

Editorial

Welcome to the latest Update!

A Community of Practice is as good as the involvement of its members. In Australia, the foundation for member involvement in the SRV community is well established, with a committed Board, good relationships with SRV local groups, workshop hosts, and allies. We hope that more individual members will consider what it is, big or small, regular or one-off, that you can do to strengthen the SRV community. Please contact ASRVA for a conversation.

Quick news

- Two SRV Gatherings are planned: an online mini-Gathering 25th August, and 2 days in Feb 2024, Brisbane
- An ambitious PASSING workshop, held with three teams who visited six human services, was a great success.
- Eight accredited SRV workshops have been held since Nov 2022, with one more in August
- The SRV Conversations series continues.
- Australians made presentations at the SRV International Conference.
- More SRV resources have been released.
- Accreditation of more SRV teachers continues.
- News from the ASRVA Board - last page.

Date Claimers



Australian SRV mini Gathering, Friday 25 August 2023 On-line 3 hour session

Registrations
open very soon!

Australian SRV mini-Gathering. A guest speaker, two panels, a small group discussion and a hot SRV topic:
'Overcoming perceived barriers: what SRV offers when working with parents.'

Guest speaker: Lauren Mandel, Melbourne, who brings experience in supporting parents and individuals through SRV lenses.

Join other member of the Australian SRV Community in this three-hour session where we connect with each other over SRV discussions after hearing from those with experience in using SRV.

East Coast. 9:30am-12:30pm
WA. 7:30-10:30 am
SA. 9:00-12:00 noon
NZ. 11:30-2:30 pm

Australian SRV Gathering, 23-24 Feb 2024 Two days + dinner, face to face

2024 Australian SRV Gathering, Brisbane

Yes, the face-to-face Australian SRV Gathering which was cancelled due to the pandemic is here! This event will explore the everyday use of SRV and how SRV is used to get better lives – there will be something for everyone. And you will get to meet old friends, those you've been seeing on our Zoom events, and meet new friends and colleagues. Thursday evening dinner and two full days.

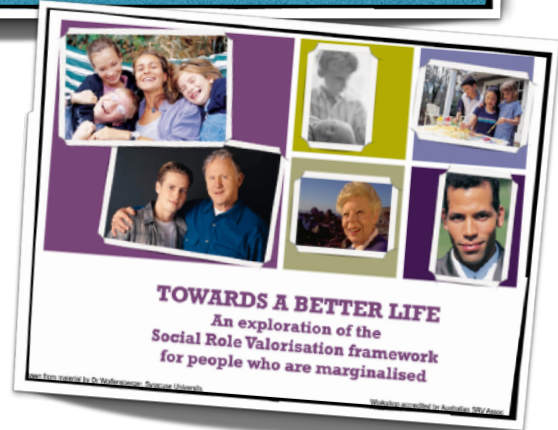
Convened by ASRVA
(Coordinator – Greg Mackay)

At a glance

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

'Towards a better life' is the ASRVA accredited SRV two day (or equivalent) workshop, offered face to face and online. This workshop explores how being in valued roles can lead to changed societal perceptions and strengthen the likelihood that people who are marginalised will get the good things of life.

Completing this workshop allows participants to do the five day PASSING practicum.



Upcoming

Values in Action
Qld

9-10 August 2023
Brisbane

<https://events.humanitix.com/introduction-to-social-role-valorization-srv-2-day-workshop-brisbane-qld>

Completed: Nov 22 to July 23

Foundations Forum
NSW

9, 10 November 2022
29, 30 March & 5, 6 Apr 2023 (online)

Community Resource
Unit, Qld

8, 9 February 2022, for
family members

Community Connections,
Townsville

9, 10 March 2023

Belonging Matters
Melbourne

14, 15 March 2023

Imagine More,
Canberra

30, 31 March 2023

Two agencies, Perth

June 2023

Senior Trainers

Jane Sherwin
John Armstrong

Co-teachers

Amie Storer
Danielle Mason
Kylie Duncis
Lindie Brengman
Ricky Esterquest
Sharon Lowe

Reflections from some participants

“The concept of ‘If this, then, that...’ was very useful. I was struggling to come to grips differentiating and/or seeing how compatible the idea of SRV was as I felt as though it was attempting to place responsibility of perceptions on the individual rather than placing responsibility on society to shift their perceptions. The ‘If this, then, that ...’ concept helped me realise that SRV is actually compatible with this idea as it can help recognise impacts and then look for solutions in the many ways that SRV provides.”

“SRV is good for [learners] to develop analytic and critical thinking rather than being told what is wrong/right.”

