

# ASRVA Update 17

An update of activities since 2023

December, 2024

We acknowledge and pay respect to all First Nations peoples of Australia in particular those whose traditional lands we live and work on.



# Contents



03

The Australian SRV Gathering: SRV in action

04

SRV Educators

05

Online Events

06

SRV Matters

07

ASRVA Ltd

# The Australian SRV Gathering 2024: SRV in action

## A Gathering of the SRV Community

ASRVA hosted its first face-to-face Gathering on 23-24 February, 2024. The idea of a Gathering rather than a Conference 'keys us into the idea of community, of sharing, and of relationships' said Greg Mackay, Board Chair and Event Coordinator.

The Gathering was all about revitalisation of SRV. One participant said, *"We need to 'give life to aspirations of life', a 'decent and well-connected loving life'"*.

This was an opportunity to hear from Australians experienced in using SRV to assist devalued people get the good things of life. *'It was fantastic to see and hear the depth of SRV experience in the room, so motivating, thank you'*.

## WELCOME TO COUNTRY



As Songwoman of the Turrbal People and an internationally renowned opera singer, Maroochy Barambah, dressed in her traditional cape of animal skins, sang the Welcome to Country.

This was a gracious kindness of welcoming us to her country. Participants rated the Welcome 4.97 out of 5, the most well received element of the Gathering, itself rated at 4.95!

*'This was a highlight! It set a wonderful tone for the whole event. A powerful reminder for all of us of the continuing relationship of First Nations' peoples to this land we live and work on'.  
'A reminder of First Nations Peoples' experience of devaluation.'*

# SRV Educators

In 2021, in response to the coming retirement of the SRV Senior Trainers and knowing there wasn't time for new Senior Trainers to develop, we started the Educators Study Group. The purpose was to provide a learning and accreditation process for aspiring teachers of the 2-day theory workshop, 'Towards a Better Life: an exploration of the Social Role Valorisation framework with regard to people who are marginalised'

The vision: Not only was the intent of ASRVA and Jane as lead on this project, to safeguard the future of teaching SRV in Australia, it was also to develop a network of competent confident teachers, with intra-relationships within the educator group. It was envisioned that key safeguards were not only to have competent teachers, but also that people would teach in pairs, that peers would give peers feedback, and that the study group would continue so that learning and relationships could continue.

The objectives for the Study Group members were to:

- **Teach** all the 'Towards A Better Life' modules, competently; demonstrate action learning
- **Respond** to challenging situations, such as (but not limited to) tricky participants, asking good questions, responding to questions, framing a teaching point, discerning good examples
- **Design at least one session** (outside of the accredited TaBL workshop) for teaching SRV content, competently; trial it and show reflective learning
- **Facilitate** at least one 'foundation discussion'
- **Demonstrate** high awareness of self while teaching/facilitating
- **Clarify** one's own approach to teaching
- **Collaborate** with an event host and demonstrate the standards for organising an SRV workshop
- **Lead** at least one discussion in the SRV Community of Practice

Success! We thank Jane Sherwin for her leadership over 3.5 yrs, 45 fortnightly sessions, and numerous TaBL events. We thank the following individuals for their hard work and dedication to learning so that SRV teaching survives.

As of 9 December, 2024, ASRVA has awarded the following: Teachers: Kylie Duncis (SA) and Danielle Mason (Qld); Lead Co-Teacher: Amie Storer (Qld); and Co-Teachers: Lindie Brengman (Qld) and Sharon Lowe (Qld). Congratulations everyone!

# Online Events

- A World of Opportunities – international online SRV Conference Papers
- Creating Connections–Building Bridges ... Together
- Citizen Advocacy – citizens standing by individuals
- Swimming in Ink – an exploration of SRV resources

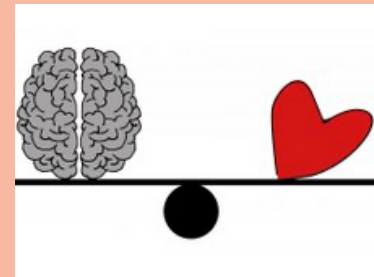
- Australian SRV mini-Gathering: Overcoming perceived barriers: what SRV offers when working with parents
- What we as teachers of SRV can learn from the Wolfensberger documentary, 'Valuing Lives'
- Creating Connections–Building Bridges ... Together
- Partners in Progress

# SRV Matters

A series of short (3 min) reads on topics from SRV or from Dr Wolfensberger's other work. Find them at [www.asrva.org.au](http://www.asrva.org.au)



'Professor Wolf Wolfensberger', is the originator of SRV and of Citizen Advocacy. Much has been written about Prof. Wolfensberger. Though this SRV Matters edition is only brief, it includes a link to the Values in Action 12-page periodical on Wolf - colourful & entertaining.

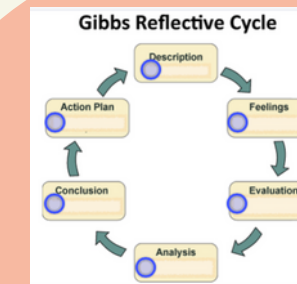


'This edition is about *SRV and Rationality* and how we think, perceive, and believe.

It starts with the statement: What does SRV and rationality have in common you might ask. Well, stay tuned and find out!

## Universals VS Particulars

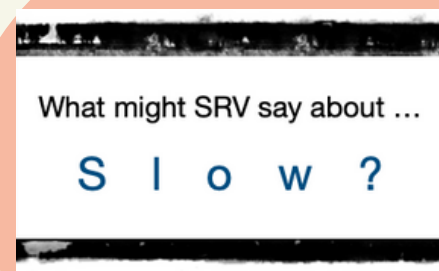
How to make sense of this complex world? It's easy to get bogged down in the details, which does little to help BIG problems. Professor Wolfensberger's work considers the idea of *Universals*. These are high order phenomena, laws & principles, etc.



Are we using SRV well, & can we use it better? We can, especially if we use reflective practice. Reflective Practice is the ability to reflect on our efforts, in a critical manner, and engage in a process of continuous adaptation and learning.



How might we begin to discern people's *needs*? As you know, SRV is very clear about the need to get to know people well, understand as much of their life experiences as is relevant, and thus to work out what their needs are likely to be.



We live in a world that values physical and mental quickness and agility. People who do not think, act or move quickly tend to be devalued. But what might SRV suggest about *slow*?



A *craze* can present itself in the form of a new word or language, a new 'therapy', a new planning tool, or an all-encompassing model of support for vulnerable people.

But SRV provides some very useful lenses or filters to help us not get taken in by the bright and shiny.

# ASRVA Ltd

## Legal Entity

In our publication, '2020 SRV Revitalisation Plan: Context/Challenges, Our Plan, & Roles', we said we would form as a legal entity. We became a company limited by guarantee (non-profit) effective 23 August, 2023. Membership is free: complete this short form: <https://www.asrva.org.au/membership.html>

## Advantages

We saw several reasons for doing this including to:

- be better able to enact the initiatives planned over the immediate period longer
- have a national legal identity rather than a state-based legal identity
- not have to rely on other organisations to manage money
- give potential members and the broader Australian SRV Community confidence in the organisation.

## Inaugural AGM

Our first AGM will be held from 6pm on 18th January, 2025. The venue is online & at The Study, Marion Hotel, 849 Marion Road, Mitchell Park, SA followed by dinner in the Marion Hotel dining room. Please register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/asrva-agm-2025>