



INSWABI Progress Report

Vol 12, Issue 1

January 2018 – June 2018

1. Introduction

Welcome to the first Progress Report of 2018. We open with a profile of Kate Dawes, Principal Social Work at the South Australian Brain Injury Rehabilitation Service. This is followed with an account given by Kate of a social work in ABI symposium held in Adelaide Australia. We then have the outline of some important research being undertaken by Lin Haag, a social work PhD student from Canada, under the leadership of Prof Angela Colantonio around the issue of intimate partner violence and head injury.

This is followed by a report of a sabbatical visit undertaken by A/Prof Thomas Strandberg from Sweden with the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Research Group at the Ingham Institute of Applied Medical Research in Liverpool Sydney. New publications by INSWABI members are then profiled and upcoming conferences for 2019. An update is then provided on the latest from the INSWABI executive committee.

We hope you enjoy reading this report.

Grahame Simpson Patti Simonson

2. Membership Profile



Kate Dawes
Principal Clinician Social Work
and Recreation, South
Australian Brain Injury
Rehabilitation Service (SA
BIRS), Adelaide, Australia.

Kate has experience working within hospital settings, both at an acute and sub-acute level, for over 12 years. She currently supports 2 teams – Social Work and Recreation - across the service which incorporates a 25-bed inpatient unit and ambulatory team. Her clinical load is currently within the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit where she undertakes intensive biopsychosocial assessments, which is key in determining her social work interventions across the spectrum of an admission. Like most social workers at present, navigating through systems such as the National Disability

Insurance Scheme and benchmarking length of stays, continues to be challenging and the ever evolving role of a rehabilitation social worker.

Kate has been instrumental in developing and managing a Peer Support Program on the ward, implemented early 2017, where she currently has 2 (soon to be 3!) past-clients return to spend 1:1 time with clients across 4 days of the week. This interaction has been instrumental in promoting positive adjustment for clients and link with peers who have experienced the frustrations of recovery and can provide a unique perspective.

Kate's specific clinical interest is in supporting families, especially children, throughout the journey of brain injury as they are often forgotten by health care professionals. This interest sparked formal research which Kate is

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undertaking with other colleagues looking at not only the impact of brain injury on children and families, but will eventuate in producing clinical tools to assist in brain injury education, support and inclusion of children and families along the brain injury journey. Along with this Research, Kate has just entered into her Masters of Clinical Rehabilitation and is balancing all of this along with being a Mum to 4 young children.

3. Past Conferences / Symposia



**Kate Dawes Principal Clinician
Social Work, South Australian
Brain Injury Service**

SW symposium in Adelaide

On 2nd May 2018, the South Australian Brain Injury Service (SA BIRS) hosted a pre-ASSBI Social Work Symposium at the Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre in Adelaide, in conjunction with Professor Grahame Simpson and other brain injury services across Australia. In attendance, were 16 social workers across Australia with a combined 175 years of experience in brain injury rehabilitation!!! Wow!

Organisations represented included the Caulfield ABI unit (Victoria), Queensland ABI SW services through the Princess Alexandra Hospital (including the Jasmin Unit), Rehability Australia (Queensland), Ingham Institute and Liverpool BIRU (New South Wales) and SA BIRS. Formally, the presented topics included:

- ♦ **‘SA BIRS overview and social work quality initiatives’** which included information on the state-wide service and QI projects such as the Family Education Sessions, Peer Support Program, current Research and other presentations to National bodies.
(Presented by Kate Dawes and Donna Lambden, Principal Clinician Social Work, SABIRS)

- ♦ **‘Caulfield ABI unit: overview and SW role in goal setting’** which included information on their Model of Care + Principles, ward environment, interdisciplinary team staffing models and transitional living services.
(Presented by Jacinta Sadler, Senior Clinician Social Worker, Caulfield Hospital)
- ♦ **‘Queensland ABI SW services across the continuum of care’** which covered their Model of Care, extended duration unit, role based goal planning and integrated rehabilitation continuum model.
(Presented by Amy Seymour-Jones and Simone Cahill, Senior Social Workers, Princess Alexandra Hospital)



- ♦ **‘Challenges and successes in clients with ABI accessing the NDIS’** included a candid reflection on NDIS roll out and tips-and-tricks for the social work profession when pre-planning and focusing on how to maximise client goals within their NDIS plans.
(Presented by Brooke Kooymans, Director/Social Worker, Rehability Australia)
- ♦ **‘Approaches to evaluating SW practice in ABI’** assisted participants to look at reflective practices and consider what the purpose of evaluation would be; in terms of practice outcomes for our clients and their families.
(Presented by Grahame Simpson, Professor, Ingham Institute of Applied Medical Research)

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After an enjoyable afternoon, the participants took a tour of the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit (BIRU) and afterwards, great conversations and networking continued over a glass of wine and dinner before attending the ASSBI Conference as participants and presenters alike.

