

Report on the Mental Health Special Interest Research Group

IASSID Council Meeting

Maastricht, August 1st and 2nd 2006

The MH-SIRG was a co-sponsor with the Health SIRG of a conference held in Melbourne, Australia in September 2005 organised by Professor Bob Davies. The conference was well attended with days allocated to the themes of mental and physical health.

Members of the MH-SIRG attended a meeting of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) at the invitation of Professor Luis Salvador to establish a formal link between the recently formed section of the WPA on intellectual disabilities and the MH-SIRG, and co-hosted meetings on ID and mental health.

At the AGM of the MH-SIRG held at the Melbourne meeting Tom Cheetham (Canada) was formally appointed as the new treasurer. Anna Cooper and Tony Holland agreed to continue as co-chairs.

At the AGM plans were considered for the future work of the MH-SIRG. It was noted that for many countries there was a lack of expertise available to assess and treat psychiatric disorders as they affect people with intellectual disability. It was proposed that the MH-SIRG should organise a workshop to consider the training in ID of psychiatrists and psychologists in particular. It was agreed that this would be scheduled for 2007. Venue to be determined. It was noted that the position paper prepared by the MH-SIRG was on the IASSID web-site. There was some discussion about whether further position papers would be helpful. It was noted that there were special editions of JIDR that focus on this issue.

The next meeting of the MH-SIRG would be held as part of IASSID Europe in August 2006 in Maastricht.

Tony Holland

June 2006