

SPEAKOUT

THE MAGAZINE FOR AUSTRALIAN SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS

AUGUST 2016

**SPEECH PATHOLOGY WEEK
AUGUST**



**CREATING
FUTURES**
SpeechPathologyWeek2016

STUDENT
PERSPECTIVE
Vietnam

**SPEECH PATHOLOGY 2030
LAUNCH 11 AUGUST**

THE WINNERS ARE...

**SPA RECOGNISES
PROFESSION LEADERS**

**CONFERENCE ROUND-UP
NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES**



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Pathology
Australia

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From the President



Gaenor Dixon

THROUGH OUR WORK with communication and eating and drinking, we support people to connect and belong, exercise their right to self-determination, participate in and contribute to their community, learn to their full potential and expand their life choices. We create futures.

This edition of *Speak Out*, focuses on how members around the country “create futures”, through their award winning contributions to the profession and Association, through their activities with and through branches, and through Association activities that support your efforts in creating futures.

The launch of the Speech Pathology 2030 report will be a highlight of Speech Pathology Week, and will be the culmination of the reflection, and considerations of more than 1000 speech pathologists from across Australia, working in a range of sectors, contexts and with a range of experiences. Thank you to all of you who took part from filling out initial surveys to develop the *Understanding the Landscape* paper, through to participating in conversations and workshops. With the dedicated project leadership of Chris Lyons (Senior Advisor, Private Practice), the support of the steering committee; Gail Mulcair (CEO), Michael Kerrisk (Communications Manager), Trish Johnson (Senior Advisor, Ethics and Professional Issues), Chyrisse Heine (Director) and Robyn Stephen (Director); the Young Futures team of Gretchen Young, Katy Callaghan and Jane Haswell have created a vision of the future. My congratulations to all of those involved in the development of this formative piece of work.

The launch of the final document is only the start of our journey of creating the future imagined in the vision document. The next time you sit down with a cuppa to read the October *Speak Out*, we will be busy developing the Association’s next strategic plan - to guide us another three years towards 2030. As part of this work, we will seek members’ input to determining the key priorities in order to progress towards the profession’s aspirations. But in the intervening two months, I encourage you to read and reflect on the 2030 document and consider how you in your work can contribute to ensuring this vision is a reality in 2030.

As we reflect on how our work can change lives and create new futures for people with speech language communication needs and/or difficulties with eating and drinking, it becomes clear that it is very important for the community to know and understand what we do. Through community awareness and understanding, those people that could benefit from our services are more likely to become aware of and advocate for them. I encourage you to consider how your activities in Speech Pathology Week have contributed to community awareness.

For now, sit back and enjoy catching up on the successes and activities of your colleagues and reading about the work your Association is doing to support you in your vital future-changing work.

Gaenor Dixon
National President

Speech Pathology 2030 - Launch Thursday 11 August 2016

WITH THE CONCLUSION of the *Speech Pathology 2030 - making futures happen* project now in sight, it is timely to thank all of you who have been involved in this landmark project.

When we set out on this journey in November last year it was with the very clear aim of engaging as many members of the speech pathology profession as possible in the development of a shared vision about the future. With over 1000 speech pathologists having been involved over the course of the project, I believe we well and truly achieved that aim.

The final stage of the project will see us come together on Thursday 11 August to launch the *Speech Pathology 2030 - making futures happen* report. I hope those who cannot join us in person at the National Gallery of Victoria will take up the opportunity of watching the launch live online, either at your home, or at a Branch event.

We are honoured to have Alistair McEwin, the recently appointed and new full-time federal Disability Discrimination Commissioner as our special guest to officially launch the report.

The report is being launched during Speech Pathology Week 2016 with the theme: '*Speech pathology - creating futures*' – because that is what we are doing, creating futures by changing lives.

While the launch of the project's final report is momentous, it is the first step in our engagement and planning for the future for the Association and for the profession.

Let's keep working together to achieve the vision as we move towards 2030 and continue "making futures happen".

Gaenor Dixon
National President



Disability Discrimination Commissioner Alistair McEwin will launch the *Speech Pathology 2030* Final Report in August.



Members' achievements recognised

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WERE EXTREMELY PROUD TO PRESENT AWARDS IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES AT THE 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN PERTH. THE BOARD'S APPRECIATION GOES TO THE MANY PEOPLE WHO TOOK THE TIME TO RESEARCH AND PREPARE THE NOMINATIONS THAT ASSIST THE ASSOCIATION TO RECOGNISE SOME OF OUR OUTSTANDING COLLEAGUES.

Early Career Award

The Early Career Award is granted by the Association to an early career-practising member in recognition of ongoing, valuable and voluntary service to the Association at either a National or Branch level. Speech Pathology Australia was pleased to award this prize to Alice Crook and Lucy Fitzsimons.

EARLY CAREER AWARD



Lucy Fitzsimons

Lucy is a dynamic, dedicated and engaged member of the Western Australian Branch. Lucy has been involved in Branch activities during her time at university and has continued her service to the Association following graduation.

On graduating, Lucy was a diligent member of the public affairs subcommittee, contributing to the success of events, including the Branch Annual General Meeting and Speech Pathology Week launch

event. When the opportunity arose to appoint a new public affairs lead within the Branch, Lucy was recognised as the most suitable candidate.

Lucy is also a highly active member of a Branch task group, actioning strategic plan projects. Lucy has contributed to the achievement of a key Branch goal, the organisation and successful facilitation of a Consumer Forum for Parents and Caregivers of Children with Severe Language Impairment.



Alice Crook

Alice has been extensively involved in the Victorian Branch of Speech Pathology Australia, initially as a student representative, providing a vital link between students and the Branch, and more recently as a standing member of the Member Engagement Portfolio.

Last year, Alice was one of two Branch members involved in planning and coordinating the Speech Pathology Australia stand

at the Pregnancy, Babies and Children's Expo and was actively involved in the planning of member engagement events, including the Branch Speech Pathology Week trivia night.

As a graduate clinician, Alice has also been involved in promoting Eastern Health's Speech Pathology service to the community, both through Speech Pathology Week activities and promotion of the Book of the Year books to her clients' carers.

