



# Queensland Advocacy Incorporated

## ANNUAL REPORT 2006- 2007

Queensland Advocacy Incorporated  
Suite G2, Ground Floor  
Brisbane Transit Centre  
Roma Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000  
Telephone (07) 3236 1122  
Fax (07) 3236 1590  
Email [qai@qai.org.au](mailto:qai@qai.org.au)  
Internet [www.qai.org.au](http://www.qai.org.au)





## Annual Report 2006 – 2007



### CONTENTS

<b>Introduction</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>President's Report</b>	<b>Robert McRae</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	<b>Andrew Fraser</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Director's Report</b>	<b>Kevin Cocks</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Bioethics Project</b>	<b>Dr Lisa Bridle</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Community Living Project</b>	<b>Melinda Ewin</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Law Project</b>	<b>Stephen Lin</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Legal Training</b>	<b>Julian Porter</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Past Office Bearers / Staff</b>		<b>25</b>
<b>Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2007</b>		

#### Management Committee 2006 – 2007

<b>President</b>	<b>Robert McRae</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Byron Albury</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Michael Duggan</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Andrew Fraser</b>
<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Julie McStay</b>
<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Meriel Stanger</b>
<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Ken Wade</b>

#### STAFF 2006 – 2007

<b>Director</b>	<b>Kevin Cocks</b>
<b>Bioethics Advocacy Worker</b>	<b>Dr Lisa Bridle</b> [22 September 2006]
<b>Community Living Advocate</b>	<b>Melinda Ewin</b>
<b>Legal Systems Advocate</b>	<b>Stephen Lin</b> [21 September 2007]
<b>Legal Training</b>	<b>Julian Porter</b> [12 October 2007]
<b>Finance [Consultant]</b>	<b>Deborah Bryzak</b>
<b>Office Administration</b>	<b>Lyn Giles</b>





# Introduction



**Queensland Advocacy Incorporated (QAI)** is an independent community based systems advocacy organisation for people with disability in Queensland.

QAI advocates for the fundamental needs, rights and lives and protection of the most vulnerable people with disability in Queensland. QAI does this by engaging in systems advocacy work - through campaigns directed to attitudinal, law and policy change, and by supporting the development of a range of advocacy initiatives in this State.

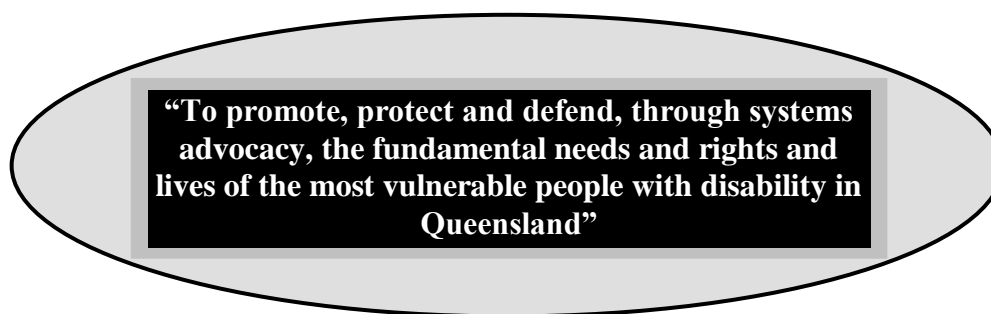
The Department of Family & Community Services under the Commonwealth Disability Services Act primarily funds QAI. QAI also seeks funding from philanthropic organisations. A Management Committee, the majority of whom are people with disability, runs QAI.

\*\*\*\*\*

This **Annual Report** covers the period from 01 July 2005 → 30 June 2006. It describes in detail the efforts of QAI to be a strong and effective systems advocacy organisation, committed to its mission of promoting, protecting and defending through advocacy, the fundamental needs and rights and lives of the most vulnerable people with disability in Queensland.

## QAI's Mission and Objectives

**QAI's mission is:**



**QAI's objectives are:**

1. To affirm and put first people with disability in Queensland;
2. To undertake systems advocacy that strives to promote, protect and defend the fundamental needs and rights and lives of the most vulnerable people with disability in Queensland;
3. To undertake legal advocacy that strives to promote, protect and defend the fundamental needs and rights and lives of the most vulnerable people with disability in Queensland;
4. To take an active leadership role in advocating for the fundamental needs and rights and lives of the most vulnerable people with disability in Queensland;

5. To support, promote and protect the development of advocacy initiatives for the most vulnerable people with disability in Queensland;
6. To be accountable to the most vulnerable people with disability in Queensland;
7. To conduct an efficient and accountable organisation; and
8. To adhere to and constantly reaffirm the following beliefs and principles:

- ❖ All human life has intrinsic dignity and worth;
- ❖ People with disability must positively and actively be accorded worth, dignity, meaning and purpose through being included in and with their community;
- ❖ Social Advocacy is functioning (speaking, acting, writing) with minimum conflict of interest on behalf of the sincerely perceived interests of a person or group, in order to promote, protect and defend the welfare of, and justice for, either individuals or groups, in a fashion which strives to be emphatic and vigorous and is likely to be 'costly' to the actor in terms of:
  - time or other resources;
  - emotional stress;
  - bodily demands;
  - social opprobrium, rejection, ridicule;
  - self-esteem, self certainty;
  - socio-economic security, livelihood; and
  - physical safety, life

The essential elements of Social Advocacy are:

- strict partiality;
  - minimal conflict of interest;
  - emphasis on fundamental needs and issues;
  - vigorous action;
  - cost to the advocate;
  - fidelity; and
  - being mindful of the most vulnerable person.
- ❖ Systems advocacy is a particular form of advocacy that focuses on influencing and changing 'the system', that is, the whole of society and the various systems operating within, in ways that will benefit people with disability as a group within society. Systems advocacy includes, but is not limited to, policy and law reform activities.

\*\*\*\*\*



## President's Report

### Robert McRae



The 2006/2007 year has seen further consolidation and the momentum of recent years continues within the limits of available resources.

At the last Annual General Meeting, all members of the previous MC were re-elected and we have been fortunate to be joined by Ken Wade, a recently admitted solicitor who we are confident will make a strong contribution to the organisation.

#### **On-going Matters**

The Management Committee met monthly in accordance with our Governance Charter. The 20 year celebration committee met regularly to plan for the celebration to be held at this year's AGM, I would like to thank Byron Albury, Julie McStay, Meriel Stanger and particularly Lyn Giles for her tenacity and attention to ensuring the event is carried out with class and dignity.

The Policy Committee reviewed and prepared Policies:

- MC & Staff attending internal and external Conferences and Forums Review of our Policies and Procedures
- Conflict of interest Policy for MC & Staff – register of declaration of other like organisation as a Board of Management member
- Complaints & Grievance
- Overtime & Time Off In Lieu (TOIL)

All policy reviews take account of our Mission Statement and philosophy, legislative requirements and Australian Taxation Office rulings, as well as Advocacy Service Standards.

QAI has received great assistance from Legal Graduate Ken Wade courtesy of legal firm Blake Dawson Waldron. Ken, who was in his 'professional year', was with QAI for sixteen weeks. Ken drew on his research and practical skills to the benefit of a variety of QAI projects.

During the year, we lost the services of Dr Lisa Bridle our Bioethics Advocate. Lisa is sharing her bioethics expertise with the medical profession under Associate Professor Dr Nicholas Lennox at the Queensland Centre for Intellectual and Developmental Disability. The Management Committee had to make a difficult decision to suspend the Bioethics Project due to limited resources.

QAI received funding grant for 12 month's from the Department of Justice, Legal Practitioner Interest on Trust Accounts Fund (LPITAF). Julian Porter, took up this project work. Thus we needed to replace Julian and we engaged Stephen Lin for a 12 month period in October 2006.

