

# Australian SRV Association

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## Editorial

There is such a richness to the SRV Community of Practice approach. It helps us all pay attention to three areas concurrently:

- ✓ deepening our understanding of the knowledge area, that is, continuing to learn about SRV
- ✓ applying the knowledge, that is, using SRV in very practical ways such as in our work and/or in our everyday lives
- ✓ ensuring there are opportunities for members to collaborate and to create.

Of great significance for the SRV Community, is knowing that people with a devalued status are at the heart of this community, and that it is ultimately the lives of devalued people that must be improved.

This Update showcases engagements in the SRV community to strengthen the three aspects of the SRV Community of Practice.

Deepening  
knowledge

### Towards a Better Life: an exploration of the Social Role Valorisation framework for people who are marginalised

In 2022, the 'Towards a Better Life' workshop has been held three times in Queensland, once each in South Australia, ACT and Victoria, with a November event planned for Sydney. Two formats have been used: the usual two-day face-to-face workshop and in an online format across four or six sessions.

The online format has been helpful to manage the heightened vulnerabilities in a time of COVID, and also to attract participants for whom travel is challenging, for whatever reason. It has also been a timely opportunity for the new co-teachers to teach. Further, it has been great that local hosts have

embraced the possibilities of both formats. ASRVA continues to be clear that the face-to-face format provides for better learning and improved networking and relationship development, however also acknowledges the value of the online format as an option.

### A spotlight on the SRV theme of Model Coherency



On July 12, colleagues from the North American Council, Joe Osburn and Tom Doody, hosted by Family Advocacy in NSW, presented a 2-hour Model Coherency information session. This arose to draw our attention to the recently produced 3-volume set on Model Coherency. Buy the set of 3 or as individual volumes at Community Resource Unit (CRU)'s online shop: <https://cru.org.au/shop/>.

**Never heard of 'model coherency'?** You would have heard of it at SRV10, but there's always more to learn! A great new website is <https://modelcoherency.com/about/>

ASRVA is considering providing follow-up learning opportunities; **please let us know your interest.**

- ### In this edition
- Deepening knowledge
    - \* Learning SRV through one of the accredited workshops
    - \* Developing Accredited Teachers of SRV
    - \* Model Coherency session
  - Practicing using SRV and doing things with other community members
    - \* The SRV Gathering, July 2022
    - \* ASRVA mini-Gathering, Nov 22
  - Knowing each other and doing things (like learning and creating) with other community members
    - \* Meet and Greet
    - \* Conversation Series
  - Resources

## Developing Accredited Teachers of SRV

Members of the SRV Educators Group have just completed their 20<sup>th</sup> study group session. These sessions in conjunction with recorded rehearsals plus feedback, and teaching in actual 'Towards a Better Life' workshops have led to increased competence and confidence in their co-teacher role.

Of course, their opportunities for practice are limited by the number of opportunities to teach. This in turn relies on the capacity of local

SRV hosts to conduct the workshops.

Are you interested in supporting this initiative to safeguard SRV teaching for the future? Members of the SRV community can support the 'Towards a Better Life' workshop by attending themselves and encouraging others to attend.

Thanks are extended to event hosts for running as many events as possible and for supporting the co-teachers financially.

Jane Sherwin reports that group members continue to be very impressive in their diligence, progress and support of each other, and is delighted to be involved as a mentor. Members of the group are now also co-teaching with John Armstrong in his Senior Trainer role.

Those on the path to accreditation are Lindie Bregman, Kylie Duncis, Ricky Esterquest, Sharon Lowe, Danielle Mason, and Amie Storer.

Practicing using SRV

Doing things with community members

### The Australian SRV Gathering: From an SRV framework to real life. 22 July 2022

What happened?

The focus of the online July SRV Gathering was the application of SRV: 'From an SRV framework to real life', with the goals of:

- ✓ Demonstrating what it takes for people to get the good things of life
- ✓ Strengthening the Australian SRV Community
- ✓ Fostering a community of practice identity
- ✓ Strengthening collegial relationships among and between members of the community
- ✓ Focussing on SRV in action, its everyday use.

Participants loved hearing real life stories and seeing how SRV can be applied. All stories were about SRV, the speakers did really well, people were able to connect with others, and

importantly, there were small group discussions led by skilled facilitators and supported by a resource that assisted in identifying the SRV ideas in the presentation.

How did participants respond?

#### How helpful was the day?

All said that it helped their own use of SRV with 80% saying it was *highly helpful*.

87% of people said that the day helped them feel part of a larger, SRV community



The Gathering was an amazingly well received event. A total of 109 people registered, and the usual COVID issues dropped the number to just under 100.

There were 6 presentations. Each consisted of:

- \* person presents their story,
- \* question time,
- \* small group sessions in order for people to find and explore the SRV ideas within the presentation.

Each of the small groups of 5 to 6 participants was led by a Facilitator. The group composition changed for each presentation in order to foster connections.

