

Positive Path International presents:

International Conference in Complex Learning Difficulties and Disabilities 4th-5th April 2012.



Positive Path International is hosting an international conference presenting the latest information in Complex Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (CLDD).

This conference is relevant for all Educators, Therapists, Psychologists, Parents, Health Professionals, Social/Human Services and anyone with an interest in students with Complex Learning Difficulties and Disabilities.

Complex Learning Difficulties and Disabilities include:

- ASD - Autistic Spectrum Disorder (including Aspergers Syndrome)
- ADHD – Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- FASD – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Syndrome/Effect
- SpLD – Specific Learning Disabilities
- PMLD – Profound Multiple Learning Disabilities
- Sensory Disabilities
- Mental Health
- Drug/substance related disabilities
- Attachment disorders
- Rare syndromes
- Preterm Birth Implications
- And many other co existing disabilities.....



**You will be part of the ‘first ever’
international conference of this kind!**

www.positivepath.co.nz

Children with Complex Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (CLDD) attend all schools and have profiles from high needs to high functioning. As the profiles of these children and young people are changing - our strategies also need to change.

'This is a new generation of children with complex disabilities entering our school and service systems' (Carpenter, 2010). They need our skills to advocate, assess, educate and support them.

This International Conference in Complex Learning Difficulties and Disabilities will provide latest research and new tools to work with and understand this fast growing number of children and young people.

Highlights:

- attend 6 Keynote Addresses covering the latest research and strategies in CLDD
- attend 6 self selected workshops on the most recent developments in Complex Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (CLDD)
- opportunity for professionals from all sectors to network
- parent forums

Keynote Speakers:

Internationally Recognised Keynote Presenters Include:

- Professor Barry Carpenter OBE, PhD, United Kingdom
- Dr Patricia Champion, MBE, PhD, New Zealand
- Dr Phyllis Jones, PhD, USA
- Dr Paul Hutchins, AM, Australia
- Dr Barry Coughlan, Ireland
- Dr Glenys Jones, United Kingdom
- Beverley Cockbill, United Kingdom



Being able to hear these international presenters in the one place, at the one time, is a definite point of difference and an event rarely seen before in New Zealand in this field!

These presenters have collaborated together in research around Complex Learning Difficulties and Disabilities. They are highly sought after as individuals to present and consult internationally.

Cost \$400 per day (or \$700 for two days)

This is extremely good value for money! Each presenter alone merits high end value for their presentations internationally.

The Conference Cost also includes:

- Excellent modern venue in the heart of Hamilton
- Early morning coffee/breakfast snack, morning/afternoon tea, lunch
- Conference dinner (additional cost)
- Conference pack



To Register - see separate form overleaf, complete and return as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Places are limited and in high demand.

THE FACE OF POSITIVE PATH INTERNATIONAL



JANE THISTLETHWAITE, DIRECTOR M Ed.Spec Ed, Autism (chn), B.Ed, Hghr Dip Tchg, Dip ESVI

Jane Thistlethwaite, Education Consultant & Director of Positive Path International, brings to her consultancy work her life experience as a visually impaired person and the first to graduate from a New Zealand teachers college; an experienced classroom teacher in special needs, mainstream schools and at tertiary level; and a student and practitioner of both institutional and inclusive education philosophies.

Jane contributes to international research on children with Complex Learning Difficulties and Disabilities, with the UK-based The Schools Network™ (Specialist Schools and Academies Trust), and regularly provides student and teacher support and education both in the UK and New Zealand particularly in teacher and human services professional training, and for schools with students with complex learning needs.