### **UN Convention**

The personal highlight of the year for me was to attend the Eighth Session (August 2006) of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with a Disability in New York in August with QAI Director Kevin Cocks. The draft Convention was adopted on the last day of the Session and since then has been subject to legal scrutiny to ensure consistency of terminology etc. It was formally adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee on 5 December 2006 and then sent to the UN General Assembly for ratification. The finalisation of a process which has taken many years represents an enormous shift in domestic and international thinking and opens up exciting possibilities for the protection and rights of the disabled.

On 13 December 2007 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities. I am pleased to advise over 80 countries have signed the Convention since it was opened for Signature on 30 April 2007.

### **QAI's Funding Arrangements**

As many of you will know, our major source of funding is the Commonwealth Government. Advocacy groups have recently been put under pressure to basically "justify their existence". The Management Committee and Staff of QAI have spent much time in examining options open to us in this regard and in early April, Kevin and I met with Commonwealth representatives to state our position. More recently Kevin, Melinda Ewin and our Vice President, Byron Albury met with Senator Nigel Scullion, the Minister for Community Services. The process will culminate in the last quarter of the year when we are required to submit a tender. The logistics of this are currently being worked through. I will keep you updated.

### **Friends of QAI**

We are extremely fortunate that The Honourable Geoff Davies, a prominent and long serving former member of the Queensland Court of Appeal has agreed to Chair our Annual Funding Committee. Already Geoff's involvement has meant that doors have been opened and there are some positive signs that our efforts will bear fruit. Ron Ashton, the former Chairman, and Rob Reed of Minter Ellison continue to serve us well on the Committee.

### **Workplace Giving Scheme**

QAI welcomes the opportunity to receive financial support through the workplace giving scheme. The money received through Workplace Giving in this financial year supported the research and production of the Disabled Justice Report. QAI thanks the staff of Minter Ellison for their generosity and continued support of our work.

### **Disabled Justice - 22 May 2007 – Banco Court Launch**

The Disabled Justice Report, I believe will be viewed in the future as a significant milestone in Queensland history as a turning point in the recognition of overdue and much-needed reform to promote, protect and fulfil the Human Rights of persons with disability in the Queensland justice system. I would like to thank the Hon Paul de Jersey AC, Chief Justice of Queensland for hosting and chairing the launch as well as all the speakers including, Uncle Albert Holt, (welcome to country) the Hon Justice Atkinson, Her Honour Chief Judge Wolfe, Chief Magistrate Irwin and the author of the report Phillip French, CEO of Disability Studies & Research Institute.



### **Disabled Justice Forum**

On 19 June 2007, QAI held a forum on *Disabled Justice*. The basis of the forum was a panel of significant stakeholders responding to the recommendations proposed in the *Disabled Justice* report. We were very fortunate to have the Chair of QAI Annual Fund Committee, The Hon Geoff Davies, former Judge of the Queensland Court of Appeal, as convenor, as well as the following speakers to address the forum:

Mary Burgess - Legal Aid Queensland  
Terry Fisher - Fisher Dore Lawyers  
Philip French – DSaRI  
Elizabeth Hall - Magistrate

Tony Keyes-Department of Premier & Cabinet

Debbie Kilroy - Sisters Inside  
Morrie O'Connor - Community Living Service  
Di Taylor - Queensland Corrective Services  
Ulla Zeller - Department of Justice and Attorney General  
Janet Archer - Facilitator

### **Annual Fund Lunch, 19 June 2007: Keynote Speaker, Justice Michael Kirby**

The *Disabled Justice* Forum was followed by a luncheon at which **Mr Justice Kirby** of the High Court of Australia delivered a passionate, informative and enjoyable speech on the recently signed UN Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of the Disabled. The reaction of those in attendance was very positive. Attendees at the luncheon included a number of Judges (Federal Court, Supreme Court and District Court) and Magistrates, the State Attorney General, members of the legal fraternity, Anti-Discrimination Commission of Queensland, Advocacy organisations and people with disability and families. I am sure that their presence not only reflected their respect for Mr Justice Kirby but also their interest in disability justice.

The feedback I received from a number of people attending the forum was very positive and indicated that it was a success. The practical nature of the day cannot be underestimated and augurs well for the future of justice for the people with disability in Queensland.

### **APPRECIATION**

Our Director **Kevin Cocks** has worked hard during the year to balance many and varied projects that QAI has undertaken.

The Staff of QAI has been very active on a number of other fronts including the Human Rights Indicators project, the immediate responsibility for which lies with **Melinda Ewin**.

The Administrative staff of **Lyn Giles** and **Deborah Bryzak** have worked extremely hard to facilitate the smooth running of QAI's Administration and Accounts activities. A big thank you to both of you.

**Christina Cornilsen** worked hard to make the *Disabled Justice* Launch, the Forum and the Fund Lunch a success.

My thanks must also go to my fellow Management Committee Members **Byron Albury**, **Mike Duggan**, **Andrew Fraser**, **Julie McStay**, **Meriel Stanger** and **Ken Wade** for their valuable contributions throughout the year. Unfortunately, Andrew has decided not to re-nominate for the Management Committee due to work commitments. I wish him well and know that in the future he will resurface somewhere and lend his weight for the course of people with disability.

**Robert McRae**  
**PRESIDENT**



## **Treasurer's Report**

### **Andrew Fraser**



I am pleased to present QAI's Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2007. The Report was prepared by Haywards Chartered Accountants and is attached hereto.

QAI's work continues to rely heavily on its Annual Funding Agreement with the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services [DFaCSIA]. Due to the nature of QAI's work and the increasing demand and competition for funds within the Not-For-Profit Sector it is most likely that QAI will continue to rely on funding from the Commonwealth. This income has been supplemented from other sources, such as Friends of QAI, as detailed in the Financial Report.

Most of QAI's day to day financial matters are administered by Deborah Bryzak, with the assistance of Lyn Giles. These two individuals provide me with an enormous amount of assistance. I thank both of them for their outstanding efforts in this area.

I have been pleased to assist QAI with the operation of their accounts, allowing Director Kevin and his staff to focus on their important work. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the Management Committee and Staff of QAI.

I will not be standing for a position on the Management Committee at the 2007 Annual General Meeting, and wish to take this opportunity to thank Deborah Bryzak and Lyn Giles for their assistance over the two year period during which I have been Treasurer.

My best wishes go to Kevin and the Staff of QAI, and the Management Committee with whom it has been a privilege to work.

**Andrew Fraser**  
**TREASURER**



## Director's Report Kevin Cocks



This year marks the 20th year of QAI's existence. 20 August 1987 was the first meeting of the 'Disability Rights Centre' steering committee. There are many notable moments and great memories to be revisited; rejoiced and celebrated I look forward to engaging and revisiting the past 20 years with fellow colleagues, comrades and allies.

This is my ninth annual report as Director of QAI, and in this 20th year, I would like to thank the Management Committee for their leadership, work and support particularly Robert McRae in his role as President. Additionally, I acknowledge and thank all Staff members for their dedication and tireless efforts to carry out the work of QAI over the past year. I thank my family for their love and support.

QAI's work has been strengthened by the support of many people outside of the organisation. In particular I would like to thank people with disability and their families and friends who continue to hold a dream for a better life for all people with disability. The staff and I draw great strength from people's tenacity to face adversity daily yet hold on to the dream of having a better life. Finally, I thank the members of the Combined Advocacy Groups Queensland (CAGQ) for your commitment and enthusiasm to working collectively to ensure the continuation of a strong, vibrant and robust advocacy sector in Queensland.

This Annual Report covers the activities carried out by QAI in the financial year 2006 - 2007. During the past 12 months QAI has continued to focus its advocacy efforts in three areas, Community Living, the Law Project and Bioethics. It has been remiss of me over the past few years to not acknowledge the significant contribution made by our Administrator Lyn Giles to the quality and efficient running of our office.

