

The Australian Sociological Association
CRITICAL DISABILITY STUDIES THEMATIC GROUP

NEWS

Welcome to our second newsletter for 2010.

Since our last newsletter we have had a number of new members including Barbara Pini, Curtin University of Technology and Peter Gibilisco, University of Melbourne. Thanks for joining us and we look forward to supporting your work through your participation within the CDS group.

In this issue we will first provide an overview of the working group who have been drafting a set of guidelines on disability inclusion, participation and representation within TASA. The draft framework is also included at the end of this newsletter. As this is the first time TASA have considered the development of a policy to specifically recognise Australian disability scholars we encourage you all to review the guidelines and provide feedback.

In this newsletter we have also continued with some of the new sections added to the March 2010 (2.1) newsletter including CDS achievements since March 2010 and the 'research profile' sections. New sections have been added including conference reports. We would like to thank Prof Dan Goodley, University of Manchester, for providing a great overview of the Normalcy2010@manchester one day conference held earlier this year.

As many of you are aware, deadlines for papers for this year's annual TASA Conference are drawing near. Submissions can consist of panel discussions, workshops, working papers and posters. There are also a number of scholarships available for post-graduate students and sociologists working outside academe. Details on the forthcoming conference including submission cut off dates are outlined along with links to the conference website.

Finally, our aim is to issue the newsletter quarterly throughout our two year period as convenors. We would like to thank you all for your contributions so far and also encourage the rest of you to consider contributing to the newsletter with book reviews, information on new research networks, forthcoming conferences, personal research profiles along with the raft of other 'stuff' that we do as researchers.

We hope that you find the discussions and information both useful and interesting.

Helen Meekosha and Karen Soldatic

Disability Accessibility, Inclusion and Participation within TASA

In the March 2010 newsletter, we were able to let you know that the TASA Executive had agreed to establish a working party to develop a Disability Access, Inclusion and Participation Policy. After several months a draft policy has now been developed and has been sent out for feedback. The draft policy was sent to you all in late June 2010 seeking your comments, suggestions and amendments. For those who didn't receive a copy of the draft policy we have also included a copy at the end of this newsletter as an attachment.

There are some areas that you may wish to provide particularly feedback on including:

- the language policy adopted from the British Sociological Association (pgs 1 &2);
- the use of the word 'same' in the outcomes area of the policy and any suggested alternatives that you feel is more appropriate (pg 2); and
- the entrance costs of attendant support workers that accompany disability scholars to public events, seminars, conferences etc (pg 3).

Karen Soldatic is currently compiling all of your feedback to present to the TASA Executive for ratification in August 2010. To make the submission deadline Karen requires all of your feedback by **31 July 2010**. Please email Karen on either k.soldatic@curtin.edu.au if you wish to suggest any changes or amendments.

CDS ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE MARCH 2010

Disability & Society Group – American Sociological Association

Helen Meekosha, as the co-convenor for the TASA CDS group, has initiated contact with our equivalent in the US operating under the auspices of the American Sociological Association. Under the ASA, the auspicing of thematic groups is much more difficult. Thematic groups are required to have a much larger head count of interested scholars to gain recognition (USA: 300 / Aus: 15), and manage their own administrative supports. This of course, creates additional uncertainties for both the convenors and participating members, especially in terms of sustaining the groups longevity and its potential impact upon the broader field of sociology. For your interest, we have included a copy of their latest newsletter as an attachment to this newsletter. Over the coming year, Helen will continue to maintain contact with the group and explore opportunities for future collaboration.

Critical Disability Studies Annual Report (2010)

Every year TASA Thematic Groups are required to submit an annual report on behalf of its membership outlining all of the group's achievements. Thanks to all of your hard and interesting research the CDS Group has increased its presence within Australian sociological circles. Full details of the group's work over the past 12-months are available at the CDS website: <http://www.tasa.org.au/thematic-groups/critical-disability-studies/>.

Third World Quarterly: Special Edition (2011)

Over 60 abstracts from across the globe were received for the Call for Papers for the forthcoming special edition of *Disability in the Global South: Beyond Northern Epistemologies*. The quality of the abstracts overall was outstanding, making the selection process extremely difficult, especially given the 80,000 maximum word count. At this stage, it appears the special edition will contain nine research papers and five practice papers, however, all papers are required to undergo an extensive refereeing process as per the journal's requirements. Karen and Helen would like to thank everyone for their abstract submissions. The work emerging within the field is very exciting and we look forward to supporting the work of critical disability scholars emerging in the global south.