ASSOCIATION SERVICE

Service to the Association

The Service to the Association Award is granted by the Association to members in recognition of ongoing, valuable and voluntary service to the Association at either a National or Branch level.

In 2016, the Association recognised two highly deserving members of the Association, Meg Maggiore and Susan Park.



Meg Maggiore

Meg has provided many years of dedicated service to the Association in high level volunteer positions. She has been involved in the Western Australian Branch as well as serving as a National Director and Vice President Operations.

Meg commenced her involvement in the Western Australian Branch as the leader of the Practice, Workplace and Government Portfolio – a position that required leading a small team of volunteers,



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Meg Maggiore con't

responding to queries from the public and other agencies and leading the Branch's policy and advocacy activities.

Meg then stepped up to become the Western Australian Branch President and excelled in managing a busy and active Branch that successfully ran a number of events per year. Meg's gracious and professional presence as the face of the Branch was highly valued both within the profession and during external interactions.

Meg continued her involvement in the Association being appointed as a National Councillor (Director) in 2010. Meg was active in representing Western Australia on the Council (Board); as well as managing a busy workload as the Professional Standards Portfolio Coordinator. In this role Meg oversaw the completion of a number of position statements and clinical guidelines, including the "Speech Pathology in mental health services" clinical guideline and position statement. Meg also took on additional responsibility in her second term, becoming the Vice President Operations. In this role she was dedicated to overseeing the fiscal viability of the Association and presented this at the National Annual General Meeting to members.

Meg has always been willing to 'go the extra mile' to further enhance the interests of the Association and the profession. She has tirelessly contributed her time and efforts over a number of years of service.



Susan Park

A tireless and generous contributor to the Queensland Branch for a many years, Sue has been a dedicated Speech Pathology Australia co-representative for the Private Practice Member Network since 2009. Throughout this time, Sue has been dedicated to the establishment of the Queensland Private Practice member network and has come to be recognised as a critical and key member of the network. She is often the first port of call for members

when they have issues related to private practice. Sue is very responsive to members and non-members needs by linking them to Speech Pathology Australia and maintaining consistent communication with them through email, teleconferences and member updates.

Along with a previous co-leader of the group, Sue worked to develop the first Private Practice Business Seminar for Queensland, a model which continues annually. This seminar, which is now coordinated and supported by Speech Pathology Australia's National Office, is a testament to Sue's dedication to private practitioners' professional development needs.

Sue's knowledge and experience in the area of private practice, and her networking skills amongst her colleagues are vital to maintain the successful network that is evident today.

In addition to Sue's leadership role in this network, Sue volunteers her time to the work of the Communication and Public Awareness Committee. Sue's commitment is such that the Branch would not function to the same degree without her on-going dedication. Despite Sue's busy private practice, she makes herself available – often at short notice – to represent the Association when needed.

Sue also generously offers her time on a voluntary basis in developing countries, such as Fiji.

Fellowship

FELLOWSHIP OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY AUSTRALIA IS ONE OF THE HIGHEST PUBLIC PROFESSIONAL HONOURS THE ASSOCIATION AWARDS TO A MEMBER DEMONSTRATING OUTSTANDING, SIGNIFICANT AND SUSTAINED CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPEECH PATHOLOGY PROFESSION.

IN 2016 THE ASSOCIATION WAS PROUD TO BESTOW FELLOWSHIP ON ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR BRONWYN HEMSLEY.

Dr Bronwyn Hemsley

Dr Bronwyn Hemsley has been a speech pathologist since graduating with a Bachelor degree from the University of Sydney in 1988, and has conscientiously maintained Certified Practising Speech Pathologist status since the inauguration of Speech Pathology Australia's Professional Self-Regulation Program. Continuing her studies at the same university, Bronwyn was awarded a PhD in 2008. Remarkably, she was then selected for two Postdoctoral Fellowships, to further speech pathology research in the field of disability: one from the National Health and Medical Research Council and the other from the Australian Research Council.

At present, Bronwyn is an Associate Professor in Speech Pathology and Discovery Early Career Researcher at The University of Newcastle. Bronwyn provides leadership in Speech Pathology (Hons) as Graded Honours Convenor, academic co-leader of the Global eHealth Research and Innovation Cluster, co-convenor of the Disability Research Network, Faculty Research Ethics Advisor, and as a member of the university's Human Research Ethics Committee.

Bronwyn's work focuses on creating and disseminating evidence, promoting evidence based practice (EBP), and clinical practice research and (prolific) scholarly publication, and academic teaching, in the fields of severe disability, AAC, social media, and mealtime management for people with dysphagia across the lifespan.

Bronwyn has served Speech Pathology Australia as an abstract and article peer reviewer, author of journal articles, advisor, liaison person, mentor, and project officer.

In 2012, Bronwyn was project officer and main author of the Speech Pathology Australia Clinical Guidelines for Augmentative and Alternative Communication. She also liaised with Speech Pathology Australia and the NHMRC to enable the AAC Clinical Guidelines to be approved for listing on the NHMRC portal of clinical practice guidelines available to the general public. This is the first Speech Pathology Australia guideline to be included in that portal.

Since 2011, Bronwyn has actively and expertly supported Speech Pathology Australia's development of social media policy, and use, for connecting the profession—and interested others, including consumer groups and professionals—worldwide. She facilitated the sharing of the Canadian Association's social media policy with Speech Pathology Australia in 2011.

Bronwyn was co-creator and continues to co-administer the ground breaking Rotation Curation Twitter account



@wespeechies which has over 6,200 followers and connects speech pathologists nationally and internationally through collegiality, robust discussion and access to published evidence.

Bronwyn instigated the first national #SLP2Bchat, held monthly to provide an online meeting point for speech pathology students around Australia and presented data from 12 months of this chat to the Speech Pathology Australia conference.

Bronwyn's research work has informed development of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) legislation and rules, and other Australian government policies particularly in relation to the support needs of people with severe and multiple disabilities and their carers, including management and respiratory and oral health for people with disability and dysphagia in hospital and residential care.