### **QAI Advocacy Projects**

**Melinda Ewin's** primary focus is the Community Living Project. QAI's advocacy efforts were:

1. Human Rights Indicators (developing)
2. Younger People in Aged Care Alliance (YPACA) (*Ongoing*)
3. Coming Out Group (*Monitoring*)
4. Jacana Hospital (*Monitoring*)
5. Community Safeguards Coalition (*Ongoing*)
6. Halwyn Hospital/Beyond Institutions Group (*Monitoring*)
7. Hostels and Boarding House Campaign / Boarding House Action Group (BHAG) (*Monitoring*)
8. Department of Child Safety (*Monitoring*)

**Julian Porter**, worked on the Law project, until mid October 2006 from this time his focus was solely on - **Legal Profession Disability Training Project** - training lawyers and networking with the legal profession and judiciary with the aim of better legal services for people with a disability.

**Stephen Lin**, commenced with QAI on a 12 month contract to focus on-  
**Law Reform** - campaigns and submissions around legislation and policy which directly or indirectly affect vulnerable people with a disability; &  
**Case Work** - individual legal matters referred by individual advocacy groups which support the systemic objectives of QAI as a whole.

For full details of Advocacy efforts carried out by QAI staff, see individual reports.

**Dr Lisa Bridle**, focus was on the Bioethics Arena.

Lisa resigned from QAI to take up work with *Queensland Centre for Intellectual and Developmental Disability* (QCID). We wish her well in her new endeavours and will continue to work closely with Lisa in her role with QCID. To date I have co-presented one workshop with Lisa in her new role at QCID.

Before I reflect upon the past year's significant advocacy efforts carried out by staff and management committee I had would like to extend my appreciation and thanks to Gold Coast Advocacy, Independent Advocacy Townsville (IAT), Rights In Action (RIA), Speaking Up For You (SUFY), and Sunshine Coast Citizen Advocacy amongst others for keeping us grounded and informed about the many issues being experienced by vulnerable people with disability for whom you are advocating.

### **Combined Advocacy Groups Queensland (CAGQ)**

CAGQ continued to meet via telephone conferencing every six to eight weeks and came together, in Brisbane for three days for our annual conference. This year the conference was organised by AMPARO & SUFY. This CAGQ conference was one of the most relevant and productive conferences held in recent times a view that was expressed by all participants. Conference highlights were once again the mutual support and welcoming of new workers and the commitment to ensure strong, independent and effective advocacy by all participants. It also provided an opportunity to be briefed about the new quality assurance regime being introduced by DSQ, the cultural issues relating to people from a Non English-Speaking Background, The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD), discussion around Advocacy Principles, Data Collection, and matters relating to the community sector workforce.

### **Annual Fund**

The annual fund committee has developed a plan of fund raising strategies/opportunities for the 2007-2008 financial year. The annual chair the Hon Geoff Davies and I met with the Governor. An outcome of this meeting was too successfully request the Governor to be QAI's Patron, which she agreed to and for the first time QAI has a patron. The Governor has been very supportive of the work of QAI. The annual fund committee also renewed the annual fund raising lunch event. Justice Kirby from the High Court was the keynote speaker at the luncheon, 150 people participated it was a very successful luncheon. Annual fund committee members are exploring individual contacts to seek out fundraising opportunities for identified projects within QAI's organisational priorities.

### **National Disability Advocacy Program Review (NDAP)**

QAI welcomed the review of the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP). NDAP has been seriously neglected by successive governments for a period of more than 12 years and is in great need of renewal, reform and rebuilding.

QAI made an individual response to the NDAP review as well as coordinated a response from CAGQ. The responses focused on the Social Options report and the proposed NDAP reforms. A copy of our submission can be accessed at [www.qai.org.au](http://www.qai.org.au) <<http://www.qai.org.au>>

In February 2007, Senator Nigel Scullion was appointed as the new Minister for Community Services along with a number of changes within the senior management of NDAP. The Department's Disability Branch has recently created a new 'Advocacy Reforms and Management' Section to oversee the changes to the NDAP. Throughout this period QAI met with Kate McKenzie, Group Manager, Housing and Disability and Ben Wallace – Branch Manager, Disability to discuss our concerns raised in our response to the review and the way forward. Additionally, we are also met with the Minister, Senator Nigel Scullion in April to inform him of QAI and our work as well as discuss his vision for the future of advocacy. There is a clear indication that the Minister and the leadership within DFACSIA and NDAP had heard the concerns raised by advocacy groups and were openly wanting to engage with the sector to carry forward the reform process, respectfully yet within the limitations of the proposed reforms set by previous administrators.

### **Eighth Ad Hoc Committee Meeting at the United Nations, New York, USA**

It was a great honour and privilege to be present and participate at the eighth session of the ad hoc committee on a "Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities." 800 people attended this session according to the UN media releases 192 nation states and over 90 non-government organisations (NGOs) of and for people with disability were registered for this session. NGOs were known as civil society. I would estimate that 60 to 70% of participants were people with disability, a significant number of nation states delegations were led by people with disability. There was an enormous degree of goodwill held by all participants to ensure that this session would finalise a draft convention to be put before the General Assembly for ratification.

There were two common themes echoed by Nation States and led by civil society they were "nothing about us without us" and a call for a paradigm shift from the 'medical model to the social model.' this shift would be reflected in the text of the convention, this is clearly the case I would encourage members to read the text in full and this can be found on the United Nations website [www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable) <<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable>>

I have written a report reflecting on the events, activities and outcomes of the eighth session this report can be accessed on QAI's website [www.qai.org.au](http://www.qai.org.au) I will leave you with a statement made by Kofi Annan.

Kofi Annan in an address at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt International Disability Award Ceremony held at the United Nations in New York expressed

“That the needs and rights of people with disabilities have been overlooked for many years”. And he adds, “That while that is changing, much more must be done. Let us remember that equal participation requires not only dismantling barriers, but creating opportunities. Let us stress that societies that neglect the integration of persons with disabilities deprive themselves of the valuable contributions such individuals make.”

### **Ratification of the Convention on the United Nations Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities**

81 Countries including Australia signed the Convention on Friday 30 March 2007. In June HREOC convened a meeting with advocacy organisations, peak bodies and disability advisory councils to promote the Ratification and Implementation of the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* in Australia. **At this workshop the Australian Attorney General Philip Ruddock announced in June the Australian Government aims to work with States and Territories to ensure ratification of the new United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.** As a result of this meeting I am a member of the task force whose objective is to work with all levels of government and community in Australia to develop the monitoring and implementation mechanisms required under Article 33 of the Convention.

### **Carter Inquiry**

QAI had two face to face interviews with Justice Carter and forwarded a written submission. We then call publicly for the release of the report after six months had elapsed from when Justice Carter finalised the report and presented it to the Minister.

Ten months after its completion the long awaited report “*Challenging Behaviours and Disability - A Targeted Response*” written by WJ Carter QC, was released by The Minister for Disability Services Queensland, Warren Pitt. It would appear the delay for the public release of a report was to allow DSQ time to formulate a response and an implementation strategy. People who are perceived to exhibit “challenging behaviours” are the focus of the Carter Report and the implementation of the reports recommendations by DSQ. Carter makes 24 broad recommendations which are designed to reform

***"The present crisis driven culture which is essentially reactive and which now heavily infests the present DSQ experience is unsustainable. It has to be replaced by a professionally driven proactive service modality which will reflect world best practice and which by means of appropriate interventions and support mechanisms in the community can provide for the person with intellectual disability the real opportunity of living in the community, exercising his/her human rights appropriately and so ensuring that the conditions of everyday life for the person are the same as, or as close as possible to the conditions of everyday life valued by the general community."***

QAI strongly supports that view promoted by Carter that DSQ is a strong culture of crisis driven responses when it comes to supporting people with disabilities. QAI welcomes the public recognition of this crisis culture that exists within DSQ and its impact on vulnerable persons with disability, their families and service providers and the strong focus on individuals.

