

## **EDCON 2018 – ACHIEVING OUR FULL POTENTIAL**

### **Speaker Profiles**

#### **Keynote speaker – Dr Ronda Faragher (Australian Catholic University)**

Rhonda Faragher, PhD, is an academic working in the field of inclusive education and is currently with the Learning Sciences Institute Australia, Faculty of Education and Arts, Australian Catholic University. She chairs the Asia Pacific Down Syndrome Federation, is a Board Member of Down Syndrome Australia, Trustee of Down Syndrome International and Vice-Chair International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities - Down Syndrome Special Interest Research Group. She has taught mathematics from early childhood to tertiary level and her research and teaching is based on the premise that all learners can enjoy and be successful at mathematics. She is the author of a number of publications, including an editor of the recent book, *Educating Learners with Down Syndrome*. Rhonda has received a number of awards for her work, including the Commonwealth of Australia Endeavour Executive Award and the Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Award from James Cook University.

#### **Suzanne Lawrence (NSW Public Schools)**

Suzanne initially trained as a primary teacher, moving into post graduate studies in Special Education and a professional development year in Autism Spectrum Disorders. Suzanne has many years' experience of teaching mainstream and specialised positions including Itinerant Support Teacher (Integration), Disability Programs Consultant, Learning and Engagement Officer, Distance Education Teacher in the area of high support needs students, as well as relieving in the position of a Transition Support Teacher based at Cromehurst School. Suzanne has presented at state and national conferences as well as lectured and tutored at UTS. Most importantly Suzanne is the very proud parent of an adult with Down syndrome and has loved the most amazing journey.

#### **Hannah Edwards (Occupational Therapist)**

Hannah Edwards is an occupational therapist who has worked in paediatrics for over 10 years. Hannah currently works at The Gabrielle Centre for Children in the Lower Blue Mountains, a multidisciplinary collaboration providing sensory-based intervention to children aged 0 - 12 years. Hannah also worked with The University of Sydney, developing innovative occupational therapy placements for students. Hannah is the mother of two children, Flynn and Maiya. Flynn was born with Down syndrome.

#### **Judy Davidson (Down Syndrome NSW)**

Judy Davidson is a former team leader of the Information and Support Team at Down Syndrome NSW and has been providing professional development and training for the past 15 years.

Judy has a background in Education and combines this with current knowledge and research to provide support and information to families and professionals working within a range of fields supporting people with Down syndrome.

Judy also has a 19 year old daughter with Down syndrome.