Bronwyn has extensive academic teaching experience and in promoting the expertise of people with a lived experience of communication and swallowing disorders in lectures. Bronwyn's teaching is profoundly inclusive. She has proactively developed and provided professional development for speech pathologists, health staff and carers and contributed to curricular for related TAFE courses. She was integral to the development of teaching and learning materials for the Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care in NSW where the Swallowing and Nutrition Screening Checklist was developed and implemented statewide.

In 2013, she convened the inaugural Communicating Together Speech Pathology Research Symposium at the University of Newcastle, showcasing local, national and international speech pathology research with the aim of building emerging researcher networks.

Dr Bronwyn Hemsley has willingly devoted, and continues to dedicate, a large part of her exemplary speech pathology career to serving her professional association, vital research and scholarship, and high quality teaching and learning. In so doing, she has made significant changes to knowledge, communication and understanding within speech pathology in Australia and globally, and between and across the many allied health, medical and scientific disciplines involved with people with severe communication impairment.

Life Membership

LIFE MEMBERSHIP IS THE HIGHEST PUBLIC PROFESSIONAL HONOUR THE ASSOCIATION AWARDS TO MEMBERS AND IS AWARDED TO SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AND COMMITTED SERVICE TO THE ASSOCIATION AND PROFESSION OVER MANY YEARS. IN 2016 THE ASSOCIATION AWARDED LIFE MEMBERSHIP TO TWO EXCEPTIONAL MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION, ALAN HOWARTH AND DR SUZE LEITAO.

Alan Howarth

The Association recognises the pioneering leadership and outstanding contribution that Alan Howarth has made to the profession of speech pathology in Australia, particularly in the state of Victoria.

During his almost sixty years of practice as a speech pathologist and educator, Alan has contributed outstanding service to Speech Pathology Australia. Alan has been a past National President of the College of Speech Therapists and President of the Victorian Council of Speech Therapy. He has contributed significantly to the speech pathology profession through clinical and administrative leadership, academic and clinical education, government liaison, promotion of speech pathology and service to the community.

As a qualified and experienced teacher, Alan completed his speech therapy training in 1956 in Melbourne, commencing employment with the Victorian Department of Education as its first full time speech therapist in Geelong, tasked with developing the clinical services in that region. Alan played an integral role in building staff, resources and a strong, highly respected presence in the schools and medical community of the regional city of Geelong and its satellite towns and communities.

Alan's passion for language development and its effect on literacy acquisition has led to many years as an authority in this area of clinical services. His enthusiasm and ability to inspire excellent clinical skills in his peers and undergraduate students has been a hallmark of his working life, as has the pathway he created for clinicians in the treatment of language and literacy issues in school aged children. He has been a member of the Association throughout his career as a practising speech pathologist for 59 years, and he is currently working in private practice in Geelong.

Alan played a significant role in the clinical education of speech pathologists. As part of a growing Department of Education speech pathology team, Alan was responsible for organising in service training for all Victorian therapists. He has made a significant contribution to undergraduate clinical training over all levels, providing

structured training and supervision to students from Melbourne, many of whom still recall their Geelong clinic placements. Alan's quest to help his clients achieve the best outcomes meant that he had a continuous thirst for knowledge which he translated into pioneering treatment regimens for example in the area of verbal dyspraxia.

Alan was a member of the Australian College of Speech Therapists committee that was responsible for assessing final year undergraduate students prior to the establishment of the state based training schools. He represented the college in setting and marking exam papers.

As a Government employed therapist, Alan has had a rich history of Government liaison and was involved in many innovative practices and roles whilst responsible for the development and management of comprehensive clinical service delivery according to the model of the time. Alan was at the forefront advocating for career pathways for speech pathologists in the Education Department.

Alan has always been an important promoter of speech pathology in his local community as a representative on committees, in his role as a school principal, as a fundraiser for equipment and as a member of a multidisciplinary team.

As a private practitioner Alan accepted a caseload of adults and children so he has made a substantial contribution to the lives of many people. He is regularly contacted or stopped in the street by parents keen to relate success stories of their children graduating, working overseas, completing apprenticeships and relaying special thanks for the change his intervention and guidance has had on their lives.

During the process of researching Alan's professional history, many of his colleagues made similar comments in awe of his extensive experience and his interest in new research and how it might translate into current practice. There was an overall appreciation of Alan's pioneering role for the profession. In the opinion of one speech pathologist, "we coasted in his slipstream to a positive public profile".



LIFE MEMBER

Alan completed his speech therapy training in 1956 in Melbourne, commencing employment with the Victorian Department of Education as its first full time speech therapist.

Dr Suze Leitão

Suze has been a highly active member of Speech Pathology Australia and in the profession of speech pathology since 1986, having been awarded Fellowship in 2008.

Suze is passionate about making a difference to both her clients and the profession, she has worked across a range of settings in Western Australia including working in teaching hospitals, schools, private practice and at a university.

During the eighties and nineties while working at a language development centre, Suze was instrumental in promoting best practice, establishing a series of professional development workshops for clinicians by clinicians. These shared workshops fostered a collaborative relationship among paediatric speech pathologists working in Perth.

Suze has always been passionate about providing evidence based, theoretically driven intervention to her clients, even before these terms were in common usage. For example when confronted with a large caseload of children with significant language impairment within a school setting in the late eighties, Suze set to work within a collaborative consultation model to develop a new service delivery model. This resulted in an article published in ACQ in the early 1990s. This work, and the resulting article had a significant impact on service delivery in Western Australia. During this time Suze was also mentoring speech pathologists working with similar populations, in both country and metropolitan areas.

Based on her body of work, she has developed a number of protocols to assess discourse in the paediatric population. Two of these, *Peter and the Cat and Squirrel* story, are commercially available in hard copy and as APPs and used by speech pathologists throughout Australia and internationally.

Suze has acted as a mentor to many speech pathologists in Western Australia and nationally, on both a formal and informal basis for a number of years. This has included mentoring people with limited experience as well as acting as a mentor and sounding board for colleagues with many years experience. She currently acts as a formal mentor to speech pathologists working in schools for children with a language learning impairment, and speech pathologists working in the justice system.

Suze has significant editorial experience, having served as Co-editor of ACQ and on several editorial Boards.

