



INSWABI Progress Report

Vol 3, Issue 2

July - December 2009

Dear INSWABI members

It gives us great pleasure to provide the 6th Progress Report for the International Network for Social Workers in Acquired Brain Injury.

In this progress report we have exciting news about the ABI and Social Work program that will take place at the International Social Work conference in Dublin in 2010. Furthermore, this will be a landmark in the next stage of the development of the INSWABI network. **COME IF YOU POSSIBLY CAN.**

We also provide the e-mail addresses for requesting copies of the new Family Outcome Measure. We are able to showcase two new resources identified by INSWABI members from

Canada and we will report progress on the Systematic Literature Review and the Psychosocial Assessment Framework Projects.

Work on the first issue of the new journal Social Care and Neurodisability that is about to be launched is well under way with the first issue expected in May 2010. Another BISWG Spring Conference and 10th Brain Injury Legal Seminar are on the way in the UK. Finally, we continue to highlight profiles of INSWABI members from various countries – in this issue we profile two of our members from New Zealand. Enjoy the read.

Dr Grahame Simpson
Co-convenor

Patti Simonson
Co-convenor

1. Accessing the Family Outcome Measure

Most of you will know that a group of INSWABI members from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United Kingdom finally completed the development of a new Family Outcome Measure (FOM) after 3 years of hard work. The research version of the scale was released in September 2009 to an extremely positive response.

The scale was developed on a population of people with traumatic brain injury (TBI). Our next task will be to trial it with families supporting people with other forms of acquired brain injury.

The scale and the accompanying manual are now available by request. Just e-mail:

grahame.simpson@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

2. Meet two of our INSWABI members in New Zealand

Zena Pigden is a social worker with the Community Rehabilitation Centre which is part of the ISIS centre (itself in turn part of the Otago



District Health Board) in Dunedin. When she first started work for what was then known as the Young Disabled Unit 16 years ago, there were just a handful of rehabilitation

patients in what was primarily a residential ward for people under 65 with neurological issues.

The service expanded, the long stay residents went to live in other, more appropriate facilities, and a community rehabilitation service was established in addition to the inpatient ward.

Clients of this service are seen in their own homes or workplaces and

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rehabilitation is client focussed and relates to goals that are important to them. The service includes a range of health and allied health disciplines, and team members liaise closely with each other.

While Zena has occasional clients with traumatic brain injury, the majority of her clients have neurological issues such as stroke, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease etc. Although the issues are not quite the same, the majority of her clients have some degree of cognitive impairment (and sometimes personality or behaviour changes) as a result of their condition, and there are particular parallels between clients with acquired brain injury due to stroke and those with traumatic brain injury. She works part time and especially enjoys working in the community in the client's own environment, while at the same time being part of an experienced and skilled multidisciplinary team.

Emma Weeks is a Social Worker with ABI Rehabilitation, a private residential rehabilitation facility based in West Auckland, also known as



Cavit ABI Services. The service offers both intensive inpatient rehabilitation and long term residential rehabilitation.

I qualified as a Social Worker in the UK 9 years ago and have always worked within the disability field. I have been in my current position for 7 years and thoroughly enjoy working closely within an experienced and passionate interdisciplinary team.

A majority of our clients have suffered a traumatic brain injury but some have other neurological conditions. My role is varied from supporting families and clients through their rehabilitation process; assisting and advising around any social issues, supporting with discharge planning, and making applications to

the courts under the Protection of Personal Property and Rights Act 1988.

I am a Registered Social Worker, a full member of the ANZASW and an INSWABI member. I am excited to be attending the upcoming International Conference in Dublin in June along with the opportunity to network with other INSWABI members.

3. Systematic Literature Review

Work is continuing on the systematic review of the literature into SW practice in ABI. INSWABI members Andy Mantell (UK), Thomas Strandberg (Sweden), Martha Vungkhanching (USA), Patti Simonson (UK), Bronwyn Stephenson (NZ) and Grahame Simpson (Australia) are involved.

Andy and Grahame have been reviewing various databases to identify all possible articles, books and book chapters on the topic of Social Work in ABI. We have almost finalised the list of articles - over 65 articles addressing different aspects of SW practice in ABI have been identified – far more than we originally anticipated. In the next stage, the team will start to review and evaluate the articles so that we will build up a profile of what are the current parameters of SW knowledge and practice in ABI. The initial results from the review will be presented at the Dublin conference in 2010.

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4. Get to Dublin if you can

There will be a wonderful range of presentations from INSWABI members at the International Conference for Social Work in Health and Mental Health in Dublin 28th June-2nd July 2010

Wednesday 30th June will be a special day based at the National Rehabilitation Hospital

Workshop 10 – 1pm Grahame Simpson, Andy Mantell, Marianne Bush

Contemporary developments in Social Work practice in Acquired Brain Injury:
The evidence-base, practice modalities and current ethical, legal and societal challenges

Tour 2 – 5pm Anne O'Loughlin and social work team
Tour of the National Rehabilitation Hospital, presentations from NRH staff

Dinner 6 – late INSWABI dinner at Anne's house
Planning for INSWABI for next 3 years

Presentations by INSWABI members on other days of the conference will include



Noirin Concannon An exploration into the impact of Parental brain injury on Family Relationships



Thomas Strandberg Returning to working life after ABI - possibilities and hindrances



Daniella Pfeiffer Building resilience among family members providing support to people with Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI): Introducing a new program



Allison Rowlands Improving Social Work's Response to Acquired Brain Injury and Child Protection Concerns



Andy Mantell Social Work Practice in TBI: The Initial Findings From A Structured Review



Kate Jones Resilience Among Family Members Providing Support to People with Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

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5. Psychosocial assessment

As a first step in developing a Psychosocial Assessment Framework, Bronwyn Stephenson (NZ) has recently completed a review of how 'psychosocial assessment' is defined in the TBI literature. She is doing this as part of her Diploma in Disability Studies at Massey University in New Zealand.

