

**ASPERGER SYNDROME PARTNER INFORMATION  
AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED  
ASPIA**

*Mutual acknowledgement and understanding  
of the Asperger marriage experience.*

**OCTOBER 2007 – NEWSLETTER**

Coming Events ...

This coming Saturday 6 October 2pm – 5pm

Normal Support Group Meeting at College of Nursing, 14 Railway Parade, Burwood

Clinical Psychologist Julie Peterson from “Embracing the Other Half” Psychology Clinic will speak on “**Inoculating against Cassandra**” (\$5.00 non-members; \$2.00 members)

**Who’s Cassandra ... ?**

A tragic character of Greek mythology, **Cassandra** was admired by the god, Apollo. He mentored her and gave her the gift of prophecy. He was angered because she accepted him as a teacher and not as a lover so he twisted the gift, so that no one would believe her predictions, including the secret of the Trojan horse, even though she was invariably correct (Brewers 1992). The gift became a curse. The Greeks were aware that **an individual repeatedly not believed would suffer profound moral distress.**

The name **Cassandra** was chosen to represent the **long time family member or partner of someone with Asperger's Syndrome (AS)**, a high functioning form of autism. As with the Cassandra of Greek myth, these individuals often **experience moral distress.** They also become **pathologized, typically developing reactive depression** or the **appearance of neurosis, exactly the behavior expected for a normal individual subjected to prolonged moral distress.** (Hackett and Henderson 2002)

(Comments from articles by Sheila Jennings Linehan B.A., LL.B., J.D. and FAAAS Inc.)

Saturday 3 November 2pm – 5pm – Support Group Meeting

Clinical Psychologist Janina Szyndler will speak on

**Reforms to the Family Law Act and how this impacts on families who are separating**

Saturday 1 December 2pm – 5pm – Support Group Meeting

Christmas Celebration (Topic TBA, or informal discussion)

January 2008 – no meeting

Saturday 2 February 2008 2pm – 5pm – Support Group Meeting

Topic TBA

Friday 29 February & Saturday 1 March, 2008 – Special Event

Professor Tony Attwood – topics TBA

Burwood RSL Club

Other news and items ...

**ASPIA LUNCH CLUB now underway !**

Please join us for lunch before ASPIA Meetings at

EAST-WEST NOODLING

117 Burwood Road, Burwood

The restaurant is easy to find, being 15 metres from the entrance to Burwood Railway Station and directly opposite Hungry Jacks.

Come along at 12noon – 2pm, on the first Saturday of every month (except January).

Arrive any time between 12noon and 2pm. We will be at the back of the restaurant. Most meals under \$10.

The purpose of Lunch Club is to foster friendship.

All welcome.

## Other news and items, cont'd ...

### Legal Articles available online

We have updated the information page on our website with a link to some articles on Asperger's Syndrome and legal matters.

### Co-Dependents Anonymous – 12 Step Programme

In our September ASPIA meeting we were very interested to hear the stories of three women who attend a Co-Dependents Anonymous 12 Step Group. I could not do justice here to what CODA is about, but a key point for me was to think about whether I am "caretaking" the loved ones in my life or "caregiving"? For more information visit the CODA website at [www.coda.org](http://www.coda.org) or [www.codependentsanonymous.org.au](http://www.codependentsanonymous.org.au) or phone (02) 8230 3959

### Partner support group in Shellharbour Region

ASPIA satellite support group is starting in the Shellharbour region. Anyone interested please contact Psychologist Eleanor Gittins on 0408 954 358 or ASPIA (contact details below)

### Visual aids for ASD children

Families with a child with ASD who would like some help with visual aids, please contact Jenny Craig on (02) 8824 9950

### ABC TV Series character

One of our interstate Aspie contacts has informed me that the ABC TV series "Wire in the Blood" has cast one of their major characters as having Asperger's Syndrome.

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**Providing information, contacts and support  
for partners (and family members) of adults with Asperger's Syndrome  
Visit our website for more information and useful links**

[www.aspia.org.au](http://www.aspia.org.au)  
[info@aspia.org.au](mailto:info@aspia.org.au)