***"An individualised and flexible approach which provides for and specifically addresses the person's specific needs and the circumstances of the individual case is the unequivocal key element in the proper care and support for the person with intellectual disability and challenging behaviour; "***

and the need for interventions and support arrangements to be based on world best practice

***"What is proposed involves a fundamental process of reform, renewal and regeneration of the DSQ and disability sector's response, which will provide an efficient, cost effective and financially sustainable outcome for the proper care and support of persons with intellectual disability and challenging behaviour across Queensland. Its adoption and development by DSQ will have the capacity to place DSQ and the Queensland sector in a position of leadership, both nationally and internationally, in ensuring the proper support and care for such persons. Based on the evidence of best practice, the published research literature and the consultation with experienced persons in the intellectual disability sector both persons within DSQ and respected persons outside of the Department and overseas, I state my strong view that a targeted service response for the proper care and support of the persons within the cohort must reflect unambiguously the following operational principles which must be regarded as being of basic and fundamental importance:"***

However, we are concerned that many of the recommendations relating to the interventions and physical location of people at the existing Basil Stafford site are not and will not lead to world's best practice. The concern is not so much located in Carter's recommendations as to the interpretation and implementation of Carter's recommendations by DSQ.

For example one of the significant cornerstones of Carter's recommendations for cultural reform was the development of a 'Centre of Excellence' ***"Centre of Excellence in ensuring the proper care and support of persons with intellectual disability and challenging behaviour. It will also develop as a valuable research facility and itself become a valued research resource. Its role will include community development and education."*** we believe Carter's intent for this centre of excellence was for it to be independent of DSQ and to be led by an eminent academic in this field. DSQ's response is to locate the Centre of excellence within DSQ and the Director of the Centre of excellence will report to the Deputy Director-General of DSQ. It would appear that another diversion from Carter's reform is in relation to the recommendation concerning restrictive practices.

***"A legislative framework which will ensure that the use of any restrictive practice in the case of a person with intellectual disability and challenging behaviour is independently approved and properly regulated and which will provide adequate legislative support as required"***. It is clear that Carter's intent was for all restrictive practices to be approved by the Guardianship Administration and Appeals Tribunal (GAAT). However DSQ has broken the restrictive practices criteria into three tiers. In which only matters that fall within the first tier requires GAAT approval. Criteria under tiers 2 and 3 require a Guardian appointed by GAAT or an informal guardian. (DSQ Document: Investing in Positive Futures-Interim Guidelines: interim policy guidelines relating to the authorisation and use of restrictive practices, May 2007)

QAI believes that there needs to be a strong examination of both the Carter Reports recommendations and DSQ's interpretation of recommendations and their implementation to ensure that persons human rights are not violated. Carter expresses that persons with disabilities human rights must be respected within the framework of this legislation. However, it would appear he solely relies on the legislation itself to provide persons with disability human rights protections. Nowhere in this report is a clear articulated mechanisms or strategy for on the ground resources for the protection and promotion and defence of persons with disability human rights. There is no mention of the need to resource independent advocacy or at least an independent third party representative in the development of plans that allow restrictive practices. It would appear that The Community Visitors Program is assumed that it can play the above role. QAI does not believe that this is the role of the community visitors program and nor should they take this role on.

In fact QAI would argue that if the focus of DSQ's reform was directed at addressing the culture of crisis within DSQ then many of the proposed reforms outlined in the Carter report would not be required. Many of the proposed reforms are deeply embedded in a medical model framework, in that, the reforms locate the problem of "Challenging Behaviour" solely within the individual instead of recognizing that many of the challenging behaviours have arisen from external environmental factors. See Kissane, S & Guerin S 2006, Meeting the challenge of challenging behaviour, National Disability Authority, Dublin 2006 available on the web [www.nda.ie](http://www.nda.ie).

QAI believes there should be a greater and more thorough examination of alternate community living strategies for the targeted population group. QAI strongly opposes the proposed Basil Stafford solution. QAI's opposition to institutional responses for people with "Challenging Behaviour" in favour of living arrangements with least restrictive interventions that uphold a persons dignity and human rights does not just arise from a bunch of radical optimists removed from the real world, it is also soundly supported by some of the literature that the Carter Report has listed in its own bibliography. They include the reference mentioned above and Centre for Disability Studies report "Innovative models of community support for people with high and complex support needs" prepared for the NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care, December 2004 as well as Professor Eric Emerson's articles. This literature is considered world's best practice and it appears not to give support to the redevelopment of Basil Stafford.

### **QAI's Initial Concerns**

1. Possible detention of over 300 people by DSQ happening all at once.
2. What assessment tool did DSQ use to determine the number of people with disability that would be directly affected by the Carter reforms?
3. Lack of advocates for each individual that may be affected by DSQ's implementation.
4. Defining Challenging Behaviour. Appears to be located in the person and with little thought given to environmental factors.
5. Possible origin of challenging behaviour in abuse, sexual, emotional and physical, or a combination of all three forms of abuse not properly being recognised or dealt with accordingly.
6. Is DSQ's response value for money? QAI believes an economist should be engaged to do an economic comparison of examples of pre-emptive support, changing the environment and a DSQ & Mental Health collaboration.



The Carter Report, along with the Government's response, is available on the DSQ web site [www.disability.qld.gov.au](http://www.disability.qld.gov.au) <<http://www.disability.qld.gov.au>>.

QAI will continue to monitor the implementation of the Carter report and work collaboratively with other concerned individuals and organisations to take action where there are practices leading people with disability who are subject to the reforms being treated inhumanely, degradingly, and being exploited or abused.

### ***Disabled Justice Report: People with Disability in the Criminal Justice System***

The report was launched on the **22 May 2007** at the Banco Court Brisbane. The report is available for purchase or free to download from the QAI website [www.qai.org.au](http://www.qai.org.au)

The *Disabled Justice* report is a result of a journey that began a long time ago for QAI; and QAI has shared this journey with many people over the years and some of those people attended the launch. The report's recommendations provide a framework to allow all stakeholders to engage and move forward regarding the proposed structural reforms as articulated in the report. There was overwhelming support from the judiciary, the Law fraternity, community and the response from government is also encouraging, yet, indicative that time has come for a considered and concerted effort to work collaboratively to facilitate cultural change that ultimately delivers a fair go to persons with disability in the criminal justice system.

The criminal justice system impacts on the lives of vulnerable people with disability in many ways, often heightening their vulnerability. The failure of police, the courts, the legal fraternity, and corrective services to fully appreciate the issues and support needs of people with disability, both as offenders as well as victims, frequently leads to the denial of the basic right to be equal before the law.

The lack of early intervention and appropriate support systems in the lives of people with disability contributes to their overrepresentation in prison populations. For example, estimates of the prevalence of intellectual disability in the general community range between 2% & 5%. However, studies show the prevalence rates for people with intellectual disability in the criminal justice system of up to 25%. This overrepresentation of a population of people also applies to people with mental illness.

Justice for people with disability can never be achieved whilst there is continued unwillingness to acknowledge people with intellectual disability and other cognitive impairments as reliable witnesses in criminal matters. This situation creates a second class of citizens for whom the justice system provides little protection - in particular women reporting rape. Justice often doesn't have a chance of being done for victims. Restorative Justice isn't even on the agenda for offenders.

QAI believes that the lives of all people are important and worth living and promotes the notion that adequate supports across the full spectrum of life are required to ensure that people's lives have dignity and purpose - whatever their disability and whatever their circumstances.

"I express my thanks to QAI and I congratulate QAI on its capacity to attract the high quality speakers you will hear tonight", said the Honourable Chief Justice Paul de Jersey who chaired the evening held at the Banco Court on 22 May 2007. Approximately 120 people attended the launch of the *Disabled Justice* Report.