TASA 2010 CONFERENCE

December 6 – 9, 2010

Theme: Social Causes, Private Lives

Host: Macquarie University - Department of Sociology

Conference Contact: soc.mq.edu.au/tasa-conference

The 2010 TASA conference is dedicated to the reassertion of sociology as an engaged, critical discipline. Individual responsibility has become the dominant economic and political program, and for many an internalised fact of life. Sociology needs to vigorously reassert its core tasks: to contextualise private lives in the social condition and cultural temper of the times; and so to confidently take a critical position vis-a-vis economic, political and cultural processes in its own social environment and various domains.

This is a highly pertinent area of research to the field of Critical Disability Studies and therefore, we encourage you all to attend and submit a paper. CDS members who regularly attend TASA Conferences can testify to the unique space provided for Critical Disability Scholars from across Australia to come together to not only build our own network, but also to explore inter-disciplinary opportunities within the broader field of sociology. Additionally, it will also give us an opportunity to 'test-out' the new TASA Disability Access, Inclusion and Participation Policy and provide critical feedback to ensure its ongoing development and improvement.

Full details of the forthcoming TASA Conference are available at:
<http://www.soc.mq.edu.au/tasa-conference/>.

Paper Guidelines, Requirements and Process

Authors intending to present a refereed paper, a general or work-in-progress paper or workshop must submit as per the following guidelines for consideration to be included in the 2010 Conference Program.

- **A Refereed Paper** — A paper for referee and inclusion in the conference proceedings CD is to be submitted by **Friday, July 30, 2010**. Refereed papers should be no more than 3000 words with a 200 word abstract and have no identification of the author on the paper or abstract body.
- **A General/Work-in-Progress Paper** — A General or Work-in-Progress Paper (not for referee nor inclusion in the conference proceedings CD) is to be submitted by **Monday, August 30, 2010**. Submissions should be no more than a 200 word abstract and have no identification of the author on the paper or abstract body.
- **A Workshop/Forum/Roundtable** — A submission for a workshop, a forum or a roundtable is to be submitted by **Friday, July 30, 2010**. Submissions should include a 200 word abstract, list of contributors, a proposed format and theme.
- Abstracts and papers must be submitted using the following format guidelines [[Format Guidelines.pdf](#)]
- Abstract and paper submissions will only be accepted via the TASA Conference Presentation Submission Link situated in the 'Call for Papers' section of this website. Once the abstract/paper is uploaded via the website an email confirmation of receipt will be sent.
- Submissions received after the closing dates will not be accepted.
- Where there are co-authors, only one abstract/paper is to be submitted. The presenting author is responsible for ensuring the co-authors agree with and are aware of the content before submitting.
- Responsibility for the accuracy of abstracts/papers rests with the author.
- Abstracts and papers will be reviewed by the organising committee. The committee's decision is final.
- You will receive notification of your submission results by the following deadlines:
 - A Workshop, Forum or Roundtable – **Tuesday, August 31, 2010**
 - A Refereed Paper and Workshop — **Tuesday, August 31, 2010**
 - A General /Work-in-Progress Paper and Poster — **Friday, September 30, 2010**
- Authors of successful abstracts/papers need to register and pay to attend and present at the 2010 Conference.
- If successful, you will be required to:
 - Confirm your acceptance of the invitation;
 - Confirm the name of the presenter;
 - Register the speaker to attend the Conference.

TASA CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

TASA/AASR POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

AWARD CLOSES AUGUST 13th, 2010

The TASA/AASR Postgraduate Conference Scholarship Fund was established in 2003 with funds donated by the former Australian Association of Social Research Inc. (AASR). The scholarships aim to support postgraduate participation at TASA annual conferences. The TASA Executive would like to encourage postgraduate members to apply and also academic supervisors to encourage their students to apply for the scholarship.

For full details and the nomination form, go to: tasa.org.au/tasa-awards/tasa-aasr-postgraduate-conference-scholarship/

TASA CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP FOR SOCIOLOGISTS OUTSIDE ACADEME

AWARD CLOSES AUGUST 13th, 2010

This scholarship seeks to encourage the participation of sociologists working outside academe (in areas such as private industry, government and non-government organisations, and private contract and consultancy work) with The Australian Sociological Association (TASA). The TASA Executive would like to encourage non-academic members to apply for the scholarship.