In May 2006, Suze was appointed to a senior member position on the Speech Pathology Australia Ethics Board – a consultative board to the Speech Pathology Australia Board of Directors. She was subsequently appointed to the position of Chair of the Association's Ethics Board in May 2010, and to date has served two full, three year terms as Chair and was recently appointed for a third term.

Suze demonstrates a commitment to promotion of proactive ethical practice for speech pathologists, through her leadership on the Ethics Board.

Significant achievements have been made by the Ethics Board during Suze's tenure as Chair. The hard copy Ethics Education Package was updated and re-published in 2014, and is in the process of further development. Suze is one of two Ethics Board members who have undertaken work to create two online 'modules', which will present the educational material in an interactive online format, as a contemporary resource.

Suze has made significant contributions to ethics education within the profession. She is a regular contributor to the Ethics column in JCPSLP, and previously ACQ, she teaches the application of the Speech Pathology Australia 'Code of Ethics' within clinical education, and provides professional development activities on ethical decision making to speech pathologists in Western Australia, as well within the annual Ethics Workshop at the National Conference.

The Association benefits substantially from the time and consideration Suze shows in her support and contribution to Speech Pathology Australia's ethics, professional practice and policy and advocacy projects. Suze is generous with her time and knowledge, strives to ensure she is available to provide timely support and advice and assists in the application of the Code of Ethics to support members with their ethical reasoning in challenging situations.



LIFE MEMBER

Suze has always been passionate about providing evidence based, theoretically driven intervention to her clients, even before these terms were in common usage.

Making Waves roundup



THE SPEECH PATHOLOGY AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE (CPC) WAS DELIGHTED TO WELCOME OVER 760 ATTENDEES TO PERTH FOR “MAKING WAVES”.

THE CONFERENCE MADE for a busy hub of activity in Perth with delegates having the opportunity to attend keynote, clinical and research presentations across a range of practice areas that challenged and broadened how speech pathologists practice. The quality of the presentations was exceptional, as delegates were all encouraged to “make waves” of their own in their day to day practice.

MASTERCLASSES

Emeritus Professor Pamela (Pam) Enderby started the Conference week presenting her masterclass ‘10 principles for improving interdisciplinary practice’ to a keen and admiring audience. Participants engaged in this essential topic with many strategies and ideas raised.

Dr Susan Ebbels followed with a similarly large and captivated audience listening to her presentation on ‘The current evidence base for school-aged children with language impairments’. The audience was provided with extensive information and frameworks to take back to their workplace.

The masterclasses were very well received with discussions continuing on into the Conference week. A number of delegates attended both sessions highlighting the esteem in which both presenters are held.

OPENING ADDRESS

The Hon John Day MLA, Western Australian Minister for Health, Culture and the Arts formally opened the Conference and discussed the importance of the speech pathology profession in the wider Western Australian health system and in particular, the role speech pathologists play in the public health and hospital system in his state. He congratulated the Association on drawing together a diverse scientific program and emphasised the importance of conferences such as ours in ensuring that clinical practice is informed by the latest evidence.

KEYNOTE AND INVITED PRESENTERS

Emeritus Professor Pamela (Pam) Enderby’s keynote presentation ‘Speech pathology as the Masterchef: Getting the right ingredients and stirring the pot’ was an excellent start to the Conference, ensuring that the audience was immediately enmeshed with the Conference theme. Emeritus Professor Enderby challenged delegates to review all aspects of their practice in order to create and follow the best recipe, to ensure the greatest outcomes. Pam’s humble nature and great sense of humour engaged all in attendance as she inspired delegates from all facets of the profession.

Winthrop Professor Andrew Whitehouse was invited to present the 2016 Elizabeth Usher Memorial Lecture titled, ‘Can we

15 – 18 May 2016

Crown Perth, Western Australia

prevent disability in autism through infant interventions: Re-writing the rulebook’. Andrew’s extremely engaging and informative presentation was another highlight for delegates, regardless of their area of clinical interest. The lecture was thought-provoking, presenting the latest research in a clear and entertaining way, with audience members enthused by Andrew’s passion for his work.

Dr Susan Ebbels’ keynote address, ‘Carrying out intervention research in clinical practice’ discussed the importance and value of clinical research, providing practical strategies and frameworks to do so. Susan’s presentation included extensive examples within a structure that can be used by clinicians for appraising and contributing to the evidence, and she encouraged all delegates that research in clinical practice is achievable and realistic.



FROM LEFT Emeritus Professor Pamela (Pam) Enderby, Winthrop Professor Andrew Whitehouse, and Dr Susan Ebbels.

POSTERS

There was an impressive array of 60 posters on display during the Conference. These were universally well-received and represented a very diverse range of clinical and research topics. Many poster authors were engaged in deep discussion during the formal poster sessions.

Congratulations to all authors on the high calibre of the work presented. However, a special congratulations goes to the Best Poster Award prize winners – David Trembath, Elizabeth Armstrong, Eleanor Sugden and Kathryn Ramsay.

BEST STUDENT PRESENTATION AWARD

This year the CPC would like to congratulate Charlotte Howland for her presentation, ‘Sound Start Study: Realisation of grammatical morphemes by children with speech sound disorders’.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Under the co-editorship of Dr Mary Claessen and Associate



Professor Anne Whitworth, the keynote presentations and selected research papers will comprise the Conference Proceedings to be published in the International Journal of Speech-Language Pathology. The special issue is the third issue each year. The papers from the 2016 Conference will appear in 2017 Volume 19 Issue 3; articles will appear early online before that.

PRE-REGISTRATION

Many delegates took the opportunity to register, enjoy a cocktail and catch up with friends and colleagues while visiting the exhibitor stands.

WELCOME RECEPTION FRASER'S KINGS PARK

Delegates who had entered the Aspects \$100 gift voucher competition went into the draw and the lucky winner was Megan Storm. We hope she enjoyed the shopping.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Congratulations to all the deserving award winners announced at the AGM. It is always a wonderful occasion to share the amazing achievements of our colleagues. To those recipients of awards, our most sincere congratulations. To read more about the award winners turn to page 5.

