

Practitioners Reflect – reflections on the Stop The Clock Conference.

By Gail Neill

While sorting through photographs of the *Stop the Clock Conference* for reports, social media and internal comms, I was struck by the prominence of our speakers' hands in many of these photos. Illustrative, of course, of the passion, enthusiasm and emphasis they stressed, but more literally, acting as a reminder of what was pointed out and who and what was pointed at.

Hands pointing to new ideas. Ideas and concepts from other fields and disciplines, from other settings and geographies. Pointing too, to old ideas. Directing questions and ponderings to those things I am familiar with and was excited to hear again. Reenergized in their retelling, or by the emphasis placed upon them by others.

These hands also point to forgotten things. Uncomfortably, calling out that which I have overlooked, ignored or simply failed to see. They point to actions required, to make and keep those forgotten and overlooked things (and people) visible, and to the fore in my thinking. A reminder that inclusion is labour that is so easily exhausted.



While a legacy of Covid is the lack of hand shaking as a means of greeting, there was no shortage of metaphorical hand shaking during the 3 days of the conference. The shaking hands of old and new friends and colleagues, that act as a reminder, an exclamation, a resolve and determination, a pause and a next step.