

# HOW CAN WE GET THE BEST OUTCOMES IN EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY



- What are the real benefits of an inclusive education and how can these be achieved?
- What kind of learning outcomes really make a difference to students with a disability?
- Where do we get support to teach all students literacy, and why is this important?

**Professor Bruce Uditsky and Dr Anne Hughson (from Alberta, Canada)**—This workshop will illustrate what is practically needed to achieve quality inclusive education from pre-school to post-secondary education for students with intellectual disabilities. Many families and schools in WA have struggled to find ways to include students with complex needs. Bruce and Anne will talk about the reasons why we should still be trying to find ways to support inclusion as a real choice for families who want it, and how successful inclusive education for a wide range of students has been supported in Alberta for decades.

**Jaquie Mills**—Jaquie is a parent who has a 25 year old adult son. She will reflect on the outcomes of education which she and other families have valued most since their children have left school, and what this means for where the focus of education of students with complex needs should be, regardless of setting.

**Laura Jones**—Laura will share the outcomes so far of the new Graduate Certificate in Special Education: Complex Communication Needs, which for the first time in Australia offers teacher education on developing communication and literacy for all students, with a focus on complex disability.

**Dr John O'Rourke**—What is the role of Special Education teachers in supporting students to be included? John will share his innovative research on alternative models of support for schools which looks at transforming the role of Special Education sites to Centres of Excellence which support all students, including those with learning disability, behavioural challenges, and pastoral care needs.

**OPTIONAL INTERACTIVE FORUM**—After the workshop Bruce, Anne and John will explore where to from here in WA. Family members welcome to attend.

MONDAY 29 AUGUST 2016

PAGE 1 OF 3

ASSURED ASCOT QUAYS APARTMENT HOTEL, ASCOT  
10.30AM—3.45PM INTERACTIVE FORUM 4.00PM—5.30PM



## ABOUT THE PRESENTERS:

**Bruce Uditsky, M.Ed.**—Chief Executive Officer, Inclusion Alberta and Adjunct Professor, Community Rehabilitation & Disability Studies, Community Health Sciences, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary. Bruce is internationally recognized for his leadership and advocacy in social justice and inclusion for individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families. He serves in an advisory capacity to government on many issues and is currently engaged in contributing to the development of Alberta's policy framework on inclusive education. He was instrumental in the development of significant Legislation, including Alberta's education standards on the placement of students with disabilities in the regular classroom. Along with his colleague, Dr. Anne Hughson, they developed one of Canada's few summer institutes on inclusive education that has been training teachers, educators and parents for over 20 years. Bruce is considered one of the co-founders of inclusive post-secondary and Rotary Employment Partnerships both of which have been acknowledged as world leading global innovations. He has consulted in many countries and is the author and co-author of books, chapters and articles on inclusion. Bruce has received the Alberta Centennial Medal, Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, multiple Communicator of the Year awards and a Paul Harris Fellowship. He is the parent of two adult sons, one of whom has intellectual disabilities.

**Anne Hughson, Ph.D.**—Director and Associate Professor, Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies, Community Health Sciences, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary and a Registered Psychologist. Dr. Hughson is a recipient of the Faculty of Education Excellence in Teaching Award and the author and co-author of texts, chapters and articles on a wide range of disability-related subjects. She has lectured and consulted in many countries. As a researcher in disability studies and program evaluation her work is grounded in the lived experiences of people with developmental disabilities and their families. Her teaching and research interests include programme evaluation, research design, consumer driven services, community development, critical theory and anti-oppressive practices in human services, ethics of inclusion and caring in education. Along with her colleague, Bruce Uditsky, she was a co-developer of one of Canada's few summer institutes on inclusive education which has been training teachers, administrators and parents for over 20 years. Dr. Hughson has a long history of voluntary and consultancy work with Inclusion Alberta, most recently as the co-developer of its internationally recognized family leadership series, inclusive post-secondary education and community inclusion projects in child welfare, inclusive education, and community inclusion.

**Jaquie Mills**—Jaquie Mills is a parent of two young men with disability. A former high school teacher and now managing director of Microboards Australia, she has been Chair of the Positive Behaviour Strategy Guiding Committee in WA for the past five years. She is project manager for the Family Leadership initiative in partnership with the Disability Services Commission, working with families who experience behaviour which can be seen as challenging. Jaquie has taught inclusive secondary education at Edith Cowan University, and managed the development of the new Post Graduate Certificate in Complex Communication Needs which is now in its second year. She is also an individualised services advisor at WA's Individualised Services supporting people with complex disability to have good lives.



ADVOCACY



POLICY



COMMUNITY

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY *wa*

**Laura Jones**—Lecturer, Edith Cowan University, Laura passionately believes in the need to "make the least dangerous assumption" when teaching students with diverse abilities. Furthermore, Laura believes that all students can learn to communicate and move along the literacy learning continuum if they are appropriately taught and supported. It is this passion which led to her involvement in the newly developed Graduate Certificate in Complex Communication Needs at Edith Cowan University. Originally a dual qualified teacher-conductor from the UK, Laura Jones has worked closely with students with complex disability and their families in Western Australia for the last twelve years in a range of settings including early intervention parent and child groups, mainstream and education support school classrooms, conductive education programmes, hospital school services and emergent communication and literacy group programmes for young adults. Laura now teaches two units of the Graduate Certificate in Special Education: Complex Communication Needs and continues to facilitate group communication and literacy projects for teens and young adults with disability.

**John O'Rourke, Ph.D.**— Senior Lecturer in the School of Education at Edith Cowan University. Dr O'Rourke is a Vice Chancellor's award winner for teaching excellence and works with secondary, primary and early childhood pre-service teachers to develop the strategies necessary to work in both special education and inclusive school settings. Dr O'Rourke's research and publishing interests are varied and focus on inclusive pedagogies and support mechanisms, happiness and wellbeing, enabling education, digital game based learning and interactive online technologies. He is the current Course Coordinator and a lecturer in the innovative Graduate Certificate: Special Education – Complex Communication Needs. Dr O'Rourke is one of the few academics to explore inclusion within higher education settings in WA and his focus has been on establishing universal design learning experiences for all in these situations. John is a Count me in Ambassador for the WA Disability Services Commission and a proud father of four children.

**Venue:** Assured Ascot Quays Apartment Hotel,  
150 Great Eastern Highway (almost opposite Hehir St), Ascot

**Online Registration:** [www.ddc.org.au/events-august-2016/](http://www.ddc.org.au/events-august-2016/)

**Information:** [mary.butterworth@ddc.org.au](mailto:mary.butterworth@ddc.org.au) or 9420 7230 (exc Wed)

**Cost:** (includes GST)

Family DDWA members—\$20.00

Family Non members—\$30.00

Professionals DDWA members—\$50.00

Professionals Non members—\$60.00

Registration includes arrival tea/coffee, lunch and afternoon tea

**DDWA Membership:** **FREE** for People with Disability, Family & Friends.  
Go to [www.ddc.org.au/individual-and-family-membersh/](http://www.ddc.org.au/individual-and-family-membersh/)

**Getting There:** Bus 40 from Elizabeth Quay Stand D7 to Stop # 14460  
Free Parking available