



Australian Association for
Infant Mental Health Inc.

South Australian Branch

Presidents Report 2019

Professional Development

“Born to Connect” a joint HDA/AAIMH seminar was held during IMHAW on June 12: A second successful event was held this year with three speakers, Dr Heather Mattner psychologist on birth trauma, Meg Bater Phd candidate in NICU on training parents of pre- term infants to support early development and Sara Jones Neonatal Critical care nurse on Family integrated Care in the NICU.

It was gratifying to hear our co-convenors HDA so pleased with the event and appreciative of AAIMH’s advocacy for infants.

ABC Training with Mary Dozier had to be cancelled earlier in the year due to low registrations. Serendipitously her presence at AAIMH 2019 conference may enable wider awareness of her work and more enthusiastic uptake of training opportunities in the future.

AAIMH National Conference 2019

This has been a strong focus of the SA committee and the conference subcommittee which has been very active in the last 12 months in preparation. Conference committee members are

Co-Convenors: Kathy Moar and Tessa Kong

Committee

Ros Powrie, Patricia O’Rourke, Sally Watson, Joy Elford, Valerie Aylesbury with assistance from Jacque Beal in the selection of papers.

The Karen Fitzgerald Oration the opening event of the AAIMH Conference in conjunction with the Dept of Child Protection as sponsors is an innovation of this conference, which will occur during Child Protection week.

I am very grateful for the hard work and experience of the conference organising team, who have been able to trouble shoot unexpected events, communicate efficiently with International speakers,(and find them) and have given hours of their time-whether on holiday or travelling overseas. I can truly appreciate now what it takes to organise a National event like this. We are

South Australian Branch, Australian Association for Infant Mental Health
PO Box 473, Glenside, South Australia,5065| ABN 93 045 030 281 | info@aaimhi.org

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also grateful to our Conference Organiser Phil Plevin and Associates the back bone of the conference organisation and for holding everything together with astute financial planning. We are grateful for our sponsors Emerging Minds, Goodstart Learning Centres, Relationships Australia, and the Department of Child Protection SA.

On behalf of the committee we hope this will be a fruitful, energising and enjoyable occasion to network with colleagues, reflect on achievements, learn and play, and remain inspired and encouraged to continue our work together.

Other SA Branch Activities

Our annual planning evening in April resulted in the branch bringing a focus on outreaching more to rural areas, perhaps by holding a series of seminars or workshops in country areas. We may be assisted using technology such as zoom and also for branch meetings.

We also proposed advocating for the First 1000 days agenda being more actively taken up in key areas ie Dept. Child Protection with strategic discussions promoting workforce training. This will be something to focus on in 2020.

Philanthropy Grants

Although no general philanthropy grants were taken up initially it was decided to call a second time with a more targeted approach to members. This resulted in two members being successful: Rita Bitar who teaches infant massage gaining a grant for Marta Meo training and completing the Introductory Cert in Infant Mental Health and Jo Osborne a Masters Psychology student who has completed research on mother infant attachment in mothers with Borderline Personality Disorder to attend the National AAIMH conference. We congratulate them both and look forward to hearing about their learnings.

SA Branch will continue to develop communication strategies so that Philanthropy grants are more widely promoted.

Indigenous Scholarships to attend National Conference and Membership for 12 months.

It was very pleasing to grant three scholarships this year: to Shaname Davies AMIC practitioner with the Aboriginal Family Birthing Unit at WCH, Troy Tongerie Social and Emotional well being Officer at CAMHS and Joy MakePeace Aboriginal Child and Maternal Health Worker at Nunkuwarrin Yunti . Joy is already a panel member during the conference and as such has

complimentary registration, in addition it was decided to grant Joy membership for 12 months. The branch looks forward to hearing from our scholarship recipients later in the year.

AAIMH SA Branch Committee

Our AGM was held on August 1 at The Education Centre Milner St Hindmarsh

This was followed by a presentation by Valerie Aylesbury on working with Aboriginal and Ti Infants and families and was gratefully received and led to a very thoughtful discussion.

The SA Branch Committee for 2019 is

President: Ros Powrie

Vice President: Tessa Kong

National Representative: Ros Powrie

Treasurer: Joy Elford

Membership: Heather Warne

Secretary: Jo Elford

National Competency Subcommittee: Patricia O'Rourke

IMHAW: National rep: vacant

Committee: Pam Linke, (advocacy) Italia Parletta, Kathy Moar, Kerry Roberts, Sally Watson, Mary Hood (National Treasurer), Valerie Aylesbury

We are very pleased to welcome our new members elected at the AGM Debra Lockwood and Joy Makepeace

“The whole is greater than the sum of the parts” This sums up the synergy, and commitment I have experienced over the past year with our committee members- busy people who have given their time and energy to a common cause and done it with humour, patience and generosity. I have learnt a lot from the collective experience of the group and have appreciated the guidance from more experienced members, especially past President Sally Watson. We said farewell to Cheryl Lowe and Jacquie Lee and thank them for their contributions. We have continued to expand our membership, always a good sign of health!

Ros Powrie

President SA Branch AAIMHI

