

KABAAM!

Association for Behaviour Analysis Australia Newsletter

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Welcome Back!

ABA Australia turned 4-years-old in 2018. Each year our association has grown both in membership and community involvement. Our organisation continually develops new methods to disseminate behaviour analysis and lay the groundwork to make more systemic changes within funding agencies.

Our National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Committee has taken on the monumental task of ensuring that ABA services receive equal consideration in government funding allocation. They are addressing this by focusing on seven tasks to help make funding for behaviour analytic services easily available for those who desire it.



Association for
Behaviour Analysis Australia
— ABAA —

One of their big accomplishments last year was the submission of a paper to the Joint Standing Committee of NDIS about the provision of services under the NDIS Early Childhood Early Intervention Approach. Currently they are close to publishing a position paper on early intervention services for children with autism spectrum disorder. We are excited to see what this amazing group will accomplish in 2018.

Less than a decade ago, finding a behaviour analyst was like finding a needle in a haystack. Now we have 161 members of ABA Australia and 71 certified behaviour analysts in this country. We are growing and so is our voice. As our community of behaviour analysts grow, we are seeing the demand for high quality behaviour analytic services continue to grow. However, meeting this demand is a challenge so we must continue to increase the number of behaviour analysts and quality training institutions.

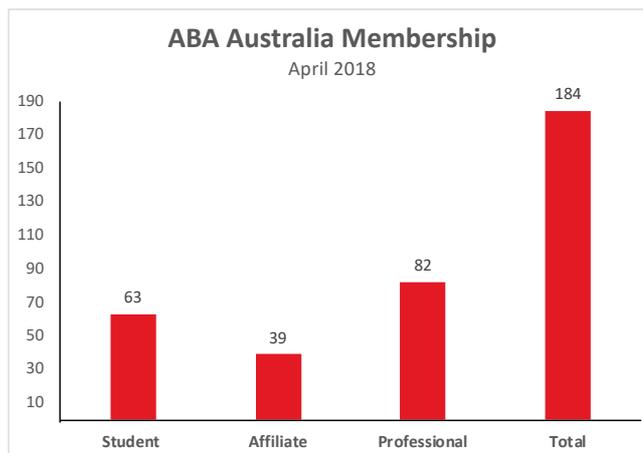
Our board of directors has changed up this year as well. We welcomed two new directors, Dr. Tessa Taylor as President Elect, and Dr. Max Jones as Head of Committees. We are delighted to have their expertise and passion on the board.

Last year we were excited to become an affiliate chapter of ABAI and were fortunate enough to have two board members present at the ABAI annual conference. Dr. Alayna Haberlin and Mrs. Michelle Furminger travelled to Denver, Colorado, last May to attend an affiliate chapter training and promote ABA Australia at the Poster Expo. At the Expo, they had a constant stream of behaviour analysts interested in learning about ABA in Australia while tasting Tim Tams, Vegemite, and a bit of Bundy. It was great to see so many people excited about what we are doing and a growing interest about behaviour analysis Down Under.

Finally, we held our 2nd Annual ABA Australia Conference last November in Sydney. It was a great success and we are looking forward to seeing everyone again in Brisbane this July!

Alayna Haberlin, Ph.D., BCBA-D
President

Memberships by the Numbers



Welcome to the Club!

A big, warm welcome to all recipients of BACB certification in Australia, between December 2016 and April 2018! Well done on your exams!

RBTs:

Jay Arellaga, Natalie Aroyan, Kurt Barbarich, Lok Ka Rosa Chan, Sha-Nin Cheong, Tracey Connors, Sara Elcic, Emma Ellis, Jasmin Fyfe, Sarah Gayton, Feishi Grilli, Roc'o GutiŽrrez PŽrez, Jamie Hardman, Lara Humzy Shamseddine, Adrienne Jackson, Isabelle Jeffriess, Caitlin Jenkins, Hannah Jennings, Peter Kaissis, Kamini Kishore Kumar, Kristin Knight, Thilini Kodagoda, Carmen McKinnon, Aimee Oliveri, Penelope Schulz, Suzan Selbes, Ruby Simms-Cumbers, Kayleigh Smith, Imogen Stefan-Rasmus, Stephanie Stewart, Micah Street and Shelley Wetton

BCaBAs:

Sumit Behl, Anita Bennett-Stewart, Anna Chung and Lauren Cowled

BCBAs:

Jenelle Bartlett, Hayley Coles, Renee Collins, Madhura Deshpande, Rachel Heidrich, Nadhuva Husein, Claire Mclvor, Karen McKinnon, Monique Peisley, Ellen Schubert, Chelsea Troutman, Chelsea Troutman and Michelle Wood



2017 Conference Summary

For those of you who attended our annual conference in Sydney this past November, I have no doubt that you enjoyed an amazing weekend. Although the weather was less than desirable, we had a great line up that was entertaining and expanded our understanding of behaviour analysis. We had two days of presentations, keynote speakers, a panel discussion, and a social event that brought together 150 people interested in and excited about behaviour analysis.

