



Intellectual Disability Behaviour Support Program

Never Stand Still

Arts & Social Sciences



The IDBS program

UNSW has a reputation for professional excellence in disability research. The NSW Department of Family and Community Services and its agency for Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) have acknowledged our dedication to research in this area, funding the Intellectual Disability Behaviour Support (IDBS) program and appointing a Chair, IDBS in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at UNSW.

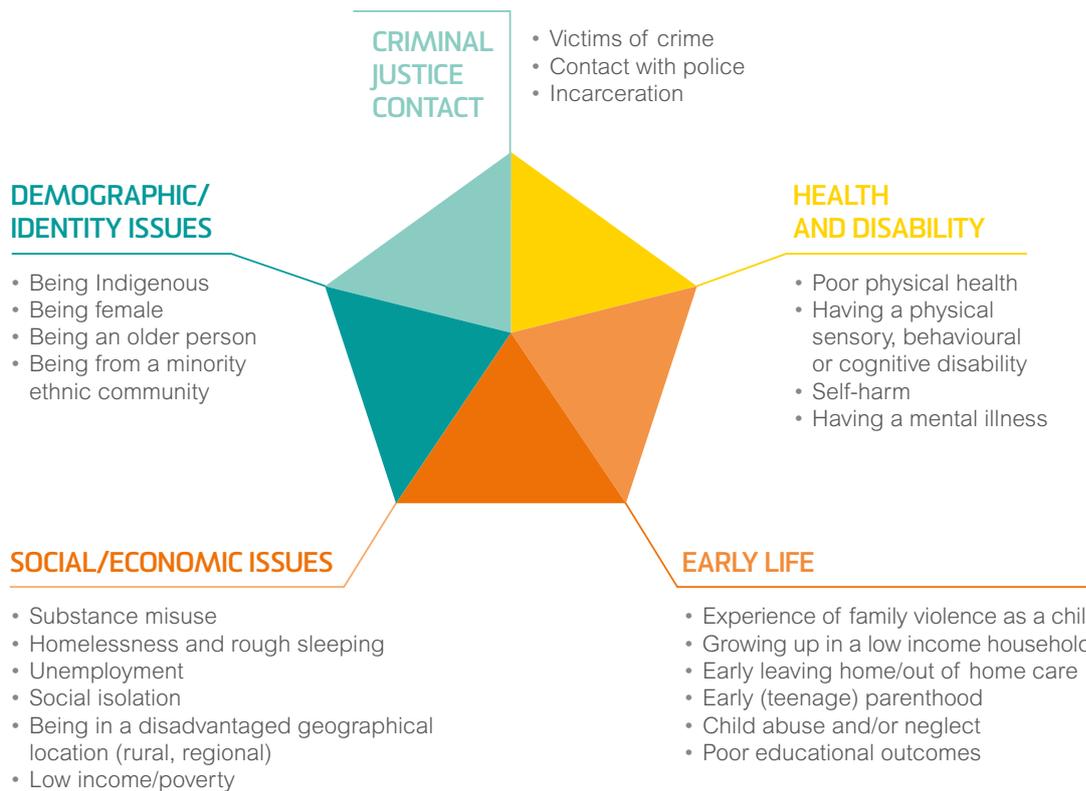
The Intellectual Disability Behaviour Support (IDBS) program works to address the research-to-policy-and-practice nexus to improve support for people with intellectual disability and complex support needs.

The program achieves this through:

- Consulting with key stakeholders and developing collaborative relationships with academic, government and sector agencies both nationally and internationally;
- Leading the development and delivery of educational programs for frontline and managerial staff to support people with intellectual disability who have complex support needs and behaviours of concern;
- Leading a research program to inform support practices for those with intellectual disability and complex support needs across the disability and community sectors;
- Contributing to policy and practice approaches to intellectual disability support in alignment with international best practice;
- Focusing on areas where there is a specific need to address knowledge deficits within the Australian and international context; and
- Translating knowledge emerging from the IDBS program to ensure the work is informed by, and communicated to, a broad range of stakeholders.

For further details on the IDBS program please visit arts.unsw.edu.au/idbs or contact idbs@unsw.edu.au

Complex support needs



From an original in Baldry, E. & Dowse, L. (2013) Compounding mental and cognitive disability and disadvantage: police as care managers in Duncan Chappell (ed) Policing and the Mentally Ill: International Perspectives. Boca Raton: CRC Press, Taylor and Francis Group.

Working in partnership

As a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Australian Government is working closely with the NSW Government to improve mainstream policies, programs, services and infrastructure so that people with disabilities participate as full and equal citizens in Australian society. The introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is part of a national framework for major reform.

The NSW Government's Stronger Together 2006-2016 strategy aims to provide flexible and innovative long-term practical solutions for people with disabilities so that they have full choice, control and direction over the care and support they need to participate in the economic and social life of their community.

Supporting the needs of the individual

One of the challenges in achieving these aims involves working with people with intellectual disabilities who have complex support needs

to take more control over their lives. Complex support needs may relate to the presence of behaviours that may pose a risk to quality of life or personal safety of the individual or others (known as challenging behaviour), mental health issues, substance misuse, family and domestic violence, intergenerational disadvantage and contact with the criminal justice system requiring the assistance of integrated services over a long period of time.

Moving from responding to symptoms and risks to finding ways to support long-term change requires innovative ways of working to achieve the ultimate goal of improving people's lives.

The IDBS program at UNSW is working in close partnership with ADHC to ensure that transition to the NDIS in support provision for people with complex support needs is a smooth one.



Leaders in disability research

The role of the IDBS program and Chair, IDBS, is to expand the body of knowledge and increase workforce capacity in the delivery of services to people with intellectual disabilities who have complex support needs which may relate to behaviours that pose a risk to the quality of life or personal safety of the individual or others. This is being achieved through education and training, enhanced policy and service models, and targeted research.

This is a vital time in disability services as they transition from government to non-government and mainstream sectors as part of the NDIS. State and Federal reforms are an opportunity for real and lasting change in the lives of people with disabilities who have complex support needs. The Chair and IDBS program is contributing to these reforms by engaging in high level consultations, leading in the development and delivery of education and training, and working with academic, government and non-government agencies in Australia and worldwide to ensure policy and practice are aligned with international best practice.

The Chair, IDBS, Associate Professor Leanne Dowse, leads a committed team of researchers and educators in the IDBS program. The team plays a pivotal role in improving the lives of people with intellectual disabilities who have complex support needs.



THE IDBS CHAIR

On 26 May 2014, the Minister for Disability Service John Ajaka announced the appointment of Associate Professor Leanne Dowse as the newly appointed Chair, as part of its commitment to improving services for people with intellectual disability.

Leanne Dowse is Associate Professor at UNSW where she has been a researcher since 1995 and an academic since 2008. She has been a scholar, practitioner, supporter and ally in the area of intellectual disability since the beginning of her professional career as a Speech Therapist in the 1980s and has been involved in the development and promotion of disability studies in Australia beginning in the 1990s. Leanne has taught social policy, social research methods, disability studies, human behaviour and criminology for the past two decades.



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