establishment of the International Network for SWers in ABI (INSWABI).

1. Membership profile

We have had an excellent response to the initial membership drive.

As of Monday 12th February, a total of 49 social workers have submitted their membership forms. As tables at the end of this document show, the social workers come from 8 countries, with the great majority being practitioners, and half of whom work principally with people with TBI and the next largest grouping working with people from mixed ABI etiologies.

This has been a stronger than expected response. I had anticipated an initial membership of 30-40 social workers. By the end of February we may well have between 60-70 initial members.

2. Management of INSWABI

For the initial developmental phase, my suggestion is that BISWG (UK) and SWIBI (AASW) could act as two reference groups for decision-making about the development of the network. At the end of 12 months, as the network develops, it would then be possible to establish an INSWABI management committee.

Decision:

Are the BISWG management committee and SWIBI willing to play this interim role?

3. Feedback on the draft INSWABI proposal

Generally the feedback on the draft INSWABI proposal has been positive and enthusiastic. I have made a number of minor changes based on feedback from members. There is one larger issue raised by a Canadian member that we need to consider:

Opening up to over 65s

Should we limit the network to the people aged 0-65 or extend the age range to include all elderly people who sustain a TBI/ABI?

Advantages:

- ◆ Similar issues for people with ABI/TBI regardless of age
- ◆ 65 is less and less clearly delineating the boundary between working age and retirement

Disdvantages:

- ◆ If the network takes on too broad a focus then it will be hard to build up a cohesive core of members with similar needs and issues
- ◆ Going too far over 65 starts to involve the network in another huge domain, covering the aged services sector, a new additional set of discourses around aging, the issue of comorbid dementia etc.

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Decision: Should we....

- ◆ Stick with our original age range of 0-65
- ◆ Do away with the age range altogether and open it up to all people with ABI/TBI
- ◆ State that 0-65 is the prime focus, but that issues relating to older people with TBI/ABI constitutes a secondary focus
- ◆ Some other approach

4. Timeline for INSWABI activities

Immediate	Finalise membership list by end of February
Immediate	Network E-mail system up and running
Short-term	Distribute the HK SW symposium papers
Short-term	Ask members for ideas about how they would like to be able to use the network
Medium-term	Establish a website as the platform and focal point for the network. The possible functions of the website may include: (i) information about ABI for social workers (ii) information about how to establish a professional interest groups (iii) pages addressing SW issues in particular countries (iv) a newsgroup/chat room (v) online journal (vi) useful links
Long-term	Commence planning for an ABI and SW symposium at the International Conference of SW in Health and Mental Health conference being held in Dublin in 2010.

Note. Immediate -1 month; Short-term - 3 months; Medium term - 1-2 years; Long-term - 3-5 years

Decision:

Does this look like a viable initial timeline for INSWABI activities?

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5. Running the INSWABI e-mail network

If we aim to have the Network e-mail system up and running within the next month, should we stipulate some rules of operation. Some possible rules are outlined below:

- ◆ Only INSWABI members can use the network – members are able to distribute emails to other interested parties, but third parties are should not attempt to use the network themselves unless they have joined INSWABI first
- ◆ Members should only use the network for purposes consistent with the INSWABI functions
- ◆ The INSWABI network is not to be used for commercial purposes, either by members or third parties who access the network through members

Decision:

Do these appear to be reasonable rules of operation (Yes, No, Modify)?

Are there other rules we should include?

6. Final

If you have any questions, please contact me at grahame.simpson@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

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