Jane has an M.Ed, Special Education Autism (Children), from the University of Birmingham; Post Graduate Diplomas in Education of Students with Vision Impairment; Bachelor of Education; and Higher Diploma of Teaching.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER PROFILES



Professor BARRY CARPENTER OBE, PhD

Professor Barry Carpenter is Academic Director (Special Educational Needs) with The Schools Network™ (Specialist Schools and Academies Trust). Within this role he acts as Director of the DfE funded Project on Children with Complex Learning Difficulties and Disabilities. He was recently awarded an iNet international Chair in Special and Inclusive Education. He is Honorary Professor at the Universities of Worcester and Limerick, and a Fellow at the University of Oxford. In a career spanning 30 years, Barry has held the leadership positions of Chief Executive, Principal, Headteacher, Inspector of Schools and Director of the Centre for Special Education at Westminster College, Oxford.

2012 will see Barry lecture in Australia, USA, Abu Dhabi, Borneo and Norway, as well as this trip to share again with wonderful colleagues in New Zealand.

He has recently written a new series of booklets on children with Complex Needs.



Dr. PATRICIA CHAMPION MBE, PhD

Founder and Clinical Director Emeritus of The Champion Centre

- Registered Psychologist
- Qualified teacher and Speech/Language therapist
- Associate Fellow NZIM
- Member NZPS/RSNZ

Dr Champion has practised in the field of developmental and family psychology for the past 35 years and is founder of the Champion Centre, New Zealand's longest running early intervention programme.

Her experience includes in-depth clinical work with infants and children with special needs, and with their families/whanau. She has taught and lectured both across New Zealand and internationally in the fields of early intervention, developmental psychology, child development, human issues and family processes. She currently holds teaching positions as an honorary Senior Lecturer, University of Otago Medical School and as

Senior Adjunct Fellow Faculty of Health Sciences, and Psychology, University of Canterbury.

She is active in research and has been published internationally in journals and texts.



Dr. PHYLLIS JONES, PhD

Associate Professor, Department of Special Education, University of South Florida, pjones7@usf.edu

Phyllis Jones is an associate professor in the Department of Special Education at the University of South Florida. Phyllis taught and was a deputy head in schools in the UK for fifteen years before she became a faculty member in the College of Education at Northumbria University for five years. Her Masters is from Durham University, UK and her doctoral work was completed with Professor John Swain at Northumbria University, UK. She is author of *Inclusion in the Early Years: Stories of good practice*, *A Pig Don't Get Fatter the More You Weigh It: Classroom Assessment that Works*, *Collaborate Smart* and *Creating Inclusive Leadership Systems: How Schools Can Build the Strengths of All Learners*. Phyllis is published widely in international journals related to inclusion, low incidence disabilities, online pedagogy in professional learning and also teacher education for teachers of students with PMLD. She is Principal Investigator of a large federal OSEP

grant that supports teachers to gain a Masters in Autism Spectrum Disorder and Severe Intellectual Disabilities. Phyllis was the first UK recipient of the joint AACTE/UCET travel grant that allowed her to research severe disabilities. She is also recipient of the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award (2004-5) at USF. Phyllis currently enjoys a number of international research collaborations with the UK, Australia and Hong Kong. She is also on the editorial board of *Disability in Society* and is a frequent reviewer for the *British Journal of Special Education*, *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, and *International Journal of Whole Schooling*.



Dr. PAUL HUTCHINS AM

Dr. Paul Hutchins is Senior Staff Physician to the Child Development Unit at The Children's Hospital, at Westmead, Sydney, Australia. He is Senior Paediatric Consultant to The Children's Hospital Education Research Institute, which he helped establish. He trained in Britain and Australia with wide experience in general and subspecialist children's medicine. His particular interests in clinical practice, teaching and research are in communication disorders and behavioural problems, particularly in language disorders, learning and attention deficits and autism. He emphasises practical and positive approaches in professional support for the whole child and family. He has participated in many advisory bodies for professional practice and policy. He has lectured widely in Australia, Britain, Europe, Asia and South Africa with various professionals and support groups. He has contributed internationally to guidelines for ADHD management, including collaborative resources for schools. Paul has been intensively involved in undergraduate, postgraduate and community education in the Hospital and outside. He contributes often in the media to promote evidence-based approaches. Past responsibilities in Australia include a home ventilation program, neonatal follow up, child protection, and as a physician to special schools. In 2009 he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his contributions to the interdisciplinary care of complex developmental disorders for children and families.



