

## Editorial

The Australian Disability Achievement Foundation (ADAF) had its beginnings at the AASE National Conference in Adelaide, in 1986 when the Annual General Meeting adopted a recommendation by Dr Jeff Bailey, that the Association establish a national foundation for the purpose of offering grants for educational or training purposes to people with disabilities. During the next three years, a committee formed by AASE National Council, developed the legal and organisational framework for ADAF. In 1988, the Foundation was formally registered, and trust deeds signed — the dream had become a reality.

The initial funds for the Foundation were raised through a national art union, and supplemented by donations from many individuals. In 1990, the Foundation Grants Committee, using the slogan "Kids Can't Wait" invited applications for the first grants from all States and Territories in Australia. It was indeed an historic moment when, at the formal dinner held in conjunction with the 1990 AASE National Conference in Canberra, the inaugural awards were announced.

The recipient of the major grant was Zeliha Iscal of Western Australia, a 15-year-old visually impaired student, who intends using the grant to purchase a Eureka computer. The Royal New South Wales Institute for Deaf and Blind Children generously sponsored airfares to Canberra for Zeliha and her mother. This made it possible for Zeliha to receive her award in person from Judge Paul Flannery, Chairperson of the ADAF Grants Committee.

Further awards were also announced: these went to Glen Morrow (Victoria), Sally Howes (South Australia), Karen Smith (Queensland), Joanna Larritt (New South Wales) and Janelle McMillan (Tasmania).

It may be seen as a mark of the maturity of AASE that

much of its attention is now focussed beyond direct service to its members — and the establishment of the Foundation may be seen as an example of this. No less significant have been the strenuous, and highly effective lobbying efforts of the previous and present members of the National Executive. As a result, the Association is now frequently consulted on special education matters at both State and Federal levels, and is represented on most State Special Education Ministerial Consultative Committees. Recent submissions and discussions have concerned issues of social justice, national goals for education, a national policy for special education and teacher quality. The aim of this work, often unseen by Association members, is seeking to achieve for all in special education what the Foundation is offering to the individual: the best possible educational opportunities.

In conclusion, I have pleasure in welcoming to the Editorial Consultancy Board Professor Don Stedman of the University of North Carolina, well known to AASE members for his outstanding contributions to the 1987 National Conference in Melbourne and the 1990 joint AASE-NZSEA Conference in Auckland. He has agreed to serve on the Board for an initial period of three years.

*Don Rice*  
Editor



*Zeliha Iscal receives the first ADAF award from Judge Paul Flannery (left) and Dr Jeff Bailey.*