For full details and the nomination form, go to: tasa.org.au/tasa-awards/tasa-conference-scholarship-for-sociologists-outside-academe/

RESEARCH PROFILES: DR LEANNE DOWSE, UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Dr Leanne Dowse is coordinator of the Bachelor of Social Science Program and lecturer in research methods and policy studies at the University of New South Wales. She is interested in the application of models of critical inquiry to the study of disability, particularly intellectual disability. This encompasses work related to the spectrum of disability thinking, including the politics and practice of research in the field, and to the broader conceptualization of disability in theory, policy and practice. She teaches courses in qualitative research methodology at undergraduate and post-graduate level.

Leanne has been active in the disability field for over 20 years as a worker, teacher, researcher and supporter to people with disabilities and their organisations. In her early work as a speech therapist she worked extensively with people with severe

communication impairment and people with intellectual disability. Her experiences as a speech therapist working with adults with intellectual disability moving from large institutions to the community during the first wave of de-institutionalisation in the late 1980s sensitized her to the need for a new approach to the analysis of disability which had the capacity to move beyond a focus on individual impairment and toward a more critical engagement with the range of social processes associated with disablement and their intersections with other dimensions of social difference and disadvantage. This led her to the nascent area of disability studies and the beginning of her long association with Assoc Professor Helen Meekosha at the University of New South Wales, initially as a research assistant on a project *“Representation and Participation: The impact of media images of People with Disability in the Mass Media”*. This project formed the impetus for the establishment of the *Social Relations of Disability Research Network* at UNSW (1996-2002), the first inter-disciplinary group in Australia, developing the field of *Critical Disability Studies*. This group was instrumental in the establishment of the Disability Studies and Research Institute in 2003, in which Leanne was the first Senior Research Officer. This organisation has now been constituted as the Disability Studies and Research Center (DSRC), a research center at the University of NSW, where Leanne is now Chair of the Advisory Committee.

Leanne has been a supporter and contributor to the work of Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA) for over a decade. During 2001 she conducted a national research project for WDDA (funded by Office of the Status of Women) on Sterilisation and Reproductive Rights of Women and Girls with Disabilities. As part of this project she staged the first Australian National Forum on Sterilisation and Reproductive Rights of Women with Disabilities and conducted a series of interviews with disabled women who had experienced forced sterilisation and infringement of their reproductive rights. This work culminated in the 2001 report *Moving Forward: Sterilisation and Reproductive Health of Women and Girls with Disabilities* and has underpinned a sustained campaign of ongoing research and policy debate from that time to the present. Leanne has also worked (2000-2005) as a supporter and advisor to the Board of Self-Advocacy Sydney – an organisation run and controlled by people with intellectual disability - and in 2005 was awarded the J. Moss Trophy, for outstanding work in the field of Intellectual Disability.

Leanne's PhD, awarded in 2007, was entitled *‘Stand Up and Give ‘Em the Fright of Their Life’: A study of intellectual disability and the emergence and practice of self-advocacy*. The thesis presented a critical history of the emergence of intellectual disability as a category of human difference. It critically examined social and policy responses to people with intellectual disability and developed an innovative, collaborative and reflective qualitative methodology to produce the analysis. The study's methodology used qualitative methods to give rise to a co-produced account which combines scholarly insights of the researcher with perceptions of lived experience by people with intellectual disability in a dynamic and critically reflective engagement in the field. Leanne has continued to develop her critical approach to the study of intellectual disability through a number of other research interests, including cultural

representations of intellectual disability and issues for people with disabilities as they age.

Her current and most sustained project has been examining the intersections of disability and criminology. Together with Assoc Prof Eileen Baldry at UNSW she has conducted a ground breaking ARC funded Linkage project tracing the pathways of a cohort of people who have mental health disorders and/or cognitive disabilities into, through and back into the criminal justice system. This research has recently been extended with another ARC linkage grant (with Assoc Prof Baldry, Assoc Prof Julian Trollor and Professor Patrick Dodson at UNSW) focusing on the experience of Indigenous Australians who have mental health and/or cognitive disabilities and who have come into contact with the criminal justice system.

DISABILITY CONFERENCES AND STREAMS IN 2010

Both nationally and internationally, a number of disability conferences have been, and will be held in addition to new disability streams emerging as part of broader fields of study.

CONFERENCE REPORT:

Normalcy2010@manchester: Conference report

Dan Goodley, Professor of Psychology and Disability Studies, Research Institute of Health and Social Change, Gaskell Campus, Manchester, M13 0JA.