Special thanks also goes to our Conference sponsors: Guild Insurance (Conference dinner and photo booth), and Nestlé Health Science (lanyards).



TOP LEFT Delegates enjoying the stands in the Exhibition Hall and the Conference Opening Address by The Hon. John Day MLA.

The Exhibition Hall for this year's Conference was again filled with a range of novel, intriguing and high quality products and services. Thank you to the many exhibitors for their ongoing support of our National Conference – and for the wonderful prizes donated that were drawn at the Conference Dinner. Congratulations to the lucky winners. We would like to also congratulate Meter Australia for winning The Best Exhibition Stand prize, which is one complimentary exhibition stand at the 2017 National Conference in Sydney.

This year's Conference culminated in the 'Riding the waves: Beach Party' themed Gala dinner at Crown Perth. Thank you to everyone for embracing the theme and turning out in your colourful and imaginative attire. Many of those at the dinner took the opportunity to capture their style (with a few embellishments) in the very popular photo booth which was kept very busy for the entire night. The night was off to a sensational start with the Variety Children's Choir and their extraordinary performance, complete with singing, dancing, ribbon twirling and more! The dance floor didn't take long to get started after that, and it was a fantastic celebratory atmosphere.

To the talented Deborah Hersh who chaired the Scientific Planning Committee and ensured such a high quality program, and the other fabulous members of the conference planning committee, Natalie O'Brien, Ashleigh Pascoe and Kathryn Ramsay, thank you for your enthusiasm, commitment, work-ethic and humour, we made an awesome team.

In addition a big thank you must go to the student volunteers; Sarah Gardner, Lisa Goddard, Sarah-Jane Norris, Kylie Olsen, Nickee Priestman, Anna Faulkner, Niall Taylor and Jeanette Wang



Student volunteers assisted at the registration desk. Delegates enjoying the welcome reception. CPC committee members Deborah, Ashleigh, Natalie, Kathryn, and Michelle announcing the exhibitors prize. Best stand at the Conference was by Meter Australia.



who worked alongside Pam at the Conference registration desk, assisted the session chairs and ensured that delegates found their intended sessions. Without you the Conference would not run as smoothly so we really appreciate all your time and effort.

I would like to extend a very big thank you to the Board of Speech Pathology Australia and National Office staff for their ongoing support and advice during the Conference planning period. Making Waves also would not have come to fruition without the dynamic Pamela Richards, National Conference Manager. Pam is the backbone to the Conference, and managed the Conference planning process with extraordinary organisation, poise and good humour. Her leadership and extensive experience were essential in bringing the Conference together, including every last phone call, brainstorm and decision that was happening behind the scenes! The Conference Planning Committee really appreciated Pam's support every step of the way, and thoroughly enjoyed her involvement with the team. The CPC would also like to thank Kobi Davis, an event management student from Victoria University, who worked with Pam leading up to and during the Conference, she was a great asset and did a fantastic job.

DELEGATE FEEDBACK SURVEY

Thank you to the 415 members who took the time to complete and submit their survey. Congratulations to Wendy Heywood from

Tasmania, who was the lucky winner of the complimentary Conference registration to the 2017 National Conference in Sydney WiFi.

All feedback, positive and constructive, has been carefully collated and will form the basis of a detailed report to the Board in August. There will also be direct feedback to the 2017 Sydney CPC to assist them in their planning processes.

Finally, on behalf of the Conference Planning Committee we would like to thank all delegates who attended Making Waves in Perth. Delegates produced a vibrant, positive, and engaging atmosphere that made for an enjoyable and memorable event.



Michelle Quail
2016 Conference Convenor
Pamela Richards
National Conference Manager



2017 Conference launch

28 – 31 May 2017 International Convention Centre, Sydney

Launch of WiFi

WiFi: Working & investing in Future Innovations was officially launched in Perth. Congratulations to Peta Mawson who was sitting in the 'lucky seat' and won the complimentary registration to SPA2017. The 2017 Conference Planning Committee (CPC) will look forward to bringing you updates about the National Conference in each issue of *Speak Out*.

Keynote and Invited Speakers

To stay true to the conference theme, the 2017 CPC is looking for innovative and future thinking keynote speakers and looks forward to introducing them to you soon.

Call for Papers

The online submission is available at www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au and the Professional Education link and then National Conference 2017. We would encourage you to spread the news through your many networks, colleagues and friends, wherever they are in the world. Send them this link to the Association website where they can read more about the National Conference and submission process.

We have also included, on the Conference website, instructions and guidelines for making submissions, which we hope will give you some assistance before you proceed to the actual submission process. Please remember that delegates will only have access to the title of the paper and author(s) names when they register and select sessions they wish to attend, so please carefully think about your presentation title. This will help ensure that the audience you wish to attract and those who have the greatest interest in your topic will attend.

While the closing date for submissions is Wednesday 14 September 2016, there is no need to wait until the due date to submit your proposal. This will assist the Scientific Program Chair (SPC) in managing the review process and help us develop the Conference program in a timely manner. Early review will also give authors more time to consider any reviewer comments.

Call for Reviewers

The Scientific Program Chair (SPC) is becoming increasingly busy as papers, posters and workshops are now being submitted. These submissions need to be reviewed, and the SPC is encouraged by the response so far. If additional reviewers are required an announcement will be made within the August issue of *Event eNews*.

Feedback

The 2016 CPC has shared with us the feedback from this year's Conference survey. Over the next few months we will read through the information and where possible incorporate the suggestions/recommendations. We would like to congratulate Wendy Heywood from Tasmania who won the complimentary 2017 National Conference Registration.

