



INSWABI Progress Report

January-June 2008

Dear INSWABI members

It gives us great pleasure to forward the 3rd progress report for the International Network for Social Workers in ABI (INSWABI).

Overall, we have made good progress and in fact, outstripped the initial workplan that was proposed as part of the original INSWABI prospectus.

1. Membership profile

We are still building up our membership profile. We now have a total of 78 members from 9 countries. The United Kingdom has the largest contingent, followed by Australia and Canada.

2. Reminder about Website

The Brain Injury Social Work Group UK is kindly hosting the INSWABI web pages.

If you log onto www.biswg.co.uk, you will see the INSWABI button on the left hand side of the page.

At the moment, the INSWABI webpage includes

- ◆ Information about the network
- ◆ PDF files for the INSWABI mission and membership form
- ◆ PowerPoint slides for the presentations made as part of the SW and ABI symposium that was held as part of the 2006 International SW Conference in Health and Mental Health held in Hong Kong.

3. Project task list

In the second half of 2007 we circulated a list of potential tasks that INSWABI members might like to address. The following five tasks were selected and progress has been made on a number of fronts.

Task 1: Address the training needs of social workers practising in ABI

A group of senior social workers in New South Wales including INSWABI and non-INSWABI members has recently prepared a lecture and tutorials on SW practice in ABI that was delivered to 3rd Year Social Work students at the University of Sydney as part of a course on Health and Disability.

We are now commencing work on a series of 3 one-day workshops that will be aimed at upgrading the knowledge and skills of graduate social workers practising in the field of ABI.

A group of 16 INSWABI volunteers from 5 countries (AUS, CAN, NZ, US, UK) indicated interest in addressing this topic and will now be contacted to see whether they are willing to assist with this process.

Task 2: Apply to the organisers of the 2010 International Social Work Conference in Health and Mental Health to run a symposium on social work in rehabilitation and ABI

We are pleased to announce that our submission to the conference organisers to run a one-day Satellite Symposium on SW in ABI and rehabilitation has been positively received.

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Thanks to Thomas Strandberg (SWE), Martha Vungkhanching (US), Patti Simonson (UK) and Anne O'Loughlin (IRE) who all collaborated on the Expression of Interest.

We will seek to present a proposal with an initial outline of the Satellite symposium by the end of the year.

Task 3: Run an INSWABI side meeting at the 2008 International Brain Injury Association Congress in Lisbon

We had a chance to meet with Anne O'Loughlin who has formed a new Social Workers in Neurorehabilitation group in Ireland. We are hoping to come up with a formula so that both Social Work interest groups as well as individual social workers can become a part of the INMSWABI network.

Task 4: Start to develop a network of social workers who are conducting research in the field of ABI

A new page with the profiles of Social workers conducting research in ABI has been uploaded on the website. Other INSWABI members who are conducting research are more than welcome to upload would like their profiles at the site.

Task 5: Establishing mechanisms to address clinically complex cases

A major task that will be conducted in 2009-2010 will be to develop a Psychosocial Assessment Framework for social workers in the field.

4. INSWABI poster at the Toronto ABI conference

Karla Pullen, Karen Sasaki, Jessica McCallum (CAN), Patti Simonson (UK) and Grahame Simpson (AUS) have collaborated on a poster

about INSWABI and SW practice in ABI that will be part of the Toronto ABI conference in November of this year.

Thank you Karla for suggesting the idea.

5. Meet two INSWABI members from the UK.

We are hoping in each progress report to include the profiles of INSWABI members from different countries.

Kim Russell

Kim is a registered social worker who qualified in 1997. After working mainly in hospital social work, moved on to hospital case management with people with spinal cord injuries at one of the UK's leading Spinal Injuries Centres. It is there that she first encountered people who also had acquired brain injuries. Four years ago, she moved into the private sector and is now working in case management on a self-employed basis. In this role she continues to work with people with spinal injuries, and is also working with people with acquired brain injuries, who employ her through personal injury claims, usually as a result of road traffic accidents or assaults. She attended the World Congress on Brain Injury in 2008 and gave an oral case study presentation about developing person centred care packages.

Kim completed a Masters Degree in Professional Education and Training in Human Services in 2007, writing her dissertation on transition issues for young people, which remains a particular area of interest. As part of the Masters programme, she completed the Post Qualifying Award in Social Work and the Advanced Award in Social



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Work through Kingston University, where she is now presenting modules on the Post Qualifying Social Work Programme. She is very interested in social work education and is a practice assessor and practice teacher. She is currently considering how best to promote and develop the social work role in private case management.

Steve Wiseman

Steve Wiseman is a registered social worker, who is on permanent secondment to the Nottingham Traumatic Brain Injury Service (NTBIS), Nottingham, UK, where he works as a Case Manager, co-ordinating Health and Social care provision for survivors of TBI and their families.

The NTBIS is a Health Service resource and Steve's post is one of only a few such partnerships between the Social Services Depts in Nottingham and the Health Service.

As well as carrying a caseload, Steve is responsible for liaising with the Social Services



and raising the profile of traumatic brain injury with policy makers. He also offers sessions to the local DipSW courses on TBI and its effects.

Steve is a committee member of BISWG.

6. Pass this on.

Please circulate the progress report to any of your colleagues who you think might be interested.

7. Interested in joining INSWABI? Please contact

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