The room and energy was infectious with passionate colleagues who enjoyed the opportunity to network with peers and hear about different workplaces and associated strengths and challenges we all face in the social work profession.

4. Research Corner



Halina (Lin) Haag

PhD student, Faculty of Social Work

Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada

Battered & Brain Injured: Traumatic Brain Injury in Women Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence

Every year thousands of Canadian women are beaten by their intimate partners with 1 in 4 experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV) over their lifetime.¹ It is the primary cause of physical injury to Canadian women aged 15 to 44 with extensive health, economic, and social implications such as higher rates of mental illness, unemployment, and poverty.²

Compounding the problem, the most common injuries are battery to the head, face, and neck,³ a pattern of violence resulting in traumatic brain injury (TBI).⁴ A leading cause of disability in Canada, TBI is more prevalent than breast cancer, spinal cord injury, HIV/AIDS, and multiple sclerosis combined.⁵ Even though early investigation reports elevated TBI rates (35-80%) in women survivors of IPV, this connection remains largely overlooked.^{4,6} Individually, both

TBI and IPV are associated with higher rates of unemployment, poverty, and homelessness, along with substantial economic repercussions including lost income, reduced productivity, and increased social support costs.^{2,7} Yet limited data exists exploring implications for the health and wellbeing of brain injured women survivors of IPV with fewer than 30 published studies worldwide over the last 20 years. Examination into this emerging condition and implications for women's wellbeing, healthcare policy, and frontline practice is badly needed as noted by researchers and international news outlets such as The New Yorker, The Los Angeles Times, and CTV National News.^{2,4,6-13}

The complex nature of a hidden disability like TBI in addition to challenges experienced by women survivors of IPV demands supports that are sensitive to both conditions. We began this program of research in 2015 with a project funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and Women's College Hospital that sought to better understand existing knowledge of TBI within the IPV support community. We identified a lack of TBI specific knowledge and interventions among IPV service providers, and determined the need for targeted education.⁹ Building on this initial project we are now funded by the Justice Department of Canada to design, implement, and evaluate a TBI educational toolkit for direct service providers in an IPV context, intended to increase knowledge and understanding of TBI and better their ability to support clients. The toolkit will be tested for 6 months in Toronto, Ontario and Victoria, British Columbia before scale up for widespread distribution. We have also been funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health to explore the intersection of TBI, IPV, and mental illness and addictions and the role that can be played by first responders in addressing the complex needs of women survivors.

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Our unique interdisciplinary team of TBI/IPV researchers and service providers is able to address this gap through the Acquired Brain Injury Research Lab at the University of Toronto under the guidance of Prof. Angela Colantonio. The lab is considered the world's leading centre in a gendered approach to brain injury research and we are the first team to begin exploring the intersection of IPV and TBI in Canada addressing knowledge and treatment gaps. Our existing network of key stakeholders includes international researchers and service providers in both the TBI and IPV arenas, national and provincially based disability support organizations, and women survivors of TBI/IPV. It is our hope that targeted, evidence-based services will result in the improved overall health and wellbeing brain injured women who have experienced intimate partner violence.

