



**Professor Gwynnyth Llewellyn**  
*PhD DipOT BA MEd DipContEd NE NSW CollOT GAICD*  
*Professor and Dean*

Faculty of Health Sciences  
Cumberland Campus C42  
75 East Street (PO Box 170)  
Lidcombe NSW 1825 AUSTRALIA  
Telephone: +61 2 9351 9222  
Facsimile: +61 2 9351 9688  
Email: [FHS.Dean@usyd.edu.au](mailto:FHS.Dean@usyd.edu.au)  
Research: [www.afdsr.org](http://www.afdsr.org)

## **Launch of new disability and rehabilitation research program by the Dean of Health Sciences**

3 December 2009

Dear Colleagues

As we celebrate the International Day of People with Disability, it gives me great pleasure to announce the launch of the Faculty of Health Sciences new Australian ICF Disability and Rehabilitation Research Program.

This is a broad trans-disciplinary program, aiming to conduct and promote high quality research and information on disability, rehabilitation and health, and to provide leadership in research and education, applying or consistent with the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF).

This research and education program has been established with awareness that:

- The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities aims to 'promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity'.
- The ICF articulates a model of disability that recognises participation and the removal of environmental barriers are of central importance.
- There is a growing imperative that researchers and professionals work with people experiencing disability to understand and promote optimal participation.
- There is a need for improved evidence on outcomes and what works best for people.

A strong Reference Group and Faculty Working Group have been established to advise on and participate in the program. More information on the program and upcoming events can be found on our website at <http://www.fhs.usyd.edu.au/aidarrp/>

Please contact us at [aidarrp@usyd.edu.au](mailto:aidarrp@usyd.edu.au) if you have common interests and see potential for productive collaboration.

With sincere best wishes for the holiday season and for 2010.

Gwynnyth Llewellyn  
Professor and Dean