Email d.goodley@mmu.ac.uk

Normalcy2010@manchester, the Critical Disability Studies Conference – ‘Theorizing Normalcy and the Mundane’ – was held at Manchester Metropolitan University, England on the 12th and 13th May 2010. This free event was co-hosted by the Research Institute of Health and Social Change at Manchester Metropolitan University, the University of Chester, Sheffield Hallam University and the University of Iceland. The conference brought together nigh on 100 delegates from a number of countries including Australia, Britain, Canada, Denmark, North America, Norway, Iceland, Spain, Sweden and six keynotes and over 30 papers explored a number of themes including: understanding normal and normalcy; making sense of and challenging ableism; addressing our obsession with reason and rationality; questioning the push to make children hyper-normal; exploring when normal becomes normalized and examining the ways in which normalcy and ableism function on the level of the everyday /mundane. Fighting the potential stifling impacts of Icelandic volcanic ash (now becoming a rather normal and mundane experience for many European travelers), delegates made their way to Manchester to contribute to, what turned out to be, a vibrant, exciting and thought-provoking couple of days.

Dan Goodley and Katherine Runswick Cole's (Manchester Metropolitan University)

opening address considered the ways in which normalcy and the mundane constitute key sites of analysis for researchers and activists of critical disability studies. Traditionally, normalcy and ableism have been key foci for scholars in North America, Canada and Australia, while critiques of abnormalcy and disablism are typical markers of British disability studies. They explained that an aim of this conference, therefore, was to synthesise some of these complementary analyses in order to challenge everyday repetitive experiences of marginalization that occur as a consequence of living in a disablist society that upholds ableist ideals. The ensuing analyses offered by presenters did not let us down.

Rod Michalko's (University of Toronto) keynote explored the phenomenological experience of dusting through his work as a blind critical disability studies scholar. Michalko drew attention to the possibilities for revisioning our connections with everyday, mundane objects – or 'stuff' – in our environments through his own experiences of dusting. His beautiful, almost poetic, account captured the political and practical utility of phenomenology: of the possibilities for rethinking the experiential connection with the everyday stuffiness of life. University of Birmingham's Larry Arnold provided a paper that was a tour de force through dominant approaches to dis/ability and ab/normalcy and the problems this throws up for disabled people. He was particularly critical of forms of normalization that insist on disabled people passing as normal which, consequently, leave normalizing environments untouched. In contrast, he asked us to think of a world that embraces difference, disruption and abnormalcy as positive rather than negative attributes. A positive spin around disability was also adopted by Freyja Haraldsdóttir (www.forrettindi.is), whose work as an Icelandic disability activist has turned the abnormalcy gaze back on to a disabling society. She spoke of recasting impairment and disability as opportunities for reconnecting with others, for education, for community; thus challenging pathologised understandings of impaired bodies and reinserting productive possibilities. Another Icelandic keynote speaker Embla Ágústsdóttir (University of Iceland) pushed at the interconnections of disability, gender and age. Her presentation demanded delegates to look again at the labels imposed on disabled people. She spoke of her own identity as a woman, feminist, lesbian, friend which contrasts so markedly with the problem-infused identities relied upon by medicalising and professionalising discourses. A simple recognition of these qualities would, she argued, make disabled people's mundane encounters with the everyday more meaningful and worth having. Tanya Titchkosky (University of Toronto) took up this notion of the inevitable connectedness of dis/ability – and ab/normalcy – by interrogating the structural and relational ways in which disabled people are both included and excluded by attempts to make university spaces more inclusive. The naming of space as inclusive – for example through the use of the universal wheelchair image – signifies in a paradoxical fashion the inaccessibility of the built environment. She noted that when attempts were made to make space inclusive a host of unreasonable adjustments are often cited to indicate the impossibility of such attempts. This paradox is at the heart of everyday life in which disabled people are included with one hand and pushed away with the other.

In addition to these inspirational keynote presentations, many exciting papers were

presented in a number of panels entitled knowledge, education, liberation, professions, bodies, inclusion, intersections, fitness, community, normal(ity). Presenters drew on a host of transformative ideas including critical psychology, feminisms, queer theory, postcolonialism, critical legal studies, Marxism, poststructuralism and inclusive education. In evidence was a willingness to bring together critical disability studies with other radical perspectives in ways that were theoretical and applied; challenging and accessible; new and old. Aims shared by all presenters included the need to challenge the tyranny of normalcy, the dominance of ableism; the continued presence of disability at macro-structural and micro-relational levels and the requirement of responsive theoretical ideas to enable productive theory, practice and activism.