Reflections from some participants (cont)

- “Image transfer module was extremely helpful. The lenses (settings, language, grouping etc.) were a useful framework for determining whether an image was helpful, harmful or neutral. Without this framework I would struggle to communicate the messages that an image is conveying. Also the idea of the conscious message being sent but the subconscious message we receive was something I had not considered and now I think about both of these effects on the images I see that portray people with disability.”
- “A lot of careful consideration and planning go into A BETTER LIFE. Understanding mindsets, relevant valued roles, competence over (just) activity and the development of roles.”



About the PASSING Workshop, held in May 2023

Hosted by Values in Action Association, Qld

The practicum that follows the theory workshop, 5 intensive days, Brisbane

This was a complex workshop and Values in Action Association in Brisbane provided a very well organised event, with great site selection, ensuring good learning experiences for all.

3 teams visited 2 sites each, with one a residential and the other a day service. The range of groups they spent time with included people with a disability, older people, and people with mental health issues and people having recently been in jail.

Team members came from Queensland, New South Wales, ACT, South Australia and New Zealand. They are in a range of roles, including family members of people with a disability, manager, service worker, capacity development worker, advocate, and consultant.

Three new Team Leaders led the teams through the site visits, the foundation discussions about the service recipients and the conciliation process. Those Team Leaders were Kylie Duncis, Ricky Esterquest and Danielle Mason, and all are members of the SRV Educators Study Group. Even though this was a 'training evaluation', all matters were treated seriously, including respectful exchanges with the people being supported, and how the evidence was tabled and weighed.

In a first for Australia, ASRVA used the leadership development strategy of the Senior Trainer (Jane Sherwin) co-leading the workshop with two Passing Leaders, Kane Morgan and Sharon Lowe. Kane and Sharon have team led extensively and also studied SRV10. They have personal relationships with people with a devalued status, and worked in a range of services.

There is the possibility of another PASSING later this year.

“Evaluating services using PASSING took me on a deep dive into SRV criteria, immersing me into what ‘socially accepted’ services do that impact on valued social image and competencies. PASSING expanded my understanding of SRV criteria – most of which I had not considered. Service visits and assessment were highly confronting, and this challenged me to reflect on what I have done to enable a devalued status within my family and community, and to approach my future contribution with a broader SRV lens. (Lisette Schultz, Qld)

“PASSING consolidates SRV knowledge and prompts deeper thinking by applying SRV principles in a very practical and guided manner. It encourages participants to consider what people’s fundamental needs are and highlights the impact services have on devalued people in an impartial manner. These learnings have allowed me to better consider the needs of the people I support, helped me identify practices that diminish a person’s image or competence, and has provided ideas on how to improve these practices. (Michael Cowley, South Australia)



Conversation Series



Upcoming

Swimming in Ink – an exploration of SRV resources

You've asked for resources and we hear you. We are dipping a foot in the water of gathering and sharing documented resources. But we need a conversation with members, a chance for you to say what you need. If it doesn't exist, it might be that we can encourage the creation of new works.

Convened by Amie Storer (Qld)

Monday 25 September, 2023

WA. 2:30-4:00 pm

SA. 4:00-5:30 pm

East Coast. 4:30-6:00 pm

NZ. 6:30-8:00 pm

Citizen Advocacy – citizens standing by individuals

Dr Wolfensberger, the originator of SRV, was clear that personal, voluntary relationships had more enduring and relevant benefit to vulnerable people than do paid formal services. He therefore created the Citizen Advocacy schema.

Citizen Advocacy is a powerful method of assisting devalued people. The relationships that are formed also keep the advocate conscious of the devaluation and wounds and indeed, the gifts of the devalued person.

Convened by Kane Morgan (NSW)

Tuesday 19 September, 2023

WA. 2:30-4:00 pm

SA. 4:00-5:30 pm

East Coast. 4:30-6:00 pm

NZ. 6:30-8:00 pm

Completed: Nov 22 to July 23

Relationships and real life

Convened by Fiona Campbell (South Australia)

8 November 2022

A World of opportunities: discussion of papers from the International SRV conference

Convened by Kane Morgan (NSW)

18 April 2023

Implications for teachers of SRV, from the video 'Valuing Lives'

Convened by Jane Sherwin (Qld)

8 June 2023

Creating connections, building bridges... together

Meet ups for members to establish connections with interested others

Upcoming

To be convened by Rhiannon Brodie

9 October, 2023

Completed: Nov 22 to July 23

Convened by Amie Storer and Natasha Bennet

8 May, 2023

First online SRV mini-Gathering a great success

While waiting for the 'right' time to have a much awaited face to face SRV Gathering, an Australian SRV *mini-Gathering* was held online on 25th November 2022.