Distinguished speakers on the night were the Honourable Justice Ros Atkinson, the Honourable Chief Judge Patsy Wolfe and the Honourable Chief Magistrate Judge Marshall Irwin who spoke about the report, its recommendations and implications for those with authority in the criminal justice system; Uncle Albert Holt delivered a welcome to country speech.

QAI thanks Philip French the author of the *Disabled Justice Report*, for his wisdom, intellect and thoughtfulness and his skilful and artful way, that he presents a complex matter in a document that is easily accessible and understandable and coherently provides a direction to reform.

All speeches are available on QAI's website [www.qai.org.au](http://www.qai.org.au)

### **Disabled Justice Forum**

QAI held a half day forum on 19 June 2007. Philip French presented the key findings and recommendations of the report. Justice Geoff Davies Chaired a panel consisting of Debbie Kilroy, Director of Sisters Inside; Morrie O'Connor, Director of Community Living Program; Terry Fisher, - Criminal Defence Lawyer, Fisher Dore Lawyers; Mary Burgess, Legal Aid; Magistrate Elizabeth Hall; Di Taylor, Queensland Corrective Services; Ulla Zeller, Assistant Director General, Department of Justice and Attorney General; Tony Keyes, Executive Director of Justice Policy, Department of Premier and Cabinet. The discussion generated by the panellists highlighted the pathways that lead people with a disability into the criminal justice system and the roadblocks that keep them there. QAI would like to acknowledge the time and commitment given by all presenters and thank them for their efforts and look forward to working with them to advance the much-needed reforms highlighted in the report.

The forum was followed by a fundraising lunch with Justice Kirby as our guest speaker.

### **Unacceptable Attitudes about People With Disability**

On two occasions QAI has been compelled to speak publicly against derogatory and unacceptable attitudes about people with disability.

The first occasion arose out of a meeting that QAI and other systems advocacy group's from around Australia met with the then Minister Cobb who was the Minister for Community Services. The Minister had revealed to us that people with disabilities who were problems for their families should be placed in institutions. We were then informed by parents who were also told they wouldn't have had a problem if they had placed their son or daughter in an institution. PWD Australia, Family Advocacy (New South Wales) and QAI challenged the Minister's attitude publicly and called for his removal from this portfolio. The Director of Family Advocacy Catherine Hogan and I also met with the Prime Ministers Policy Adviser and his Electorate Adviser to discuss our concerns. Unfortunately, the Prime Minister publicly stated that he believed the version presented by Minister Cobb, interestingly Minister Cobb was replaced in January two months following our collective actions.

The second occasion arose when the 'Laughing at the Disabled' issue was brought to our attention in late April 2007. Dr Lisa Bridle from QCIDD and myself made representation to the QUT Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Coaldrake regarding the PhD work titled "Laughing at the Disabled: Creating Comedy that Confronts, Offends and Entertains" by the Creative Industries Faculty.

Our concerns with this project were many. The abstract for the confirmation seminar itself suggests a number of potential ethical pitfalls. Exploring authorship and exploitation in disability comedy is a legitimate academic aim. However it is not legitimate to explore this by reproducing relationships which are exploitative, by representing vulnerable people with disability in offensive ways or by exposing them to public mockery by the “mainstream masses”. Further, the abstract makes the fallacious assertion that there is a “fine line between laughing at and laughing with”. To claim this in the context of reactions to people with disability is to be ignorant of the powerlessness of people with disability and the extremely detrimental impact of historical social constructions of disability. For more information go to ‘you tube’ and search QUT there are a number of video postings including interviews with the two academics suspended, people speaking at a rally and students who have witnessed the controversial film rushes.

It would appear that we as a society have lost our sense of decency when it comes to demonising and public ridiculing people based primarily on difference and deeply held assumptions that are ignorant and flawed. These assumptions are primarily evolved from fear and lead to social attitudes which express harmful prejudices and outcomes for vulnerable people.

**Kevin Cocks**  
**DIRECTOR**



**Dr Lisa Bridle July → September 2006**

Effectively since November 2006 QAI has had to close down our focus on Bioethics, primarily due to diminishing funding. However we have made a commitment to continue to keep monitoring and responding to matters that the bioethics project was focusing on. Prior to the formal closure of the bioethics project Lisa carried out 2 major pieces of work -

- **A presentation to the National Conference of the Bioethics Institute of Australia in July 2006**

### **A Fate Worse than Death**

Where are the voices of people with disability in debates about end-of life issues?”, co-presented with Kevin Cocks. Paper presented to Life, Death and Human Nature: Bioethics and Biolaw in the 21st Century, joint ABA/AINZHLE conference held at QUT, Brisbane, Friday 7 July.

### **Nothing About Us Without Us**

The Disability Rights Critique of Prenatal Diagnosis and People with Intellectual Disability”, co-presented with Steve Casos. Paper presented to Life, Death and Human Nature: Bioethics and Biolaw in the 21st Century, joint ABA/AINZHLE conference held at QUT, Brisbane, 07 Friday July 2006.

- **A workshop titled “New Eugenics” September 2006  
Socially Responsible Reproduction Or Disability Prejudice?**

The keynote presenter was Melinda Tankard Reist, a Canberra-based writer and researcher. Melinda has written a book, “Defiant Birth: Women who Resist Medical Eugenics”, that tells the stories of women who resisted pressure to terminate pregnancies because of potential foetal disability or because the women themselves were living with disability.

The seminar revisited the history and current expressions of eugenic thinking. The seminar brought together people with disability, family members, allies and professionals for a re-consideration of eugenics. The seminar explored how eugenic attitudes shape current practices such as prenatal diagnosis and examine the current attitudinal and social barriers which act against people with disability becoming parents. Participants also examined how current prenatal practices and supports for people with disability could be improved and how to address those social attitudes which express harmful eugenic prejudices.

**Kevin Cocks  
DIRECTOR**



## Community Living Project Melinda Ewin



Responding to the apparent move back to congregate care and institutionalised practices for people with disability, QAI has developed in the 2006-2007 period alliances with differing organisations that are a change from the traditional advocacy alliances in the past. These alliances reflect a shift in the implementation of government programs and policies that has moved organisations that provide supports for people with disability closer to QAI's advocacy position for human rights and community living than the government who legislates for and provides programs and funding for people with disability.

Whilst QAI has continued with its primary projects during this year, we have also engaged in activities of a "one off" nature as the need arises.

Projects that were a focus of the 2006-2007 period were:

1. Human Rights Indicators Project
2. Younger People in Aged Care Alliance (YPACA)
3. Baillie Henderson Hospital Community Group
4. Hostel and Boarding House Campaign
5. Direct Payments Campaign
6. Department of Child Safety

Initiatives undertaken were:

1. Disability alliance prior to state government election
2. Endeavour Internal Advocacy Policy and Abuse Resource

### **1. HUMAN RIGHTS INDICATORS PROJECT**

The purpose of the Human Rights Indicators Project is to develop human rights tools to identify and inform of those human rights specifically for people with disability. To do this QAI has engaged Phillip French from Disability Research and Studies Institute (DSARI) to develop the tools. The Human Rights Project commenced in 2004-2005. At that time three stages were identified to complete the project. The first stage was the writing of a set of Human Rights Indicators, we call it the "Bible", partly because of the size of the document but also because it represents a complete and authoritative tool of human rights for people with disability. This stage was completed in 2005-2006.

Stage two of the project was to develop and publish an easy English version of the Human Rights Indicators. Subsequently *"Everyone has human rights, Understand Yours! A guide to human rights for people with disability"* was produced. The guide was produced with the help and input from the reference group that was originally consulted for the Human Rights Indicators. The guide was completed in this July 2006.

Armed with our Easy-English version of the Human Rights Indicators, QAI undertook state-wide consultation as part of the third stage. This stage is to consult with people with disability and their families and interested people who live in Queensland about how they feel their rights are met and produce a "snapshot" report reflecting this. The third stage was funded by Uniting Care.

