

THE SPEAKERS

CHRIS ULMER



Chris Ulmer, lovingly referred to as Mr. Chris, began his career as a special education teacher in Jacksonville, Florida. After spending three years with the same students he observed a disconnect between his pupils and society. The intelligence and humour displayed by his students was not typically appreciated by those without special needs experience. For this reason, Mr. Chris started Special Books by Special Kids, a multi-media non-profit that is now spearheading a worldwide acceptance movement. Chris dedicates his time to traveling around the world and teaching others about neurodiversity; performing speaking engagements and interviewing neurodiverse individuals to be featured on SBSK.

..... REGINA LEDO

Regina Ledo is a psychologist with over 20 years experience in working with individuals with autism and their families.

She returned to Perth in 2011 after working for 13 years at the Princeton Child Development Institute (PCDI) - a private, centre-based, intensive educational program for children and adults with autism.

A founding participant in the Murdoch University Young Autism Project, she is currently in private practice, consulting to families and agencies supporting individuals with ASD and intellectual disability.



LOUISE GLANVILLE



Louise Glanville commenced with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) in February 2014 as Deputy Chief Executive Officer (DCEO) and General Manager of the Governance Division. In October 2015, Louise was appointed as the Deputy CEO Stakeholder Relations at the NDIA. Louise has previously held Senior Executive roles at the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department and the Victorian Department of Justice, and also held positions in academia, the private sector and ministerial offices. Louise holds a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Social Work from Melbourne University, a Bachelor of Laws from Monash University and a Master of Arts (Research) from Victoria University.

..... DR EMMA GOODALL

Dr Emma Goodall is the Senior Autism Advisor for the Department for Education and Child Development in South Australia.

She is responsible for the review of programs, and development and implementation of research based policy and programs to enable students on the autism spectrum to flourish in the education system.

Emma is an experienced autism consultant and educator, blogger and published author who combines her professional and academic skills and knowledge with her lived experience of Aspergers to help people understand what it means to be on the autistic spectrum.



THE SPEAKERS

DR JULIAN HENG.....



Dr Julian Heng attained his Bachelor of Science from University of Western Australia, followed by a PhD in developmental neuroscience at the University of Melbourne, working at the Howard Florey Institute.

Having trained as a CJ Martin Fellow, and as a MRC Career Development Fellow at the National Institute for Medical Research in the UK, he was appointed Group Leader at the Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute in 2010, and received a Career Development Award.

In 2014, he relocated his research to the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research in Perth, WA to establish the Brain Growth and Disease Laboratory.

.....DR JOHN WRAY

Dr John Wray is a Western Australian trained paediatrician who undertook a Fellowship in Neurodevelopmental Paediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, USA. John is Clinical Director of the Child Development Service of Perth, and has a small private practice.

He sees a wide range of children with developmental concerns and his main research interest is in the biological basis and treatment of children with autism.

John is particularly interested in the controlled investigation of complementary and alternative therapies, and in longitudinal studies of the biology of the Autism Spectrum disorders.

Other professional interests include developmental disorder prevention and enhancement programs. He is active in a number of community and professional organisations.



DR JOHN O'ROURKE.....



Dr John O'Rourke is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Education, Edith Cowan University. Having undergraduate qualifications in special education, he has worked as a secondary teacher in a variety of pastoral care and co-ordinator roles focused on supporting students with additional needs.

He now lectures in special education/inclusive pedagogy related units, and co-ordinates post-graduate courses including the newly established Graduate Certificate Special Education: Complex Communication Needs.

His research interests are varied, and he has published on inclusive pedagogies, support mechanisms for students with additional needs, digital game-based technology, happiness, student retention at university and inclusion in university environments.

THE SPEAKERS

..... . PAULA SMITH

Paula Smith, Autism West Speaks Out Ambassador and mother of a young man with autism, has been inspiring audiences for over 25 years with her dynamic and inspiring presentations.

An experienced presenter, workshop leader and coach, she is also the author of *Speaking in the Shower*, *Powerful Presentation Principles*, and the number 1 best-selling book *Sell Your Story*, and a leading authority on standing up and speaking out.

She was awarded the CSP (Certified Speaking Professional) designation by the National Speakers Association, one of only a small number of professional speakers to hold this designation worldwide.



JUDY BREWER



Judy Brewer is the Chair of the national Co-operative Research Centre for Living With Autism (Autism CRC), and a regular speaker and writer on issues relating to autism, neurodiversity and family carers.

As a parent of a young adult with autism, she has had an executive capacity in many autism and carer advocacy organisations, including the Autism Council of Australia, Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia, and the Asia Pacific Autism Conference (Ambassador).

Judy has been appointed to a range of Federal and State Government Committees. In 2013 Judy was awarded the Asia Pacific Autism Award, and is a Life Member and former co-Patron of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect).

On Australia Day 2016 she was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for services to autism, education, rural women and refugee families.

..... . WILL ROSEWARNE

Will works in Corporate Governance/Legal Services and is Stakeholders Director at the I CAN Network.

As an adult with autism, and with a background in law and the Australian Defence Forces, Will brings a fresh perspective to his role as a speaker.

“I am a fiercely driven individual. I also have autism. These identities are in no way independent of each other, and rather, I see my autism as a huge strength. My imagination, creativity and interest in new things has often allowed me to operate in a different space to many of my peers. I have a constantly active and inquisitive mind that is open to, and often yearns, for learning. My autism is an asset, not a hindrance to me reaching my full potential. The prevailing societal attitude towards autism is overwhelmingly negative. I believe that changing this perspective is the first step towards helping others on the spectrum reach their full potential.”



THE SPEAKERS

DARIN CAIRNS



Darin Cairns is a clinical psychologist with over 15 years' experience in treating children, adults and families for a range of psychological disorders. He specialises in emotional, neurological and developmental disorders, and has expertise in child, adolescent, family therapy and developmental disorders such as autism spectrum disorders.

Darin has set up award winning early intervention services in Western Australia for children with ASD and related conditions, and has lectured at tertiary level, providing over 150 training courses to a wide range of populations in the medical, health and public settings.

..... PROFESSOR ANDREW WHITEHOUSE

Professor Andrew Whitehouse, a former Fellow at the University of Oxford, directs the Autism Research Centre at the Telethon Kids Institute, University of Western Australia, and is one of their youngest ever professors.

His research team uses a range of methodologies to investigate the early identification and intervention of children with Autism Spectrum Conditions, including molecular genetics, neuroscience, endocrinology and behavioural experiments.

He is also a Program Director in the Autism Cooperative Research Centre. Andrew has published over 100 peer-reviewed journals and attracted over \$35 million in competitive research grants. He writes a column, has published a book, and is an advisor to State and Commonwealth Governments on policies relating to children and adults with Autism Spectrum Conditions.



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