New videos resources were launched. Speakers were all members of the Australian SRV community, with experience in using SRV. Key SRV ideas in action are highlighted. All participants said that they were helpful or very helpful. 95% of participants also said that the time spent in a 'getting to know you' activity was helpful or very helpful. At the mini-Gathering, participants also had thoughtful and sometimes spirited discussions to explore the question, 'Which is more important: imagery or competency development'. Over 95% of respondents said that the 'hot potato' topic was helpful or very helpful.

See the notice below for the link to the ASRVA youtube channel.

"Loved meeting new and seeing known colleagues. The videos are a great resource, thank you. It's important to have opportunity to look at SRV topics outside of the intro workshop. Great to hear what others hope for in 2023. Thanks very much everyone."

Announcements

Australian SRV video resources

Seven video recordings from the ASRVA Gathering in mid 2022 have been uploaded to the ASRVA youtube channel. These are excellent examples of SRV in action.

[https://www.youtube.com/
@srvpassing](https://www.youtube.com/@srvpassing)

Preview of the 7 videos is at [https://
www.youtube.com/watch?
v=AP_qTvn2DMk&t=19s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AP_qTvn2DMk&t=19s) This 8 min video also provides a great overview of SRV, great for anyone new to SRV.

Australians contributed to the International SRV Conference in Feb 22-25, 2023

Five Australians contributed at the Conference!

One of the keynote speakers was Cecile Sullivan Elder, from Family Advocacy in Sydney, whose paper was 'Obtaining and safeguarding the good things of life for people through the investment of leadership development of families in both the theory and application of SRV'.

Other Australian presentations:

Mike Rungie, 'Does role avidity get in the road of achieving elderhood?'

Greg Mackay 'The revitalisation of SRV in Australia'

John Armstrong 'Does SRV Perpetuate the Devalued Status of People?'

Jane Sherwin 'Safeguarding SRV Teaching in Australia: the SRV Educators Study Group'

More details are available from the presenters themselves.

News from the ASRVA Board

In recent months The ASRVA Board has said farewell to one Board member and is delighted to welcome a new member.

In mid 2016, Prue Gorman joined ASRVA. Prue was the Executive Officer of the Community Living Project (CLP), a disability service provider in SA whose work has been underpinned by SRV theory with a key focus on family leadership and self-directed support. Prue was a positive contributor to the work of ASRVA and we sadly farewelled her as she embraces her post paid-work time with helping out with grand children, riding her horse, ramping up her choir

performances, and, of course, some well deserved travel.

Within a short time of Prue's departure we welcomed Natasha Bennet in joining with us. Natasha too has come from the Community Living Project (CLP) where she is involved in creative and focussed efforts to see people get the good things of life. Many of you will recall Natasha's presentation at The 2022 Australian online Gathering where she introduced us to Steven's story. We know Natasha will bring much to the work of ensuring ASRVA's relevance to the Australian SRV Community.

A farewell from Prue

Dear members of the ASRVA Community of Practice,

It has been my absolute privilege to have been a member of the ASRVA Board since July 2016, working alongside five dedicated and highly skilled colleagues. I recently made the difficult decision to step aside from the Board, however remain deeply committed to the SRV community in Australia. I will continue to take part in various projects as time and opportunity allows, and look forward to continuing and building my friendships with many of you.

Highlights from my role on the Board have been the strong relationships I have built with my fellow Board members and with many SRV teachers, practitioners and family members across our vast country; undertaking the affirming and illuminating research that led to 'SRV Really Expands my Radar'; hosting Zoom conversation sessions on 'Choice and SRV'; taking a facilitation role at the 2022 online Gathering; and being part of various online training and networking events, to name just a few. Watching the personal growth and development of the new SRV Educators in the last two years has also been invigorating and reassuring for safeguarding the future of SRV training in Australia. I step aside confident that the Board will continue to work strongly and collaboratively with us all over the coming years, and I look forward to being part of the ongoing efforts of this dynamic and resilient community.

*Yours in friendship,
Prue Gorman*



A welcome from new board member, Natasha



Thank you to Greg, Amie, Kane, Jane and Rhiannon for the warm welcome and accepting me on to the ASRVA Board. I was first exposed to SRV learning in 2009, working at Community Living Project. I use SRV in my work role, working with people and their families, thinking on what the good life could look like and what would help. SRV learning has helped me recognise moments where things feel odd and that usually there is something behind that, something that is needing to be unpacked and thought about on how to do better. SRV has given me the framework and language to help me help people to think on what could be better. I look forward to working with you all. I feel a sense of responsibility to work towards the continued safeguarding for the future of SRV in Australia. I will do my best.

*Yours sincerely,
Natasha Bennet*