87% of people are either ready to share an SRV-based story like our speakers did or are keen to do so with a little support.

#### How might members be involved in the SRV community?

82% of respondents chose at least one of four options for being involved: Writing Stories, Presenting at a Conversation, Presenting at an online Gathering, and Presenting at a face-to-face Conference. 41% chose more than one option.

#### What would help you build on what you've learnt today?

82% chose at least one of the following: Study Groups, Mentoring, Information Conversations about SRV topics, Links to Reading and Video Resources, Book Club, and the SRV in action periodical. 53% chose more than one option.



## Speakers at the 2022 Gathering

Janey Valencia-  
Concepcion

*Early years' journey to  
belongingness - finding a  
safe place to be  
vulnerable after trauma*



Jack Kruger & Jan Kruger  
*Kicking goals: How SRV  
guided a family's planning in  
supporting their son into his  
first work role*



Ewan Filmer &  
Sharon Lowe

*In and out of the  
big house*



Katrina Fredberg &  
Natasha Bennet

*Freely given  
relationships: a  
pivotal part of the  
good things in life*



Jak Thomas & Fiona Campbell

*'If this, then that': a way to weigh up the  
tensions on the path to valued roles and the  
good life*



Megan Farebrother & Logan Kennedy  
*For the love of board games*

Resources from the  
Australian SRV Gathering,  
July 2022

### Videos of the Presentations

The edited videos of the presentations will be launched  
at the ASRVA mini-Gathering on 25 November 2022

### Helpful written resources from The Gathering

<http://www.asrva.org.au/resources.html>

Brief overviews of:

Impacts of social devaluation (wounds); One way of  
thinking about the devalued pathway (and some of the  
common wounds experienced by devalued people); A  
quick overview of the ten recurring themes in SRV; and  
Needs or Life Areas that need attention and protection  
for people with a devalued status and heightened  
vulnerability.



## Conversation Series

Following on from the 2021 Conversation Series where Choice, Model Coherency, Reflective Practice, and Interpersonal Identification were explored, three events have been held so far in 2022. The fourth is due on November 8.

The first event was presented by Fiona McGill and entitled, 'My friend Mary: a great life, a good death'. This also proved to be very popular and despite increasing the number of available registrations, there were still people on the waiting list.

Mary's story showed the heightened vulnerability of an older person in hospital. The rawness of hearing Fiona tell Mary's story helped us realise how quickly systems can ignore and even over-ride our preferences and our humanity. The conversation did well in showing the value of what Professor Wolfensberger saw as a potent way of acting, that of standing by people. Without someone with a valued status standing by Mary, she was vulnerable to being 'made dead'.

The second Conversation focussed on 'Choice is a "hot potato" when using SRV: stories that work with complexity'. It was presented by Prue Gorman, Fiona Campbell, and Kane Morgan. SRV is so helpful in working out the competing issues within 'choice'.

'The rise and rise of SRV: Dr Wolfensberger and his early work' Conversation was facilitated by Jane Sherwin, who used a large portion of the US video, 'Valuing lives' in order to appreciate Dr Wolfensberger's early work and the historical foundations of SRV, especially the evolution of SRV from Normalisation. In small groups, participants explored the relevance of the US historical context to Australia (parallel contexts were found!), reflected on whether things have changed in Australia even with the NDIS and aged care reforms (only in small pockets), and explored what this means for the need for SRV in Australia.

The final 2022 Conversation will be facilitated by Fiona Campbell, 'Relationships and real life' on November 8. This Conversation is fully subscribed.

## Meet and Greet

Members of the SRV Community have said that getting to know each other is important. And interesting!

During 2022, there have been four, 1.5 hour 'Meet and Greet' sessions, each facilitated by two ASRVA members. The purpose is to join each other at a 'social meet and greet' online event where individuals can get to know others who are interested in learning and using SRV in a relaxed format. These were billed as either a morning 'Cuppa and Connect' or an evening 'Mid-week Musing'.

We will be offering these on a regular basis, given the growing number of ASRVA members.

## Announcements

### Reminder!

### Lunchtime ASRVA mini-Gathering

Online. Small group discussions.

Launch of video resources.

**25 November 2022, 12 - 1.30pm EST**

### The first online

### International SRV Conference. Feb 22-25, 2023

We are pleased to encourage you to participate in this International SRV Conference, the first to be held online. More details at <https://socialrolevalorization.com>

The conference is hosted by the International SRV Association (IASRVA). The theme is 'Social Role Valorization in the World' and some topics include:

- Teaching & Implementing SRV & PASSING
- 10 SRV Themes: Connect to 42 PASSING Ratings
- Model Coherency Evaluation & Design
- The Universality of Devaluation Across Cultures, Domains & Service Forms
- Cultural Perspectives on Societally Valued Roles and The Good Things of Life
- Citizen Advocacy