For two weeks in October, QAI held over 15 focus groups and met with over 80 people in Brisbane and Cairns as well as teleconferences with people who live in rural and remote areas. Whilst the formal analysis has yet to be done, a cursory overview of people's responses found that, people were happier in country areas. Despite the lack of services, people who lived in country areas felt they were more respected and that their concerns were heard and acted upon by the local community. A dominant theme appears to be that attitude is all important, ie a positive attitude and sense of humour impacts directly on how a person felt their rights were being met. Major concerns raised were with the Criminal Justice System, lack of good support workers, lack of services and mobility aids and the education system.

Also as part of Stage 3 an E-Consultation and Online Forum was conducted to allow people to respond privately through email or in discussion with others on the open forum. The responses from this were particularly enlightening and contributed significantly to the reports findings.

QAI also held a one day state-wide call in, many of the callers raised concerns around education issues and paid carer's attitudes. A number of callers were also concerned about their privacy by contacting QAI, and, although wanting to discuss issues in detail were reluctant to do so.

The snapshot report will be finalised at the end of 2007.

As a result of the consultations and requests from the reference group, QAI will also be producing a Human Rights Indicators version that will be user friendly and sit somewhere between the "bible" and the easy English version.

## **2. YOUNGER PEOPLE IN AGED CARE ALLIANCE (YPACA)**

YPACA has been very active during this period. Brain Injury Association and the MS Society committed energy into renewing the life of YPACA. MS Society hosted a half day workshop to devise a strategic plan in response to the Commonwealth and States commitment of \$46 million towards addressing the issue of people living in or under threat of nursing homes.

YPACA met with DSQ personnel to discuss DSQ's plans for implementing the combined state and commonwealth initiative. The group advocated for a three key processes to be implemented by DSQ in the funding allocations. YPACA were successful in two of these, namely the setting up of a reference group to oversee the implementation of this initiative and that the any assessment of people's needs be undertaken by an independent body, ideally that body to be made up of the Spinal Injury Association, MS Society and Brain Injury Association, as these three reflect, in general terms, the population of younger people who are residing in nursing homes. YPACA were unsuccessful in securing individual funding for people, although some commitment was given by DSQ that all people will be able to move out of nursing homes to live where they chose and with and support arrangements of their choice.

QAI was invited to participate on DSQ's Reference Group, the first meeting was held in December 2006.

DSQ began a tendering process to implement the various “models” required to fulfil their commitment to this initiative. QAI raised a number of concerns, both with State and Commonwealth bodies regarding the congregate care models that were being implemented.

Brain Injury Association was successful in its application for funding to provide the independent assessment organisation.

A number of YPACA members, including QAI, were invited to speak at the CRU conference about the group and issues for people with disability residing in nursing homes.

YPACA continues to advocate for the best possible outcomes for people with disability through the implementation of this initiative. QAI attended 6 YPACA meetings during this period. YPACA now meets at the QAI offices.

### **3. BAILLIE HENDERSON HOSPITAL COMMUNITY GROUP**

QAI has been very quiet in this area for most of 2006. This has been caused by a waning of community involvement, for either health or work reasons. However, QAI was contacted by one of the group members and also a woman in the local community that would like to do something for the people with Intellectual Impairment in Baillie Henderson Hospital – so began a revitalisation of this community led group.

The group continues to lobby for some form of community access for the residents at Baillie Henderson Hospital. DSQ has also begun the process of assessing people who reside in all health run facilities to begin moving people in to the community. QAI has been advised that this initiative will also include the people residing at Baillie Henderson Hospital. The group met 6 times during this period.

### **4. HOSTEL AND BOARDING HOUSE CAMPAIGN**

QAI is not actively engaged in this project and monitors this by attending Boarding House Action Group meetings periodically. QAI attended two meetings in this period.

### **5. DIRECT PAYMENTS CAMPAIGN**

Since the 1990's, QAI has promoted individualised funding arrangements as a more equitable and long term efficient distribution of government monies. QAI is campaigning for direct payments to be paid to people with disability so that they can purchase their supports according to their needs and lifestyle requirements. Direct payments are seen as a more equitable way of delivering control into the lives of people with disability to live independently in the community. Direct payments will also increase efficiency in funding distribution by firstly cutting the layers of bureaucracy and opening up the current anticompetitive systems to market forces of supply and demand.

Distribution of funding for services by direct payments will contribute to addressing some fundamental needs for people with disability such as:

1. Providing personal control. Direct payments will allow people to purchase personal support services and domestic services that are convenient for their own needs and support their personal goals and requirements.

2. Purchasing power. Direct payments gives people the power to decide whether or not a service provider supports them and their needs appropriately.
3. Self determination and empowerment.
4. Portability of funding. Restrictive state and regional based funding make it impossible for people to move from region to region or interstate.
5. Fundamental Human rights are often overlooked for people with disability, direct payments will progress towards people being able to more fully realise their rights.

This campaign is promoted in conjunction with other campaign strategies such as Human Rights Indicator Project, and is promoted through funding and policy reform submissions.

#### **6. DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY**

QAI has reduced its advocacy efforts in this area, however, continues to monitor the situation to increase advocacy efforts should the need arise. Any activity in 2006-2007 was conducted by a small group made up of Sunni Dawson, Solicitor at Southwest Brisbane Community Legal Centre and QAI. During this period we met with the Anti-Discrimination Commission of Queensland to discuss whether the omission of disability in child safety legislation and implementation, other than as an indicator of risk or abuse, may have some merit towards a discrimination case. The group also met with DSQ Child Safety Branch to raise our concerns. The group met twice this year.

#### **7. DISABILITY ALLIANCE PRIOR TO STATE GOVERNMENT ELECTION**

In an attempt to influence election policy statements on disability issues, QAI organised a coalition of service providers, advocacy and family support organisations to come together prior to the election to raise issues and strategies targeted to addressing major concerns for people with disability in Queensland. This was the first time that a group as diverse as this had taken the opportunity to meet to discuss issues facing people with disability and agree on strategies towards remedying them. The group lobbied all political parties.

#### **8. ENDEAVOUR INTERNAL ADVOCACY POLICY AND ABUSE RESOURCE**

QAI participated in two reference groups towards the formation of an internal advocacy policy and an internal abuse policy for Endeavour.

**Melinda Ewin**

**COMMUNITY LIVING ADVOCATE**





## **LAW REFORM**

### **Guardianship Review**

QAI, as a member of the GARD group (Guardianship Administration Regime Drivers), is part of the process for monitoring the review of the Guardianship regime. This review is being conducted by the Law Reform Commission. The Commission has concluded the initial phase of the review by completing the consultation process on the role of confidentiality in guardianship system. A report on the consultation findings is currently being written and will be subsequently tabled in Parliament.

Future phases of the review will be around examining the General Principles of the Guardianship Act. The General Principles will be examined in the context of the legislation as a whole. The review of the General Principles is a priority as it is the General Principles of the Act that are the guidelines for all decisions made under the guardianship legislation. Other matters for review include: the role of informal decision makers, process for reviewing decisions made in guardianship system, and roles of various government bodies. QAI will also be part of the consultation process when the time comes.

### **Rights in Public Spaces (RIPS)**

QAI has participated in regular meetings and policy discussions with other stakeholders. The group has gained limited support from some State Members, who have concerns relating to some of their constituents harsh experience in the exercising of move-on powers. The group is lobbying for a review to be conducted by Crime and Misconduct Commission.

### **Laughing at the Disabled**

The Legal Advocacy Worker has contributed into the debate and assisted with drafting letters to the Chancellor of Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and the Attorney-General urging them to monitor the progress and intervene.

## **CASEWORK AND ADVICE**

The Legal Advocacy Worker has undertaken individual legal casework referred by individual advocacy groups which support the systemic objectives of QAI as a whole.