The conference began with opening remarks from our President, **Dr. Alayna Haberlin**, who pointed out that although we have a few road blocks with the science of human behaviour we can overcome these to develop a better understanding of behaviour analysis in Australia.

Our international keynote presenters were fantastic. **Dr. Dana Reinecke** kicked off Saturday by talking about self-management, using technology to assist with self-management strategies, and focusing on older clients with ASD. She returned for a second talk on supervision practices for BCBAs, which included some very helpful resources. Dana was an engaging presenter to get the conference started. Our second keynote presenter, **Dr. John McEachin**, delivered a wonderful presentation on alternative discrimination training procedures. He showed how expanded trials can be very effective in teaching receptive language skills. No need for coffee on Sunday morning as our final presenter, **Dr. Jonathan Tarbox**, gave an energetic talk on using acceptance and commitment therapy in

ABA services. He took a complex topic and made it easy to understand and demonstrated how it would be great to incorporate into service delivery models or even use it for yourself on a daily basis.

Another highlight this year was our social event/poster session. The drinks were flowing and we all had a chance to talk about behaviour even more, who thought that was possible? It was great to see so many people stayed around to enjoy this event and get the chance to interact with our poster presenters.

Overall, we thought that this year's event was a success as did many who responded to our survey. We want to thank all of our sponsors for their support of the 2017 ABA Australia Annual conference such a success. Also, we want to thank the attendees and we hope to see you all in Brisbane in July 2018.



Important NDIS Update

The NDIA is undertaking some big changes to the NDIS, which will affect all ABA providers.

- 1) **The new NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission will be introducing a nation-wide "risk-based provider registration system"**
 - > this will replace any existing state/territory arrangements
 - > providers to low risk groups will undergo a simple, periodic verification process
 - > providers to high risk groups (including behaviour support and early childhood supports) will require third party quality assurance certification
 - > there will also be a new NDIS Code of Conduct and new NDIS Practice Standards
 - > the Commission will also have national oversight over behaviour support, amongst other responsibilities
- 2) **New price guidelines for hourly rates (based on the NDIA's acceptance of their Independent Price Review) will be based on how complex a client's needs are:**
 - Level 1: \$110 - \$120
 - Level 2: \$140 - \$150
 - Level 3: \$180 - \$190

These price caps apply to "physical therapy supports" incl. physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech pathology. Psychology will have a higher price point (from \$160 - \$220). No mention of where ABA will fit yet.
- 3) **"Therapy assistants" can charge at 2 levels, depending on their qualifications:**
 - Level 1: \$44.72 - \$49.20
 - Level 2: above Level 1, below Level 1 therapy

More details yet to be released.
- 4) **Providers will only be allowed to charge clients for writing reports that are requested by the NDIA**

More details yet to be released.
- 5) **Dates for these changes will be rolled out as follows:**
 - 1 July 2018: NSW and SA
 - 1 July 2019: ACT, NT, QLD, TAS and VIC
 - 1 July 2020: WA

DISCLAIMER: All information subject to change!

NDIS links:

- <https://www.ndis.gov.au/medias/documents/ipr-final-report-mckinsey/20180213-IPR-FinalReport.pdf>
- <https://www.ndis.gov.au/medias/documents/ndia-ipr-response-pdf/NDIA-IPR-Response.pdf>
- <https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers/programs-services/for-people-with-disability/ndis-quality-and-safeguards-commission>
- <https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers/programs-services/for-people-with-disability/ndis-quality-and-safeguards-commission/ndis-quality-and-safeguards-commission-provider-fact-sheet>

Other useful websites:

- <https://www.buzza.com.au/single-post/2018/02/20/Quality-and-Safeguards-goes-National---what-will-it-mean-for-your-business>
- <https://www.splashphysiotherapy.com/single-post/2018/03/10/NDIS-therapy-funding-to-be-reduced-for-many-participants>

As we've all experienced in the past, these changes could themselves undergo further changes, and we won't really know more until the NDIA decides to release/clarify/confirm the information.

