

Learning Difficulties Australia

Annual General Meeting

President Report

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

### **President's Report**

2021 began as a challenging year for LDA, but as Michael's report will indicate, we have ended the year with a new website, memberships at an all-time high, with significant revenue in the bank. This is because of the positive impact of professional learning sessions held in January of 2021 and further online and face to face sessions including the Science of Writing Course, that Michael will tell you about. The Weekly Wednesday Webinars have also raised LDA's profile and are a legacy to the generosity of experts in the field who selflessly gave their time.

With respect to the conferences, which were both face to face and online, LDA is grateful to those who spoke for, planned and helped to organise these sessions, particularly non-LDA Council who have given their time to present and help facilitate at no cost.

Events like these have raised LDA's profile and membership, something that LDA Council have pursued over the last three years, driven by the result of the Explicate Report findings to grow the Association.

As was evident at the Special General Meeting, the vote to change LDA's governance and name was not supported, so that is something for the incoming LDA council to consider.

I would like to acknowledge the outstanding work of the retiring 2021 Council, many of whom have been part of LDA Exec and Council for a long time: Nicole, Sarah, Renae, Bartek, Olivia, Jo, Lyn, Sally, Troy, Priscilla and David.

For the last two years, LDA has benefited greatly from the support of Michael, our General Manager, who is also stepping away. Having served on LDA Council both with and without the paid support of a General Manager, employing Michael enabled Council to step back, to a degree, and focus on what we do best: supporting teachers and other professionals to assist students with learning difficulties through effective instruction.

Since joining LDA council in 2011, I have thoroughly enjoyed my different roles and found the opportunity to work with some of the most talented, knowledgeable and generous leaders in the field of Learning Difficulties, incredibly rewarding.

I wish Robyn and her 2022 Council well to continue the important work of LDA.