Harmony Turnbull
2017 Conference Convenor
Pamela Richards
National Conference Manager





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Perth, WA Sep 8-10, 2016 Adelaide, SA Oct 18-20, 2016
Brisbane, QLD Oct 5-7, 2016 Sydney, NSW 2016 (TBC)

See our complete workshop schedule at www.hanen.org/workshops

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- Easy & effective safety protocols for carers

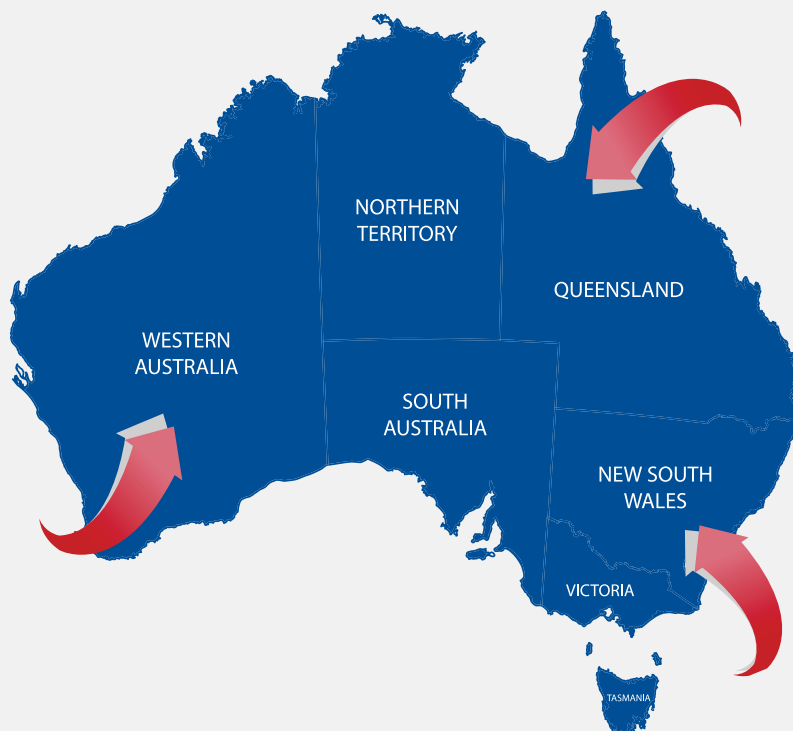
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“The SP2030 conversations made it clear that this continues to be an important issue for the profession, and that members wish to see the Association actively pursuing national registration.”

Talking ‘National Registration’ with Governments

FOLLOWING THE APRIL meeting of the COAG Health Council (all the Health Ministers in Australia), Speech Pathology Australia wrote to every Health Minister and Shadow Health Minister seeking meetings to discuss including speech pathology in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. A media release was also distributed. The move followed the announcement that the Health Council is progressing the inclusion of the paramedic profession into the National Scheme.

As members will be aware, Speech Pathology Australia has twice submitted applications for the profession to be included in the National Scheme. Every state and territory health minister needs to agree to include speech pathology in the National Scheme for it to occur.

Throughout June and July, representatives from Speech Pathology Australia met with a range of elected officials in different states and territories to discuss the issue of national registration. The SP2030 conversations made it clear that this continues to be an important issue for the profession, and that members wish to see the Association actively pursuing national registration.

In general, discussions with Shadow Ministers have been supportive of inclusion of our profession in the national registration scheme. Some have committed to raising the issue in their Parliaments, and/or considering it as a formal policy position of their Shadow Cabinets. In general, meetings with Ministers have also been productive but with no firm

commitments to take the issue to the COAG Health Council even if some are supportive of our inclusion.

We have also received written responses from a number of state Ministers for Health in reply to our requests to meet with them. Some of these responses have indicated that the National Code of Conduct for Health Workers and the state/territory Health Care Complaints Commission processes are considered to be sufficient protection of the public from any risks posed by speech pathology practice. We vehemently disagree with this. The Code of Conduct is a bare minimum expectation of health workers and our profession holds itself up to considerably higher standards of conduct. Furthermore, the formal complaints processes are difficult to access for those with communication impairment.

Speech Pathology Australia continues to argue to the Health Ministers that the protections of public safety afforded by national registration needs to be extended to people receiving speech pathology services in Australia.

Our recent conversations with elected officials have indicated that work is underway by the COAG Health Council to revise the application criteria used to assess if a profession should be included in the National Scheme. This is a positive development, as it is the view of the Association that the existing selection criteria is seriously flawed, overly focused on immediate and acute clinical risks and without consideration of long term repercussions of poor practice or vulnerability of clients. This work is anticipated to be completed by the



Shadow Minister for Health and Science Roger Cook with Speech Pathology Australia CEO Gail Mulcair. Western Australia Health Minister John Day (centre) with SPA CEO Gail Mulcair (left) and SPA Manager Policy Advocacy Ronelle Hutchinson. Below is Shadow Minister for Health and Ambulance Services MP John-Paul Langbroek with SPA National President Gaenor Dixon.

end of 2016 and over the coming months there will be an opportunity for the Association to once again provide a written application for the speech pathology profession to be included.

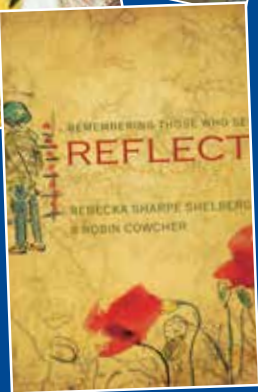
To support an application for inclusion in the National Scheme, Speech Pathology Australia will request that all members complete a short online survey (to be sent out via email in coming months) to provide your views on support for national registration and information about your willingness to pay registration fees as part of a National Scheme. This information, along with evidence of quality and safety risks associated with our care, will be included in an application made by the Association on behalf of all speech pathologists in Australia.

Ronelle Hutchinson
Manager, Policy and Advocacy



Book of the Year Awards Update

Shortlisted books announced



A selection of the 53 books shortlisted in Speech Pathology Australia's Book of the Year Awards.

THERE WERE 154 titles nominated for the Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards in 2016. All of those books have now been shortlisted. A complete list of all the shortlisted books in the five categories is available from the Association's website.

The books are judged in five separate categories: Birth to 3 years; Three to 5 years; Five to 8 years; Eight to 10 years; and Indigenous Children.

In the Birth to 3 years category, *Let's Read* undertakes the task of shortlisting books in this category on behalf of the Association. The Association thanks *Let's Read* for its ongoing support and involvement in 2016.

The Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards are now in their thirteenth year. The awards would not be possible without the ongoing support of Australian publishers and the authors of children's books. Just as importantly, the awards only remain viable and feasible because of the time and effort of Association members who volunteer as 'shortlisters' and judges.