QAI has attended recent Guardianship Tribunal proceedings and worked closely with Combined Advocacy Groups Queensland (CAGQ) members. The cooperation has been strengthened through the recent Community Resource Unit (CRU) conference held in Brisbane. QAI has also assisted families of disabled people to apply for pro- bono legal representation for the abuse the disabled people suffered while in the care of some facilities. QAI has actively engaged other individual as well as combined advocacy groups to achieve our goals.

Contact has been maintained with SUFY, AMPARO, RIPS, Multilink and regional advocacy groups.

Face to face and telephone advice were given to a number of advocacy groups and individuals about a variety of topics.

Through the case work, the legal Advocacy Worker has noticed that victims of abuse would expect a more proactive, vigilant and vigorous interplay between the Adult Guardian, Community Visitors and other external stakeholders to monitor scrutinise the practice and procedures of the Disability Service Queensland and their contracted service providers.

The Legal Advocacy Worker ensured QAI compliance with all requirements of the Indemnity Insurance Scheme funded by Legal Aid and of continued membership of QAILS which allows such coverage.

As QAI is required under the DFACSIA funding agreement to undertake 25% individual advocacy work, the Legal Advocacy Worker will need to juggle between tasks of systematic advocacy and the individual one.

**Stephen Lin**  
**LEGAL ADVOCACY WORKER**



## **Legal Profession Disability Training Project Julian Porter**



With notification of a grant from the Department of Justice and Attorney General's Legal Practitioners Interest on Trust Accounts Fund (LPITAF) received on 14 August 2006 the task of recruiting a project worker began. QAI's Legal Advocacy Worker Julian Porter was chosen to move into the position, however this meant finding a replacement for him before work could start in earnest. Nonetheless two sessions were conducted at the request of Legal Aid Queensland in the interim period. A new Legal Advocacy Worker began work on 16 October 2006 and the project worker began to be paid from the grant funds from that date.

### **October 2006 → January 2007**

Getting started so late in the year the prospects of conducting more than a handful of sessions before Christmas were poor. Energy levels within the CLC's (with whom QAI typically collaborates to present sessions), were understandably low probably reflecting those of their volunteers, the main target audience for the package. At one point three sessions were scheduled through November and December but for a variety of reasons two of them didn't get off the ground. In the end the only session held before the end of 2006 was with staff and volunteers of the Welfare Rights Centre Inc. The project worker devoted his time during this period to upgrading the training package materials, publicising the sessions and setting tentative dates in the New Year, particularly up until the end of the CPD (Compulsory Professional Development) year on March 31. With six dates set for that period the worker took leave in January to prepare for a big year ahead.

### **February 2007 → 30 June 2007**

February and March 2007 saw the project really get underway with a session for Caxton Legal Service staff and volunteers on 21 February 2007. This was followed by a North Queensland tour to Rockhampton, Mackay and Cairns on consecutive days 5, 6 & 7 March 2007. Sessions were subsequently held with combined Nundah CLC and Pine Rivers CLC on 21 March 2007 and South West Brisbane CLC on March 28 2007. Further sessions were held at the annual Queensland Association of Community Legal Centres (QAILS) Conference on 11 May 2007, for volunteers from the QPILCH-run Homeless Persons Legal Clinic (HPLC) on 14 May 2007 and for Suncoast CLC on 31 May 2007. At the end of the 2006/07 financial year the project was well on target to meet or exceed the promised 17 sessions by mid-October 2007. By the time of the AGM further sessions will have been held with CLC's at Logan and Bundaberg, with the support of Gold Coast Advocacy at the Gold Coast, and for barristers and QPILCH volunteers in Brisbane.

DATE	HOST	# PARTICIPANTS
23 August 2006	Legal Aid (First Contact)	22
18 September 2006	Legal Aid (Criminal)	11
21 December 2006	Welfare Rights	9
21 February 2007	Caxton Legal Service	20
5 March 2007	Capricorn Community Legal Centre	4
6 March 2007	Mackay Regional Community Legal Centre	11
7 March 2007	Cairns Community Legal Centre	17
21 March 2007	Nundah/Pine Rivers Community Legal Centre's	7
28 March 2007	South West Brisbane Community Legal Centre	8
11 May 2007	QAILS Conference	22
14 May 2007	QPILCH HPLC	11
31 May 2007	Suncoast Community Legal Centre	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>151</b>

### Statistics/Feedback as at 30 June 2007

Sessions held	12
Number of Participants	151
Number of Feedback forms completed	104
Percent who would recommend to colleagues	100%
Percent who found training relevant to their work	98%
Percent who felt training style offered good opportunities to learn	100%

### Content of Training Sessions

Queensland Advocacy Inc's Disability Training for Lawyers is a response to the reality that the majority of legal issues facing people with disability are not specifically related to their disability. The engaging, multi-format session takes place over three hours and seeks to introduce QAI's 90-page illustrated CDROM text *Disability and the Law – A Training Resource for Lawyers* by examining the impacts of disability and concentrating on the crucial areas of identification and communication as they effect lawyers. QAI believes with some instruction in these areas and a clearer understanding of the disability experience, lawyers can quickly adapt their skills to meet the needs of many clients with a disability.

### Further Funding

Other items of specific feedback have been considered and incorporated into subsequent sessions as appropriate. Many requests to follow up with more specific training in particular areas of law were in part the motivation for a further funding request to LPITAF. Notification was received in August of further funding both to continue with a limited number of the general introductory sessions and to put together four CLE sessions for layers on specialist topics relating to disability and the law.

### Julian Porter

### LEGAL TRAINING



## OFFICE BEARERS



### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1987 - 1988	Jeremy Ward	President
First Meeting 20 August 1987	Michael Duggan President	Vice President
Election 03 September 1987	Denis Cowan	Secretary / Treasurer
Disability Rights Centre Project	Kevin Cocks - [Sept 1987]	Treasurer
	Donna Best	Committee Member
	Jan Dyke	Committee Member
	Paul Grevell	Committee Member
	Peter Hall	Committee Member
	Margot Sheedy	Committee Member
1987 Steering Committee Executive	Jeremy Ward	President
01 March 1988 Incorporation	Michael Duggan	Vice President
"Queensland Advocacy Incorporated"	Denis Cowan	Secretary
	Kevin Cocks	Treasurer
1988 - 1989	Michael Duggan	President
	Denis Cowan	Vice President
	Val Smith	Secretary
	Kevin Cocks	Treasurer
	Donna Best	Committee Member
	Len Bytheway	Committee Member
	Jan Dyke	Committee Member
	Douglas Eldridge	Committee Member
	Katrina Evers	Committee Member
	Bernadette McGarry	Committee Member
	Ray Novley	Committee Member
	Marg Schroder	Committee Member
	Margot Sheedy	Committee Member
1989 - 1990	Michael Duggan	President
	Margot Sheedy	Vice President
	Marg Schroder	Secretary
	Douglas Eldridge	Treasurer
	Donna Best	Committee Member
	Len Bytheway	Committee Member
	Des Close	Committee Member
	Bernadette McGarry	Committee Member
	Andrew McLean	Committee Member
	Ray Novley	Committee Member
	Des Orr	Committee Member
	Kim Schweida	Committee Member
	Val Smith	Committee Member