In light of the success of this year's conference, the conference organisers – which included Dan Goodley and Katherine Runswick Cole (Manchester Metropolitan University), Rebecca Mallett (Sheffield Hallam University) and Cassie Ogden (University of Chester) – have decided to make this an annual event (to be held every May in England). The conference programme, abstract and a conference e-pack for normalcy2010@manchester are available at:

http://www.rhsc.mmu.ac.uk/event_news/news.php?id=80. Details for normalcy2011@sheffield will be given at this URL before September 2010.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES:

Disability Studies Conference, Lancaster, UK

The University of Lancaster is holding the 5th biennial disability studies conference in the UK from Tuesday 7th - Thursday 9th September 2010. Over 140 papers have been accepted along with 20 poster presentations. The links to the book of abstracts and the provisional schedule can be found on the conference home page:

<http://www.lancs.ac.uk/disabilityconference/index.htm>

Geographies of (dis)ability, (ill)health, emotion and affect, British Geographical Society.

Four streams (approx. 15 papers) mapping out the geographies of (dis)ability, (ill)health, emotion and affect have been secured within the annual conference of the British Geographical Society (1 – 3 September 2010). These sessions aim to explicitly connect work on the geographies of (dis)ability, (ill) health and wellbeing with research on emotion and /or affect. Over recent years, the interest that human geographers have shown in the emotional and (broadly conceived) affective realms has increased substantially, making an impact in most areas of the discipline. From the emotional responses that shape and arise from embodied relationships with particular spatial settings, to the 'logics' of affect that shape configurations of economic, social and cultural life, the emotional and affective realms are increasingly being called upon as legitimate ways of knowing the world. Full program details are available at:

<http://www.rgs.org/WhatsOn/ConferencesAndSeminars/Annual+International+Conference/Online+Programme.htm>

NEXT EDITION: OCTOBER 2010

We are keen to increase CDS members' contributions to the newsletter. Please contact Karen Soldatic on k.soldatic@curtin.edu.au with any book reviews, research profiles, call for papers and other relevant information that you may like to add prior to 1 October 2010.

ATTACHMENT ONE:

PLEASE PROVIDE FEEDBACK TO KAREN SOLDATIC BY 31 JULY 2010:

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

TASA's Disability Access and Inclusion Guidelines

This document provides guidelines for promoting access, inclusion and participation of people with disabilities in TASA events, communications, administration and governance. All members with an official role in carrying out the functions and tasks associated with TASA should refer to these guidelines. Where appropriate the guidelines will be incorporated into TASA's Memorandums of Understanding (e.g. conference, public lecture, thematic groups).

Preface

Definition: Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others
 Source: United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 1

Language: One aim of these guidelines is to promote an awareness of disability issues through recommendations about use of language. This should avoid the perpetuation of assumptions about disabled people and ensure the writing of sociologists does not cause offence. The adoption of these guidelines should help to challenge 'disablism' in sociological education and research, promote a social, political and cultural rather than individual model of disability, and support non-discriminatory practice.
 Language and terminology change through time and may be challenged. The use of particular words can reinforce beliefs and prejudices, but can also be used to challenge these. As such, it must be recognised that the meaning of these terms will be subject to revision and/or change at a faster rate than these or any other guidelines or sources may be issued.

TASA recommends using the following non-disablist terms when referring to people with a disability.

<i>DISABLIST (avoid)</i>	<i>NON-DISABLIST (preferred)</i>
Handicap	Disability
Invalid	Disabled person
The disabled /The handicapped	Disabled people or people with disabilities
Special needs	Additional needs or needs
Patient	Person
Abnormal	Different or disabled
Victim of	Person who has / person with
Crippled by	Person who has / person with
Suffering from	Person who has / person with
Afflicted by	Person who has / person with

Wheelchair bound	Wheelchair user
The blind	Blind and partially sighted people or visually impaired people
The deaf	Deaf or hard of hearing people
Cripple or crippled	Disabled or mobility impaired person
The mentally handicapped	People / person with an intellectual or learning disability
Retarded / backward	Person with a learning disability
Mute or dumb	Person with (a) speech impairment
Mentally ill or mental patient	Mental health service user
Able bodied person	Non-disabled person

Source: Adapted from the British Sociological Association ~ Equality & Diversity ~ Disability [April 2004]

Outcomes: There are six desired outcomes of TASA's Disability Access, Inclusion and Participation Guidelines. These are that:

1. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the **services** of and any **events** organised by TASA.
2. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the **buildings** and other facilities of TASA (i.e. our office space).
3. People with disabilities receive **information** from TASA in a format that will enable them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it.
4. People with disabilities receive the same level and **quality of service** from the staff of TASA as other people receive from the staff of TASA.
5. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to make **complaints** to TASA.
6. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any **public consultations** by TASA.