A very big thank you must therefore go to our shortlisters: Claire Monsour (Three to 5 years), Alexandra Cole (Five to 8 years), and Loretta Blackall (Eight to 10 years), for their fabulous job in shortlisting the 118 books nominated in their three categories.

The baton has now passed to the judges who are currently reading all the books shortlisted in the five categories. Again, a huge thank you to all those members who undertake the duties of being a Book of the Year judge.

The winners in all five categories will be announced on Thursday, 13 October. Like last year, the awards ceremony is being held in Brisbane at the State Library of Queensland.

Hall of Fame

The Board of Directors has accepted and approved a nomination for the Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Australia Hall of Fame (Children's Language and Literature Award). The nomination was received

from Association member, Tamara Lay, and was for a prolific and successful Australian children's book author. The nominated author will be announced at the awards ceremony where she will be in attendance to receive her Hall of Fame award.

Thank you to the 2016 judges...

Birth to 3 years category

Christine Marschner
Lauren Haskins
Lyn Goodwin
Melissa Hughes
Samantha Turner
Nisrine El-Chouefati
Meryl Lai Kong Ling
Rebecca Star

Three to 5 years category

Jacqui Collins
Michelle Petersen
Kylie McKenna
Delwyne Stephens
Inge Gaudin
Samantha White
Angela Canning
Lindsay Potgieter

Five to 8 years category

Danielle Ryan
Kara Breitenbach
Kate Kinch
Jaimee Dutton
Le En Cheryl Ye
Katherine Sanchez
Pam Reed
Anna Gilmour

Eight to 10 years category

Tennille Burns
Honnie Joan Lonsdale
Jacqui Hanna
Christine Beal
Kerrin McKeown
Natasha Trajkovski
Melissa Lovell
Catherine Collins

Indigenous Children Category

Janice Zee
Jessica Shillinglaw
Rebecca Reinking
Olivia Watchman
Tanya Druce
Erin Coonan
Alexandria Trichilo
Kate Sharma

Creating futures by changing lives Speech Pathology Week 2016

EACH YEAR SPEECH Pathology Australia hosts Speech Pathology Week to create awareness of those in our community who have a communication or swallowing difficulty. This year the theme is *Speech Pathologists – Creating Futures!*

The week highlights the important role that speech pathologists play in assisting Australians with a communication or swallowing difficulty.

Communication skills underpin the ability to read and write, get a job, and enjoy family and friends.

Speech pathologists work with people to change lives and build opportunities. Speech pathologists are creating futures!

Those first few paragraphs come straight from one of the 70,000 mini-mags that have been produced and distributed throughout Australia for Speech Pathology Week. Last year, the Speech Pathology Week campaign included a national postcard. This year the postcard has been replaced by a postcard-sized 12 page booklet or mini-mag. A mini-mag accompanied this edition of *Speak Out*.

The small booklet promotes Speech Pathology Week, the speech pathology profession, and Speech Pathology Australia. It also explains what a speech pathologist is, how to find one, and how to become one.

Individual Speech Pathology Week kits have been distributed to more than 240 Association members who registered to receive one. In addition, a larger kit was sent to the Association's seven Branches. The kits include posters, magnets, stickers, wristbands, balloons, and flyers. Campaign collateral can also be downloaded from the Association's website, including a template press release, for use by members to promote the week with their local media. Visit www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/week

Finally, help promote Speech Pathology Week through social media. Where appropriate, remember to include the Association's handle @SpeechPathAus and/or the hashtag #SPWeek

Michael Kerrisk

Communications and Marketing Manager



ONLINE CLINIC MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

Power Diary is an Australian Online Clinic Management System that is affordable, easy-to-use and suitable for **solo speech pathologists** through to **large multi-location practices**. **Trusted by over 13 000 users!**

FEATURES

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How to manage negative online reviews:

Four evidence-based strategies and a response template

AS THE PREVALENCE OF HEALTH REVIEW SITES CONTINUES TO GROW THE NEED TO MANAGE POOR REVIEWS WILL BECOME A NECESSARY PROCESS FOR SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS.

by David Kinnane

ONLINE REVIEW SITES are fairly new in speech pathology. Examples of such sites include Whitecoat and Care Navigator. These exist to promote consumer rights and choice.

Negative comments on review sites, or on social media platforms like Facebook, hurt. They may make us angry, embarrassed, sleepless or even sick. They can also sap team morale, tarnish reputations and lose us business. When we consider how to act in response to a negative review, we're bound by legal and ethical rules, e.g. about advertising and privacy. Even if reviews are wrong or fabricated, we can't always respond.

With more competition, and more review sites starting up, managing reviews will probably become more important. Some businesses - e.g. restaurants and hotels - have been dealing with online reviews for years. We can learn from their experiences. For example, hospitality-sector research shows that online reviews:

1. Can attract a wide audience, are perceived by consumers as credible and trustworthy and play an important part in shaping client opinions and purchasing decisions;
2. Give us a chance to fix problems and improve services;
3. Are usually triggered by a negative experience, and motivated

by strong emotions (e.g. frustration, anger), a wish to educate other consumers, or even economic gain (e.g. from unethical competitors). Some reviews may be heat-of-the-moment rants, others logical and thought through. Some may be trivial, others serious. Some may be accurate, others fake. Some may be shared with just a couple of followers or a small group, others may go viral. Some may be posted by clients you know, others anonymously.

4. May name and shame you or individual staff members, or be discriminatory or defamatory.

So how should we manage online reviews?

To follow are four, evidence-based strategies:

Prevent

- Ensure you communicate effectively about your services so that client expectations match what you offer.
- Improve service delivery to reduce problems.
- "Check in" with clients more often: fix small problems before they become big.

All sensible ideas. But professional services are intangible (i.e. not 'objects' that can be seen or touched), and client expectations, preferences and criteria for determining service quality are variable. Prevention efforts alone will not stop negative reviews.

Protect

- Shape client complaint behaviours:
- Guide clients on where and how to give feedback.
- Request clients to give you feedback directly, before going online.
- Have a suggestion box.
- Provide satisfaction questionnaires, and encourage clients to use them (rather than going online).

