

The Advocate's Kitbag for Families

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

As parents on the path of an inclusive education are very aware, the path is not easy and can often be very demoralising. This is not because teachers or schools want to be nasty or difficult, but rather that they are faced with a situation that is outside of their normal expectations and experience. We are asking for a fundamental change in how the school is organised while they have in mind that the student needs to conform like everyone else. Inevitably, this will result in differences and these differences often come clearly out in meetings where a parent may be faced with a team of people advocating for an approach contrary to their wishes and expectations.

In this event, Bob Jackson will discuss long term preparation in the form of a vision, the preparation for a meeting, conduct in a meeting and responses after a meeting. The aim is to provide a range of strategies and ideas to reduce the power imbalance in meetings so that families are not overwhelmed and pushed into situations that they do not agree with.



Dr Bob Jackson started in disability in the 1970s working as a psychologist, institution superintendent, service manager and Regional Director with the WA State Disability Services. From 1990 to 2003 he was at Edith Cowan University in the Centre for Disability Research and Development, where he was Director from 1998 and Associate Professor of Education from 2000. This Centre ran a Commonwealth funded Supported Employment Program and a research project on early intervention for children with autism, working with families to teach reading from age 2.

From 1995, Professor Jackson has been closely involved with school inclusion, advising families, teachers, schools and education systems on the rationale and practicalities of inclusion. This work has included a very extensive review of the literature on inclusion as well as presentations in all states to parents and teachers. He has also been involved teaching and disseminating the work of Dr Wofensberger since the 1980's and was a foundation member of the Australian and NZ SRV group. All through his career Bob has worked directly with families of children with disabilities in their efforts to achieve an ordinary life for their sons and daughters. Currently Dr Jackson is working as a private consultant in disability and education but remains an Adjunct Associate Professor at Curtin University as well as teaching at 3 Universities in Perth to undergraduate and post graduate students in teaching and disability. Bob is married with 3 grown children and lives in the hills east of Perth.

Date: Tuesday 27th March Time: 6:00pm - 8:30pm

Venue: ACT Youth Coalition, 46 Clianthus Street, O' Connor ACT 2602

Register: <http://imaginemore.org.au/upcoming-events/>

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