You can also keep up-to-date on Facebook, via various group discussions, e.g. NDIS Autism, NDIS Grassroots Discussion, The NDIS Discussion, etc.

And if you'd like to help the ABAA NDIS Committee with putting our concerns into action, please get in touch with us at: admin@auaba.com.au



Member Spotlight: Susan Petrie

By Karen Wong



OK! Grab your gloves, scarves, and ugg boots; we're heading to the City of Churches, Adelaide, to meet our next member, Susan Petrie, Psychologist and BCBA! This "crazy cat lover", flew her beloved Burmese cat to Australia at 3 times the cost of her own flight when she moved from New Zealand seven years ago, because, "you can't put a price on love!"

Apart from her cat, Susan's other passion is ABA! She started out in the field as many of us old timers did...by responding to a flyer posted on a cork noticeboard (yes, before the internet!) at the University of Auckland, where she would eventually gain a Masters in Science (Psychology). Susan trained as one of CARD NZ's first therapists under the supervision of Ms. Erika Ford, and her interest in ABA led her to complete a Post-Graduate Diploma in the Practice of Psychology (ABA) at the University of Waikato, before receiving her BCBA.

In 2011, Susan made the move across the Tasman, and at the time, was the only BCBA in South Australia. Her role as Clinical Director of ABC Therapists and Rocket ASD Specialists enabled her to provide services to many families before establishing her own organization in 2015.

As with many brilliant ideas, Beanstalk Child Psychology was conceived between a sleep deprived new mum and her friend, now current Director of Early Intervention Services, Joey Lim. When I asked how they came up with such a whimsical name, Susan shared that the team is all about growth and learning, so Beanstalk was a fun nod to that!

Beanstalkers live and breathe ABA, providing early intensive behavioural intervention, challenging behaviour consultations and support in the classroom. It's not only the kids and their families who benefit either - Susan applies Organisational Behaviour Management strategies derived from Aubrey Daniels' work in the clinic, as well as being the first provider in South Australia to offer the Registered Behaviour Technician (RBT) credentials.

With such an emphasis on evidenced based practices for both clients and staff, Beanstalk's most recent achievement is well deserved! In March, the Behavioral Health Center of Excellence (BHCOE) awarded the organisation with a Distinction as the top ABA provider in Australia, recognising an exceptional level of service provision, as well as client and staff satisfaction.

So Readers, how can you work towards your own personal and professional goals?

Susan's advice is to start with, "some free online courses to whet your appetite. Find your mentor. Join an organization that stands for what you believe in and has fun at the same time!"



Question of the Newsletter

In this section we will answer a popular question we get from members or the public. If you have a question, please email admin@auaba.com.au.

Question:

I've started my course work to become certified as a BCaBA or BCBA and I need a supervisor. Please help!

Answer:

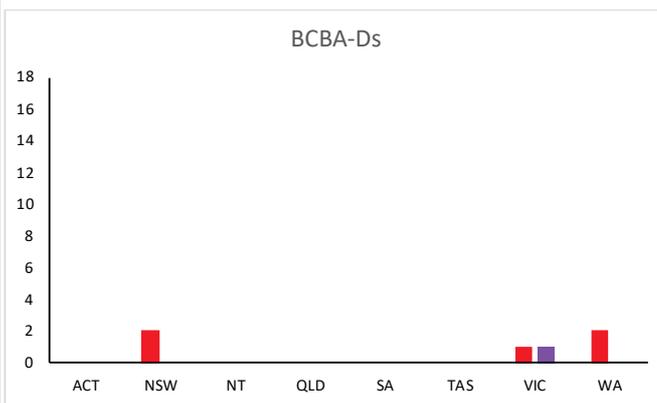
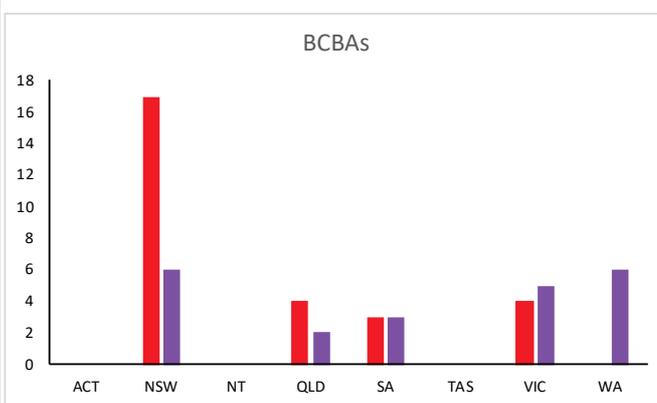
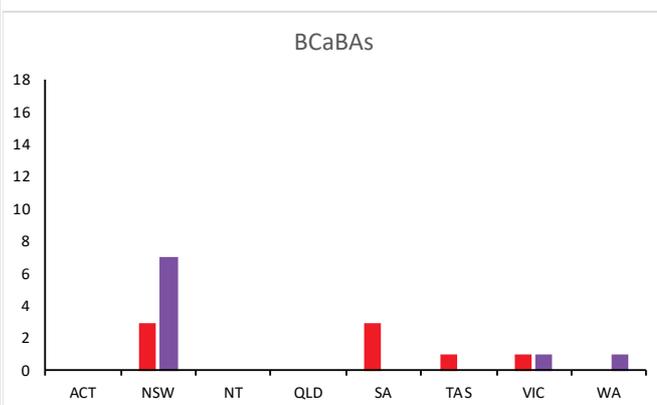
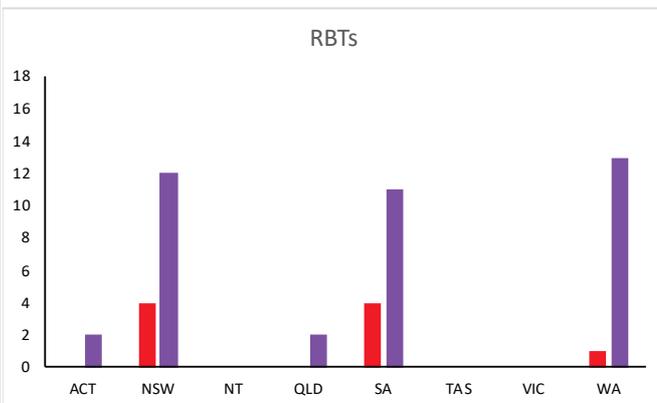
First, congratulations on your starting your path toward becoming a BCaBA or a BCBA. ABA Australia is always excited to hear there will be a new BCaBA/BCBA in Australia! Okay, on to the important information:

1. ABA Australia does not certify behaviour analysts, that is the job of the Behaviour Analyst Certification Board (BACB). Also, ABA Australia does not have anything to do with finding supervisors, organising supervision, or providing supervision for individuals seeking supervision to become a BCaBA/BCBA.
2. If you need to find out information about becoming a BCaBA/BCBA then please go to www.bacb.com.
3. If you need to find a supervisor, then the BACB provides a registry of all individuals who provide supervision. Use this registry to search for supervisors in your area. However, there are not a lot of BCBA's in Australia, so you may need to look nationwide to find a supervisor. You may also consider looking at a supervisor located in another country, who can provide distance supervision.
4. All questions regarding becoming a BCaBA/BCBA or obtaining supervision need to be directed to the BACB (www.bacb.com) as they will be able to give you accurate and up-to-date information.
5. Currently in Australia there is NO registration process for becoming a behaviour analyst after obtaining certification as a BCaBA/BCBA. ABA Australia views the BCaBA/BCBA as the best certification for practicing in applied behaviour analysis and encourages all who want to be a practitioner in behaviour analysis to pursue their certification as a BCaBA or BCBA. We hope you find this information useful on your journey to becoming certified.

BACB Certification by State

(As of April 2018)

- = ABAA members
- = non-ABAA members



**Escape the chills of winter & join us in sunny Brisbane
for our third annual conference
Behaviour Analysis in Australia: Diverse & Relevant
Held at Mercure Hotel on Brisbane's river bank**



We will be joined by a number of talented friends & keynote speakers from all over the globe!
Stay tuned for more information about speakers & their presentations!



Our two day conference is reasonably priced at \$450 for non-members, but **register** today to **become a member** of ABA Australia to enjoy Early Bird discounted rates at all membership levels:
\$60 for Students, \$170 for Affiliates and \$270 for Professionals.



Get in quickly, Early Bird prices will end on June 1st 2018

auaba.com.au

We hope to see you there in July!