5. New initiatives, Publications, New Resources, Exchange Visits



Thomas Strandberg
Örebro University, Örebro,
Sweden

Research sabbatical, Ingham Institute of Applied Medical Research

During a period of five months I had the great opportunity to be on a research sabbatical at the Ingham Institute of Applied Medical Research in Sydney Australia, where I worked with the brain injury research team



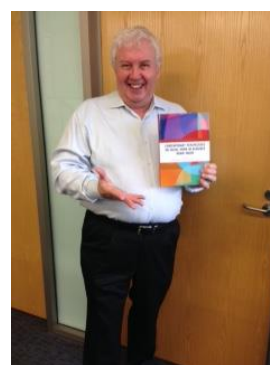
The Brain Injury Rehabilitation Research Group (BIRRG) is a leading research team with several treatment-based programs

(e.g. psycho-educational program that supports families and carers, and suicide-prevention program for people living with traumatic brain injury, TBI). The BIRRG is led by Professor Grahame Simpson and it is a joint initiative of the Liverpool Hospital Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit and the NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) Brain Injury Rehabilitation Network. Team members come from a broad range of multidisciplinary backgrounds including Social Work, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech Therapy, Neuropsychology, Clinical Psychology and Rehabilitation Medicine.



I have had the great opportunity to be a part of the INSWABI network since 2006 and I have worked together with Professor

Simpson since that time. We have met each other and other INSWABI members at conferences around the world and we have also produced research together. One such example



is for instance the book chapter that I (together with colleagues) produced in the book "Contemporary perspectives on social work in acquired brain injury", which Grahame was editing.

With support from my employee, Örebro University, Sweden, I had the possibility to be on a research sabbatical where I mainly worked with the following tasks:

- ♦ Participation in conferences, for example the conference Disability Matters, making the convention real in Dunedin, New Zealand.

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- ◆ Presentations at conferences and seminars, for example at The Hopkins Centre, Princess Alexandra Hospital and Griffith University, Australia
- ◆ External reviewer and peer review of article manuscript, for example at the Journal of Social Work.
- ◆ Research and work within already ongoing research projects and in collaboration with Professor Grahame Simpson, for example a literature review on literature in Social work.
- ◆ Applications for external funding and planning forthcoming research project within the area of Brain injury and disability.

New publications (*INSWABI member underlined*)

Hawley, L. A., Ketchum, J. M., Morey, C., Collins, K., & Charlifue, S. (2018). Cannabis Use in Individuals With Spinal Cord Injury or Moderate to Severe Traumatic Brain Injury in Colorado. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, 2018;99:1584-90.

Kelly G, Brown S, Simpson GK. The Building Bridges project: Linking disconnected service networks to assist people with brain injury in the criminal justice system. *Neuropsychological Rehabilitation* DOI: 10.1080/09602011.2018.1479274

6. Upcoming Conferences

THE 13TH WORLD CONGRESS ON BRAIN INJURY



The 13th World Congress on Brain Injury

will be held in Toronto Canada from March 13-16 2019. For more information, see the website

www.ibia2019.org. If you are planning to attend let us know and we can organise a get together of INSWABI members who are conference delegates



The 15th Nordic Network on Disability Research

will be held in Copenhagen Denmark from May 8-10 2019. Contact Thomas Strandberg (Thomas.Strandberg@oru.se) for more information.



The 9th International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health

will be held in York United Kingdom from 22nd-26th July 2019. The INSWABI Executive Committee have their triennial face to face meeting at this conference; we also organise an INSWABI dinner, and at previous conferences (Hong Kong, Dublin, Los Angeles, Singapore) have been able to run concurrent sessions themed for ABI and SW. So start planning now if you want to attend.

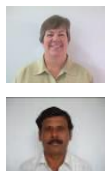
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7. Committee news



The INSWABI Executive Committee was established in 2010 during the International Social Work conference held in Dublin. The committee runs on 3-year terms. The Executive Committee for 2016-2019 is having its sixth meeting in September 2018 to finalise the INSWABI website and kick off the psychosocial assessment framework project. It will also start planning towards the next face to face committee meeting during the 2019 International Social Work conference which will be held in York UK.



9. Pass this on.

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

10. Interested in joining INSWABI?

Patti Simonson

(United Kingdom, Ireland, Europe, North America)

patti.simonson@btinternet.com

Professor Grahame Simpson

(Australasia, Asia)

grahame.simpson@health.nsw.gov.au

8. Welcome

New members

A warm welcome to our new members from

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Rachel King | Australia |
| Michael Skinner | Australia |
| Louisa Page | Australia |
| Aimee Allen | Australia |
| Yuki Ando | Australia |
| Daniella Leifer | Australia |
| Lisa Howard | Australia |
| Erin Carey | Australia |

Farewells

| | | |
|-------------|----|---------|
| Kim Russell | UK | Retired |
|-------------|----|---------|

Acknowledgements:

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