Dr. BARRY J. COUGHLAN

Senior Lecturer & Assistant Director, Doctoral Programme in Clinical Psychology, Department of Education & Professional Studies, Faculty of Education & Health Sciences, University of Limerick, Limerick, Ireland. Email: Barry.Coughlan@ul.ie

Barry Coughlan is Senior Lecturer and Assistant Director of Clinical Psychology at the University of Limerick, and Senior Clinical Psychologist with the Brothers of Charity Services, Limerick, Ireland. Barry holds an honours degree in Applied Psychology and a PhD from University College Cork, and a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, from University College Dublin. His clinical and research focus includes mental health & emotional wellbeing in intellectual disability, ageing and disability, SEN and complex needs.

Barry's clinical practice, teaching and research is primarily focussed on evidence-based practice issues pertaining to the identification, assessment and treatment of mental health issues in persons with intellectual disability and special educational needs. Barry is also interested in the ageing experiences of adults with intellectual disability, deinstitutionalisation and community integration. He has supervised over 20 PhD's, covering a wide range of clinical topics. He holds an international publications profile and is in regular demand for international workshops and symposia in his field. Barry was a member of the International Advisory Board for the Complex Learning Difficulties & Disabilities Project in the UK, and is currently involved in ongoing collaborative international research in the UK, USA and Romania.



Dr. GLENYS JONES

Dr. Glenys Jones is a Chartered Psychologist and a Lecturer and Researcher in the Autism Centre for Education and Research (ACER) at the University of Birmingham in the UK. She has been engaged in research into educational interventions for those on the autism spectrum for over 25 years and is Editor of the Good Autism Practice Journal, published by BILD. She led the research to inform the work of the Autism Education Trust and was involved in creating the two web-based and DVD resources on the autism spectrum for the inclusion Development Programme for all early years settings and all mainstream primary and secondary schools in England, commissioned by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. She has also been involved in two reviews of the research evidence on educational interventions in autism, the first published in 1998 (Jordan, Jones and Murray, 1998) and the second published in 2009 (Parsons et al., 2009) (see www.ncse.ie).

At Birmingham, she is the Programme Leader for the Distance Education training programme on the autism spectrum for professionals and parents working and living with children and young people on the autism spectrum (see www.education.bham.ac.uk).



BEVERLEY COCKBILL

Beverley Cockbill has worked in the field of special education needs for ten years. Previously she worked as an Assistant Teacher and Structured Teaching Advisor/Trainer within a residential school offering 38/42-week education and 52-week care to children aged 6–19 years with severe and complex learning disabilities and Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Bev now works for The Schools Network™ (Specialist Schools and Academies Trust) and has recently worked on a research project for children with the most complex educational needs and disabilities; the project is called Complex Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (CLDD). The Trust, commissioned by the UK's Department for Education, looked at ways to improve the outcomes for children with the most complex educational needs and disabilities through the development of evidence-based teaching and learning strategies.

Bev has completed evaluative research on how Compliance Training can enable a child who has an autistic spectrum disorder to self-regulate challenging behaviours. Her previous research within pupil groups she works with includes: 'Creating meaningful leisure time'; 'Managing challenging behaviours'; 'Evaluation of a training week within a residential school'; and 'How Objects of Reference can be used to develop communication and social skills in children with autism'. In May 2008, she delivered the research presentation, 'Creating meaningful leisure time', and its findings to the Annual TEACCH Conference 2008 held at the University of North Carolina, USA. Bev is now part of a consultant team who deliver bespoke training for CLDD children within schools. Bev has a B.A.Ed. (Hons) Education degree and a foundation degree in Learning Support.

Photo acknowledgments: Patricia Avenue School students and staff and the North family of Hamilton, New Zealand

Contact the Positive Path team on registrations@positivepath.co.nz

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