

World of Difference Newsletter: December 2018

Welcome to our third newsletter for 2018. Please note that this newsletter and all future newsletters will combine our news in relation to both World of Difference programmes: our work with the medical students/psychiatric trainees and our work with the Police.

To top off an eventful year, December 10th marked the official launch of the **World of Difference** service user-led research and education programme, hosted at Otago University's Wellington campus. The launch brought together members of our research and education team, as well as our collaborators and supporters. We extend our sincere thanks to all those who attended, and a special thank you to those who gave speeches: Api Poutasi (Health Promotion Agency), Giles Newton-Howes (Department of Psychological Medicine, UOW), and Brett Callander (NZ Police), as well as our programme lead, Sarah Gordon.



Mark Hobbs (NZ Police), Sarah Gordon & Brett Callander (NZ Police)



The wall of positive affirmations

The launch also gave us a chance to show people through our offices, and particularly 'the wall of positive affirmations' that is covered with quotes from people who have been through our education programmes. It was great that some people who attended the launch accepted our invitation to contribute to the wall by adding some thoughts of their own.



The 18th International Congress of the Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists (PRCP) in conjunction with the 5th Myanmar Mental Health Conference

The International Congress of the Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists is held every 2 years, with 2018 being its first time being hosted by Myanmar, its newest member. Our Assistant Research Fellow Dasha Fedchuk had the rare opportunity to travel to Myanmar and present on our service user-led, recovery and human rights focused education programmes being delivered to medical students and psychiatric trainees. Dasha made some great connections with an international audience.

The 8th Service User Academia Symposium, held at the University of Melbourne, Australia

Run annually since 2011, The Service User Academia Symposium brings service users together with their counterparts and allies in academia. The broad aim is to explore the challenges of – and opportunities for - creating and maintaining service user leadership and co-production in mental health and addiction scholarship, research, education, programs and policy.

The symposium was an inspiring opportunity for Rachel, Jeremy and Dasha from our research team to present and to connect with likeminded people and learn about similar projects across Australia and New Zealand. Congratulations to Dasha, who won the Sarah Gordon award (we swear it wasn't rigged!), giving her the honour of delivering one of the keynote presentations at next year's symposium. Well done Dasha!

On the subject of next year's symposium – some exciting news – it will return to Wellington, New Zealand next year on the 22nd - 23rd of November, so put the dates in your diaries now!

Stay posted for some exciting developments to come in 2019, and happy holidays from us here at World of Difference!

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