1990 - 1991	Marg Schroder	President
	Donna Best	Vice President
	Des Orr	Secretary
	Douglas Eldridge	Treasurer
	Kevin Cocks	Committee Member
	Leah Nicjles	Committee Member
	Willie Prince	Committee Member
1991 - 1992	Marg Schroder	President
	Willie Prince	Vice President
	Donna Best	Secretary
	Douglas Eldridge	Treasurer
	Ray Bavinton	Committee Member
	Michael Galligan	Committee Member
	Barry Jones	Committee Member
	Peter Mark	Committee Member
	John McIlwain	Committee Member
	Andrea Morton	Committee Member
	Leah Nichles	Committee Member
1992 - 1993	Willie Prince	President
	Donna Best	Vice President
	Michael Galliagan	Secretary
	Douglas Eldridge	Treasurer
	Ray Bavinton	Committee Member
	Anna Close	Committee Member
	Peter Mark	Committee Member
	Jeff Murray	Committee Member
	Leah Nichles	Committee Member
	Tony Zsoldos	Committee Member
1993 - 1994	Willie Prince	President
	Donna Best	Vice President
	Michael Galligan	Secretary
	Douglas Eldridge	Treasurer
	Anna Close	Committee Member
	Jeff Murray	Committee Member
	Leah Nichles	Committee Member
	Marg Schroder	Committee Member
	Greg Wagner	Committee Member
1994 - 1995	Douglas Eldridge	President
	Michael Galligan	Vice President
	Greg Wagner	Secretary
	Jeff Murray	Treasurer
	Donna Best	Committee Member
	Michael Duggan	Committee Member
	Willie Prince	Committee Member
	Nigel Webb	Committee Member

1995 - 1996	Douglas Eldridge †	President
	Nigel Webb	Vice President
	Donna Best	Secretary
	Jeff Murray	Treasurer
	Michael Duggan	Committee Member
	Finnette Dwyer	Committee Member
	Julie McStay	Committee Member
	C O'Malley	Committee Member
1996 - 1997	Douglas Eldridge	President
	Nigel Webb	Vice President
	Donna Best	Secretary
	Jeff Murray	Treasurer
	Lisa Bridle	Committee Member
	Michael Duggan (resign March 1997)	Committee Member
	Cathy O'Malley	Committee Member
	Narendra Sharma	Committee Member
	David Swift - (appoint June 1997)	
1997 - 1998	Douglas Eldridge	President
	Nigel Webb	Vice President
	David Swift	Secretary
	Donna Best	Treasurer
	Jac Saxvik	Committee Member
	Marg Schroder	Committee Member
	Deborah Tobin	Committee Member
	Michael Duggan	Committee Member
	John Stannard	Committee Member
1998 - 1999	Nigel Webb	President
	Michael Duggan	Vice President
	David Swift	Secretary
	Donna Best	Treasurer
	Douglas Eldridge	Committee Member
	Marg Schroder	Committee Member
1999 - 2000	Nigel Webb	President
	David Swift	Vice President
	Michael Duggan	Secretary
	Donna Best	Treasurer
	Douglas Eldridge	Committee Member
	Bernadette Scalora	Committee Member
	Margaret Schroder	Committee Member
2000 - 2001	Nigel Webb	President
	Bernadette Scalora	Vice President
	Michael Duggan	Secretary
	Donna Best	Treasurer
	Julie Conway	Committee Member
	Michael Fisher	Committee Member
	Amy Stockwell	Committee Member

2001 - 2002	Nigel Webb	President
	Bernadette Scalora †	Vice President
	Michael Duggan	Secretary
	Robert Reed	Treasurer
	Michael Fisher Member	Committee Member
	Lisa Lehmann	Committee Member
2002 - 2003	Nigel Webb	President
	Bernadette Scalora	Vice President
	Michael Duggan	Secretary
	Robert Reed	Treasurer
	Kate Kirkpatrick	Committee Member
	Lisa Lehmann	Committee Member
2003 - 2004	Mary Kenny	President
	Robert McRae	Vice President
	Michael Duggan	Secretary
	Berkeley Cox	Treasurer
	Byron Albury	Committee Member
	Kay Hassis	Committee Member
	Meriel Stanger	Committee Member
2004 - 2005	Mary Kenny	President
	Robert McRae	Vice President
	Michael Duggan	Secretary
	Berkeley Cox	Treasurer
	Byron Albury	Committee Member
	Kay Hassis	Committee Member
	Meriel Stanger	
2005 - 2006	Robert McRae	President
	Byron Albury	Vice President
	Michael Duggan	Secretary
	Andrew Fraser	Treasurer
	Julie McStay	Committee Member
	Meriel Stanger	Committee Member
2006 - 2007	Robert McRae	President
	Byron Albury	Vice President
	Michael Duggan	Secretary
	Andrew Fraser	Treasurer
	Julie McStay	Committee Member
	Meriel Stanger	Committee Member
	Ken Wade	Committee Member

#### NOTE

This information has been taken from Annual General Meeting and Management Committee Meeting minutes held on file at the QAI office.



<b>PRESIDENTS</b>	
1987 - 1988	Jeremy Ward
1988 - 1990	Michael Duggan
1990 - 1992	Marg Schroder
1992 - 1994	Willie Prince
1994 - 1998	Douglas Eldridge
1998 - 2003	Nigel Webb
2003 - 2005	Mary Kenny
2005 -	Robert McRae
<b>VICE PRESIDENTS</b>	
1987 - 1988	Michael Duggan
1988 - 1989	Denis Cowan
1989 - 1990	Margot Sheedy
1990 - 1991 / 1992-1994	Donna Best
1991 - 1992	Willie Prince
1994 - 1995	Michael Galligan
1995 - 1998	Nigel Webb
1998 - 1999	Michael Duggan
1999 - 2000	David Swift
2000 - 2003	Bernadette Scalora
2003 - 2005	Robert McRae
2005 -	Byron Albury
<b>SECRETARIES</b>	
1987 - 1988	Denis Cowan
1988 - 1989	Val Smith
1989 - 1990	Marg Schroder
1990 - 1991	Des Orr
1991 - 1992	Donna Best
1992 - 1994	Michael Galliagan
1994 - 1995	Greg Wagner
1995 - 1997	Donna Best
1997 - 1999	David Swift
1999 -	Michael Duggan
<b>TREASURERS</b>	
1987 - 1989	Kevin Cocks
1989 - 1993	Douglas Eldridge
1994 - 1997	Jeff Murray
1997 - 2001	Donna Best
2001 - 2003	Robert Reed
2003 - 2005	Berkeley Cox
2005 - 2007	Andrew Fraser



## STAFF



<b>DIRECTOR</b>	
1988 - 1998	Jeremy Ward
1998 -	Kevin Cocks
<b>BIOETHICS ADVOCACY WORKER</b>	
1992 - 1997	Jennifer Fitzgerald
1998 - 2004	David Turnbull
2004 - 2006	Lisa Bridle
<b>COMMUNITY LIVING ADVOCATE</b>	
1988 - 1992	Lorna Hallahan
1992 - 2002	Christine Douglas
2002 -	Melinda Ewin
<b>LEGAL ADVOCACY WORKER</b>	
1992 - 1995	Matthew Keeley
1995 - 1997	Alison Colvin
1995 - 2000	Kathleen Dare
1998 - 2001	John Stannard
2001 - 2006	Julian Porter
2006 - 2007	Stephen Lin
<b>LEGAL TRAINING</b>	
2006 - 2007	Julian Porter

### NOTE

This information has been taken from Annual General Meeting, Management Committee Meeting minutes and Staff records held on file at the QAI office.

<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	
1988 - 1992	Lorna Hallahan
1988 - 1996	Jennifer Wilson
1992 - 2003	Julie Granger
1994 - 1995	Catherine O'Malley
1996 - 1997	Bobbie Noone
1996 - 1998	Jennifer Barrkman (AAD)
1996 - 1998	Mary Kenny
1996 - 2000	Sharyn Pacey
1997	Nic Geard
2000 - 2002	Shelley Brook
2003 -	Lyn Giles
2004 - 2005	Christina Cornilsen
2005	Kay Mark Richardson
2005	Jennifer Barrkman (Conference)
2005 - 2006	Annie Hinde
<b>FINANCE</b>	
2001 - 2004	Rose Cenita
2004	Marjorie Price
2004 - 2005	Christina Cornilsen
2004 - 2005	Lyn Giles
2005 -	Deborah Bryzak [Consultant]

**NOTE**

This information has been taken from Annual General Meeting, Management Committee Meeting minutes and Staff records held on file at the QAI office.