Source: Adapted from Disability Services Commission WA

TASA activities affected by the guidelines:

While TASA undertakes to consider disability access and inclusion into account when conducting its day to day business, there are several key activities that warrant particular attention.

1. TASA Conference

Registered participants of the TASA Conference should be able to access venues and have the opportunity to be included in all events associated with the conference.

To achieve this, the following guidelines will be implemented:

- The University's Disability Support Officer will be included in the planning of the conference and utilized as a resource person for the local organizing committee (LOC).
- The LOC will use the '*Creating Accessible Events*' checklist as a planning tool (available on TASA Web)
- The registration forms will seek information about access requirements. Where participants have indicated they have access requirements, action is to be taken to follow up, identify requirements and provide appropriate information, venues or services.
- Where participants require a companion or support person, this person will be eligible to attend TASA without paying full registration rates, but will be required to cover costs associated with catering, social events and similar. Companion or support persons may be asked to provide a 'companion card' or other form of identification.
- The Conference Program will include an 'Accessibility Information Page' which includes a disability access map (available at most campuses) and information about the accessibility of transport, venues, toilets, pathways between venues, and other relevant information. Where facilities are NOT accessible, this information needs to be clearly stated.
- Signs for the conference and conference venues need to be visible and useful for navigating between transport, the venues and other relevant places (eg accommodation). Pathways to and from the venues should be accessible.
- Universal symbols associated with access and inclusion will be used on documentation, including webpages.
- Accommodation with disability access will be identified and available to participants with access requirements. A range of options should be provided, including accommodation suitable for students. When displaying information about accommodation on the website, use the universal symbols for access.

2. TASA Public Events: eg Public Lectures, AGM/SGM, Seminars and workshops (including those hosted by thematic groups)

TASA members and members of the public should be able to access TASA Events.

To achieve this, the following guidelines will be implemented:

- The organizers will use the '*Public Participation*' checklist (events) as a planning tool (available on TASA Web)
- Universal symbols associated with access and inclusion will be used on advertising material and other documentation, including websites
- Signs for the event need to be visible and useful for navigating between transport, the venues and other relevant places. Pathways to and from the venues should be accessible.

3. Membership database

The identification of member's needs regarding disability access and inclusion will assist TASA in decision-making and the allocation of resources for carrying out its functions.

The registration form will include questions ascertaining member's access requirements. This information will be embedded in the database, so that members with access requirements will be identifiable when registering for events etc.

4. Website

Web-based information about TASA needs to be accessible to users operating in a range of contexts, and who may use specialized software or hardware to assist in reading text. TASA will work towards meeting **Web Content Accessibility Guidelines** (<http://www.w3.org/TR/WAI-WEBCONTENT/full-checklist.html>).

To achieve this, TASA will:

- Meet all relevant Priority 1 checkpoints in the TASAWeb redevelopment process.
- Meet relevant Priority 2 and 3 Checkpoints that can be incorporated into the TASAWeb redevelopment process, with the exception of Priority 3, 11.3 (Provide information so that users may receive documents according to their preferences re language, content type etc).
- Create content that meets Priority 2 Checkpoint requirements; and, where practical, meets Priority 3 Checkpoint requirements

5. Electronic communication (E-list)

The TASA E-list is an important means of communication with the membership and it therefore needs to be accessible. The following guidelines will be implemented:

- The typeface and styles used will be clear and simple
- Where colours are used they will be high contrast and clearly visible
- A Word or HTML version of attachments will be available

6. TASA Office

The TASA Executive Officer needs to be aware of potential access requirements in order to provide appropriate member services and be a resource for members who are organizing events, conferences or developing websites. As part of the induction process, the TASA Executive Officer will undertake disability awareness training which will be updated as required.

7. TASA consultation processes

TASA undertakes to have a systematic process for including people with disabilities in the consultation process regarding the development or review of policies; and when issues pertaining to access, inclusion and participation are being addressed by the TASA Executive. This includes:

- Seeking advice from the Critical Disability Studies TG as TASA's consultative partner
- Inviting comment and suggestions from members identifying as having access requirements
- Seeking feedback on accessibility in evaluations of TASA events, conferences etc