Meet Our New Board Members

Dr. Tessa Taylor, President Elect



Dr. Tessa Taylor is a doctoral level behaviour analyst with over 18 years' experience. She has a Master's (2001) and PhD in Clinical Psychology (2010) from Louisiana State University. She is a registered psychologist in Australia (formerly licensed in USA). Dr. Taylor completed predoctoral internship and postdoctoral fellowship at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine/Kennedy Krieger Institute where she remained as faculty in the Pediatric Feeding Disorders Unit. This unit is the original, largest, and one of the only behaviour analytic programs of its kind, and treats the most severe and complex children from all over the world. Dr. Taylor has highly specialised and unique training and expertise in individualised, data-based, intensive assessment and treatment of paediatric feeding and severe problem behaviour (e.g., pica, self-injury) from these two rare, original, inpatient, interdisciplinary hospital settings. She has authored 33 peer-reviewed, data-based research publications, 2 book chapters, and 40 conference professional presentations/posters internationally. She serves as ABAI's Pediatric Feeding Special Interest Group Consortium Coordinator. Dr. Taylor has worked across the lifespan in a large variety of settings (e.g., medical school, residential), conditions, and interdisciplinary team coordination (e.g., gastroenterology, psychiatry, speech) and has exceptional research skills (methodology, statistics) in group and single-subject designs.

Dr. Max Jones, Head of Committees



I have a PhD in Behavioural Psychology (University of Otago, New Zealand) and became a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst in 2004. For around 25 years, I have taught Behaviour Analysis (EAB & ABA) at universities, published behaviour-analytic research, and consulted privately to families containing a child with some pervasive developmental disability. I was the Inaugural Director of the Postgraduate Programme in ABA at the University of Auckland (New Zealand), conducted NIH funded research at the New England Center for Children and while being faculty in the E.K. Shriver Center at the University of Massachusetts Medical School (USA), and taught courses and supervised student research at the University of Auckland, the University of Massachusetts in Lowell (USA), Northeastern University (USA), Western New England University (USA) and Curtin University (Australia). Between working at the University of Auckland and at the E.K. Shriver Center, I spent 2 years as a Research Scientist with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining where I researched training techniques for preparing animals to detect landmines and unexploded ordnance. I left academia in 2014 and I am presently the Clinical Director of an agency (called BASES) providing intensive behavioural interventions to children with some pervasive developmental disability.



CRAIG SWANSON © WWW.PERSPICUITY.COM

Stay Connected!

Upcoming events near you:

1st International Conference on Applied Behaviour Analysis - Philippines (ICABAP)

April 19-20, 2018
Manila, Philippines

APBA Convention

April 19-21, 2018
St. Louis, Missouri

ABAI 44th Annual Convention

May 24-28, 2018
San Diego, California

ABAI ACT for ABA Seminar

May 29th, 2018
San Diego, California

NZABA Conference

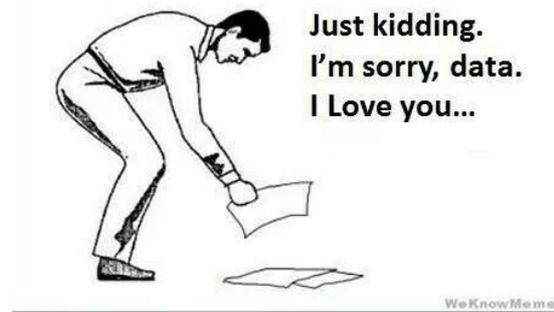
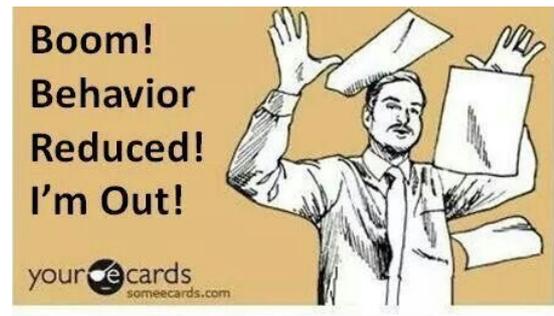
September 1-2, 2018
Auckland, New Zealand

HABA 14th Annual Convention

September 27-28, 2018
Honolulu, Hawaii

ABAI Substance Use and Addiction

November 19-20, 2018
Washington, D.C.



Contact us!

Email: admin@auaba.com.au

Website: <https://auaba.com.au/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/auaba.com.au/>

Help us reach 750 likes on our Facebook page! We are at 604 likes and want to reach 750 by the 2018 Conference!

Thank you for reading our newsletter! Please send it on to anyone interested in ABA, works in the ABA field, or is interested in changing human behaviour. Spread the word that there is an ABA association in Australia, which is growing year by year! See you all at the conference in Brisbane! ;)

The Association for Behaviour Analysis Australia is a professional organisation that seeks to assist in the development and advancement of the field of behaviour analysis within Australia through research, education, and dissemination of information.



Association for
Behaviour Analysis Australia
———— **ABAA** ————

The mission of ABAA is to promote the science and practical application of behaviour analysis within Australia and to serve as a platform for dissemination of current behaviour analytic research.