

# DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION INC

# NEWS LETTER

May 2011

## At our AGM last October, DEAI members elected the DEAI Executive Committee. The DEAI Executive Committee now consists of:

Renee Grootenboer, Chair

Jose Koppelman-Guthrie,  
Secretary

Pam Dunlop, Treasurer

Rob Peake, Committee Member

Lisa Smallacombe, Committee  
Member

Emily Ripinskis, Committee  
Member

Sheren Burke, Committee  
Member

Pauline Locke , Committee  
Member

Gabriele Hartmann, Student  
Representative

Nozomi Takeda, Student  
Representative

## A note from the Chair, DEAI.

In each newsletter, we will feature short bio's and information about your committee members to help you get to know them better.

Our committee members have a wide and impressive range of experience in the field of disability from within both the private and public sector, and bring their experience and commitment to their representative role. When I read the bio's of our DEAI members, I am filled with pride for our profession, and continue to be reminded, that Developmental Educators, do indeed, make a difference. I am confident you will feel the same.

As our membership grows, we will continue to look to our members for feedback and support for our future directions.

If you would like to contribute to our next newsletter, please send to:

[contact@deai.com.au](mailto:contact@deai.com.au)





My name is Jose Koppelman-Guthrie. I have a long history of working in special education and became a Developmental Educator in 2002. Since graduating I have undertaken a number of further studies, including Graduate Certificates, an Honours thesis and a Masters. I continue to feel very proud and fortunate to work with people with disability and their families/carers. I am particularly interested in the concept of Positive Behaviour Support as a way of providing behaviour supports through prevention, skill teaching and safe management strategies. I work for Disability SA as a Senior Practitioner in the Child and Youth Specialist Service where my work focuses on undertaking developmental and functional behaviour assessments and intervention work with children and young people who demonstrate challenging behaviours, and their family. I greatly value continued training and development and networking with my peers, and am an active committee member of ASID (Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability), ADP (Australasian Disability Professionals), and the Secretary of DEAI (Developmental Educators Australia Inc).

### DEAI STUDENT REP

Nozomi attends Flinders University and welcomes all prospective disability studies students to apply for student membership with the DEAI. Gabriele Hartmann is also a student rep on the DEAI Committee, students are encouraged to approach Gabriele or



Nozomi with any questions they may have about joining.

# DEAI

## MEET YOUR FELLOW DEAI COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### Pauline Locke, Committee Member

Pauline Locke has a distinguished career in the field of Disabilities. Pauline started her career in 1975 as a student nurse at Strathmont Centre, obtained RMDN in 1978. Joined the Australian Congress of Mental Health Nurses and became one of its representatives on the Advisory Committee of the Triple D Diploma. Appointed as an Assistant Villa Manager at Strathmont Centre in 1981 and a Villa Manager in 1985.

Obtained the Diploma in the Montessori Method of Education for the Pre-Primary in 1985. Took a short break in 1988, returning at Strathmont Centre as a Program Services Coordinator in 1990 and in 1993 became the Manager of RADOT (Recreation and Developmental Options Team) until retirement in 2008. In the early 1990's became the Inaugural Secretary of the DE Association and in 1994 the Inaugural Secretary of the Deaf blind Association of SA. Completed the Bachelor of Social Science (Habilitation)

in 1998. Presented at State, Interstate and International Conferences on the subject of Vision Impairment in People with Developmental Disabilities. Awarded the Graduate Certificate in Education (Vision Impairment) and since retiring has completed Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. Pauline is now looking forward to pursuing a long held dream of going into private practice as a DE.

For all membership applications, please see our website, [www.deai.com.au](http://www.deai.com.au)

## MEET YOUR FELLOW DEAI COMMITTEE MEMBERS CONTINUED

### Rob Peake, Committee Member

Hi, I am Rob Peake. I began working in the disability field over twenty years ago at Minda inc. At the time, the only training available was what was known as mental deficiency nursing (RMDN). I completed this training but the field of disability being as dynamic as it is was changing, and so too was the workforce. It was during the this time Regional Teams in what was then the Intellectual Disability Services Council (IDSC) were established, with broad directions that involved case management, community development and developmental programming. The RMDN was no longer meeting the need for this new direction. Therefore, the Diploma of Developmental Disabilities at Flinders University was developed to create professional Developmental Educators.

In the 90's I went off to University to study what was then a Bachelor of Applied Science, Developmental Disabilities. Whilst I began working in the institutions, I also worked in community accommodation programmes. During this time I worked in roles ranging from direct care in the beginning, to managing accommodation placements. It was an absolute pleasure to be involved in the lives of so many courageous people, many of whom had survived life in an institution and moved into community settings. In 1998 I joined a regional team of what was then IDSC to become an Options Coordinator. Before having the opportunity to work and learn in the Early Childhood Service of IDSC I moved on in 2005 to the Child and Youth Specialist Service of Disability SA.

I am currently working in the Intensive Family Intervention Programme (IFIP) as a Senior Practitioner. As an integral part of my work, I provide clinical assessments and interventions to children and their families. This involves the delivery of intensive, time limited interventions using a range of approaches based on research and best practice which may involve individual and family therapy, developmental and non aversive behavioural intervention strategies, skills training, parent and carer education and practical assistance. Additionally, I provide the preparation of comprehensive assessments and reports for families, carers and other agencies to assist with presenting issues and future planning.

My team is a multi-disciplinary team. We use a range of teaching and intervention strategies that build on the strengths and capabilities of the individual, and utilise pro-active and non-aversive strategies that provide the basis for behavioural and environmental interventions

As a DE, I feel privileged to meet so many wonderful people and to be able to make positive contributions to the lives of others.

## DEs Make A Difference !

### DEAI PRESENTATION

Renee Grootenboer (DEAI Chair), along with Gabriele Hartmann (DEAI Student Representative), present the DEAI to new Disability Studies students at Flinders Uni Orientation Day on the 24th of February this year. Nozomi Takeda, DEAI Student Representative, was also present on the day to assist with the presentation.



### DE's FEATURED IN ONLINE E-JOURNAL

Two Developmental Educators have been featured in e-journal: Opinions is the e-journal of the South Australian chapter of the Australian Disability Professionals. Child and Youth Specialist Service workers Jose Koppelman-Guthrie and Rob Peake feature in the latest issue, March 2011.

<http://intra2.dfc.sa.gov.au/blogs/other/b/library/archive/2011/04/01/opinions-the-e-journal-of-the-australian-disability-professionals-south-australian-chapter.aspx>

### IN THE NEWS

Fellow DE, Natalie Davies, was featured in the Saturday Advertiser's Career One Section on March 12th. Natalie's photo and interview featured on the "First Person" article, with her job description, "Client Development Coordinator", for SCOSA. Natalie completed the Bachelor of Applied Science, (Disability Studies) from Flinders University. Natalie stated that her best moments on the job come from seeing clients achieve their goals, and values the opportunity to have a role where she can support clients to reach their dreams. Well done Natalie, another DE making a difference in the community.

### FEED BACK

Tell us what professional development workshops you would be interested in attending, or, if you have a workshop you would like to present, email us at:

[contact@deai.com.au](mailto:contact@deai.com.au)