The report will be circulated to INSWABI members within the next fortnight. The next step will be to do a survey of INSWABI members about what elements they include in their psychosocial assessments and whether there are any assessment tools that they currently use.

Handouts and additional reading material are also provided to help families integrate their learning. The BIFI-A incorporates a variety of modalities to facilitate engagement of adolescents and interactive learning amongst family members (i.e., vignettes, role plays, discussion, questionnaires, worksheets, and activities).

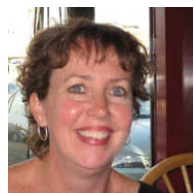
For information about future training opportunities, contact: Caron Gan, Family Support Service, Brain Injury Rehabilitation Team, Bloorview Kids Rehab; email:

cgan@bloorview.ca



6. Brain Injury Family Intervention – Adolescent Version (BIFI-A)

Valerie Lusted (MSW, RSW) is a Social Worker at the Family Support Service Brain Injury Rehab Team, Bloorview Kids Rehab in Toronto Canada. She writes about a new program recently developed at Bloorview Kids that may be of interest to INSWABI members.



Developed by researchers at Bloorview Kids Rehab, this structured family system intervention is designed for adolescents (13 – 19 years) with Acquired Brain Injury and their family members. The BIFI-A (adapted from Dr. Jeffrey Kreutzer's adult BIFI) incorporates a broad curriculum, comprised of multiple components: education, emotional support, and skill building. Theoretical underpinnings of BIFI-A include Family Systems Theory, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, and Solution Focused Therapy. The BIFI-A manual incorporates a detailed step-by-step protocol, treatment implementation procedures, and guidelines for effective clinical implementation over 12-sessions.

7. Educating Educators About ABI : Teaching classroom teachers how to accommodate students living with the effects of ABI.

Emily McAllister works at The Stan Cassidy Centre for Rehabilitation in New Brunswick Canada.



This resource tool was developed to give classroom teachers practical information about ABI. The developmental perspective highlights development from 0-25 years and the possible consequences of an ABI at various stages within these years. This resource explores challenges a student with an ABI may encounter and how these challenges might be seen within the classroom setting.

Also included are extensive lists of strategies addressing issues related to cognition, behaviour, emotions, and physical abilities. Along with these practical and functional strategies are topics such as: Successful integration back into school, program planning, myths and misconceptions surrounding ABI, and the role of parents.

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With basic information and practical tools, this manual is a great teaching resource and source of information for social workers, families, school personnel and others involved in the education of someone with an ABI.

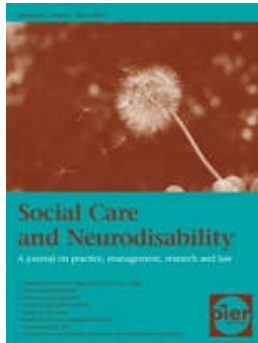
Internet Location:

<http://www.abieducation.com/index.html>

Contributed by Emily McAllister, RSW
Stanley Davis Rehabilitation Centre
New Brunswick, Canada

* It should be noted that some terminology may be more relevant for Canadian Social Workers and the Canadian school system, but this is a great general base for anyone involved with students with an ABI.

8. Social Care and Neurodisability



In an exciting development INSWABI members Dr Andy Mantell and Patti Simonson are launching a new journal called 'Social Care and Neurodisability' in 2010. The journal has a focus on the sharing of

information and good practices in the advances in the rehabilitation, treatment and care of people who have neurological conditions.

It will include peer-reviewed articles with clear implications for practice; case studies; reviews in policy, practice and legislation; critical analysis of assessment tools, ethics, and practice dilemmas; reviews of books and resources; as well as international perspectives and learnings.

If you want to find out how you can contribute to the journal or to subscribe, please contact Dr Andy Mantell at andymantell@chi.ac.uk or Patti Simonson at psimonson@rhn.org.uk.

9. Brain Injury Social Work Group UK

The Brain Injury Social Work Group will be holding its Annual Spring Conference, 'Alcohol, Substance Abuse and Anti Social Behaviour in the Brain Injured Community' on 22nd April 2010 in Manchester. This promises to be a very timely event in view of the increasing work in this field..

It will also be holding the '10th Annual Brain Injury Legal Seminar' in London on 30th September 2010 and details about the programme will be available shortly.

Further information about both of these events can be found on the BISWG website at www.biswg.co.uk

10. INSWABI presentation at the IBIA 8th World Congress on Brain Injury 10-14th March 2010



INSWABI Co-convenor Patti Simonson will be presenting a poster on INSWABI as part of the International Brain Injury Association Congress that is being held in Washington. This will be a great chance to promote INSWABI in the USA. Best of luck Patti.

11. INSWABI 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.

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12. Pass this on.

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

13. Interested in joining INSWABI?

Please contact

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