

## **Kay Berry-Smith**



Kay was the foundation principal of Insight for two years from 2012. With her extensive expertise in education for the blind and vision impaired, Kay has always been an ongoing valuable mentor to our staff and management. She has a strong commitment to developing staff professional skills and knowledge: the key to ongoing and sustainable school improvement.

Kay has regularly worked as a Guest Lecturer in the Master of Special Education Course at Flinders University (Adelaide), and the Bachelor of Special Education Course at Tabor College, with a focus on Vision Impairment.

Since her first teaching role at Townsend School for Vision Impaired (Adelaide) in 1998, Kay has dedicated her career to teaching students who are blind and vision impaired. She has developed a high level of expertise in the education of these students, with a deep understanding of the theory and practice required to teach students with vision impairments. She has an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the Expanded Core Curriculum, and how these areas can be integrated into the regular curriculum. This Expanded Core Curriculum is an integral part of Insight's syllabus.

Kay's many roles at Townsend School (class teacher, Visiting Teacher, IT teacher, Deputy Principal), saw her develop a comprehensive understanding of the range of educational options required for blind students and families, and led to the development of a range of programs to ensure that students can access the most appropriate placement at any stage of their schooling. These programs have been widely acknowledged for their quality and empowerment of students, staff and parents to better understand and support educational success.

An acknowledged leader in the field of education for the vision impaired, Kay has regularly hosted national and international groups of educators, politicians and policy developers, providing comprehensive information and advice on the delivery of service and curriculum to students.

During her leadership tenures, Kay provided placements for and supervision of Masters of Special Education students, and a range of students from African countries, who then returned to establish education services for their students. The placements were highly successful, and resulted in improved education and career options for many children.

As Principal of SA School for Vision Impaired (SASVI) from 2005 to 2011, Kay took the school from a service with a very low profile to one recognised as a centre of excellence both nationally and internationally.

She was able to have a significant and positive influence on changes in service provision, particularly for students with vision impairments in mainstream schools through the provision of

short-term residential programs, touring programs to country areas, and through the strategic use of video-conferencing for teacher and family support.

Kay also managed major projects including the Federal Government's Digital Education Revolution and Building the Education Revolution initiatives, ensuring that there were clear links and benefits to educational outcomes for students.

Kay Berry-Smith's leadership in education for the blind and vision impaired is undisputed and she has been a frequent participant in national and international conferences for the blind and vision impaired sector. Her views and expertise are widely sought.

Insight is privileged to have her ongoing input on our Board, as our Professional Development leader and as a mentor to our staff.