Track reviews and respond, either:

- privately: by email, with a phone call, or face-to-face; or
- publicly.

In hospitality, public responses are common. Major review sites have guidelines on how to do it. They encourage restraint, courtesy, a focus on specific concerns and a positive outcome. Good responses acknowledge the problem, apologise for the business' contribution to it, explain what happened, and commit to action. But it's also important to support staff and others affected by the review.

When responding publicly, speech pathologists can't disclose health-related or other personal information about clients. We must balance any business need to respond against our legal and ethical obligations to clients and others. Here is an example of the type of response I would use on a public review site:

"Thank you for taking the time to post a review. As [clinic director], I'm sorry to hear about your experience. I want to do what we can to get to the bottom of what happened and to sort it out. It wouldn't be legal or ethical for me to discuss anything personal or about your healthcare on a public forum like this. But I would be grateful for an opportunity to discuss your concerns confidentially to see what we can do. Please feel free to call me any time, or send me an email at [_____] so I can get in touch with you at your convenience. Thank you again for your comments. I'm committed to providing a quality service. I welcome all feedback – positive or negative – that helps us to improve our services for clients. I look forward to speaking with you soon."

Most review sites have moderation guidelines that prohibit defamatory or offensive comments. If you think a review breaches user guidelines, alert the review site and ask them to remove the offending review.

Balance negatives with positives

In hospitality, businesses encourage reviews from happy clients to provide a balanced picture. Speech pathologists can't do this because testimonials are subjective and may mislead other consumers about the applicability of your services to their needs. We can – and should – gather and share unsolicited positive feedback with staff. But we cannot encourage or share this kind of feedback with the public under SPA's advertising policy.

Keep things in perspective

Counteract the stress of reviews, e.g.:

- enlist support by discussing them with colleagues, families and friends, including through professional networks;



We must balance any business need to respond against our legal and ethical obligations to clients and others.

- support staff affected by a review;
- manage your stress, e.g. with yoga, meditation, exercise, etc.; and recognise reviews are temporary and often manageable.

These simple strategies combat feelings of isolation and powerlessness and help keep negative reviews in perspective.

In summary, health-based online review sites help clients to make choices. They can help us to improve services. But they can also inflict stress. To manage poor reviews, we can use the strategies outlined above. But, as professionals, we must also be mindful of our ethical and legal duties to clients, the public and to each other.

David Kinnane is a Sydney based Speech Pathology Australia CPSP member. Prior to becoming a speech pathologist David worked as a lawyer for 15 years.

Further reading: Bradley, G.L., Sparks, B.A., Weber, K. (2015). The stress of anonymous online reviews: a conceptual model and research agenda. International Journal of Contemporary Hospitality Management, 27(5), 739-755.



Advertising: Review websites

THERE HAS RECENTLY been an increase in the number of questions from members and discussions with National Office advisors regarding reviews or ratings on third party or independent directory or review websites.

The guidelines for registered professions have been consulted, to bring SPA recommendations to our members into line with other allied health practice.

SPA's position on these third party websites is:

According to the Code of Ethics - Advertising Policy, SPA members are not responsible for removing (or trying to have removed) unsolicited testimonials or reviews/ratings published on a website or in social media over which they do not have control.

Members are not expected to monitor social media for information that may be written about their speech pathology services in forums that are not under the member's control.

It is permissible for members to allow the inclusion of their practice details on an independent third party directory, but members should not solicit testimonials, ratings or reviews

on these websites. Any information such as ratings, reviews or testimonials posted by another person on a third party website should not be shared, copied, or re-tweeted, as this could be considered to be advertising under the member's control.

If a member undertakes a formal, commercial arrangement with a third party or independent review website, then the entry for that members' practice will be considered under their control, and must not contain reviews, ratings or testimonials.

Members are also reminded of their ethical obligations to tell the truth and not use misleading ways to promote their services. These obligations prohibit the writing of reviews or ratings on the member's own entry or another speech pathologist's entry on a third party or review website.

For further information or if you have questions please contact Trish Johnson, Senior Advisor Ethics and Professional Issues at National Office tjohnson@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS FOR SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS



AN INTRODUCTION TO NDIS

Price - \$175 + GST

NDIS is a huge reform of disability services in Australia. Come along and learn what this might mean for you.

Presented by: **Dr. Lanie Campbell**

Target Audience: Speech Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Managers/business owners of allied health services

3 Hour Workshop

7th September 9.30am - 12.30pm

Sydney CBD



Dr. Lanie Campbell

Lanie spent the first 15 years of her career as a speech pathologist working in disability & health. She transitioned into research, completing a PhD in evidence-based practice and knowledge translation. She joined the Market & Sector division of the National Disability Insurance Agency soon after its launch in 2013, providing advice about how evidence relates to the NDIS legislation and decision-making and many other aspects of the implementation of the scheme. She continues to work as a consultant on projects related to NDIS. Lanie holds an adjunct position with the Faculty of Health Sciences, Disability and Community Research Group at the University of Sydney.

AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION - ASSESSMENT

Price - \$175 + GST

AAC assessment is ongoing and requires a supportive team approach. This course will detail the process and considerations to guide AAC assessment.

Presented by: **Anna Bech**

Target Audience: Speech Pathologist - Disability

2 Hour Workshop

30th September 10am - 12 Pm

Sydney CBD

AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION - LOW TECH AND HIGH TECH

Price - \$175 + GST

- * Low tech AAC options
- * Speech Generating Devices (SGD) option & features
- * Decision making process
- * Case examples of low tech AAC and SGDs

Presented by: **Anna Bech**

Target Audience: Speech Pathologist - Disability

2 Hour Workshop

30th September 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Sydney CBD

EYE GAZE FOR COMMUNICATION

Price - \$175 + GST

Eye gaze technology has developed greatly and become more accessible for clients. This course will provide an overview of considerations for eye gaze.

Presented by: **Anna Bech**

Target Audience: Speech Pathologist - Disability

2 Hour Workshop

20th October 1.30pm - 3.30pm

North Ryde, Sydney

AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION - IMPLEMENTATION

Price - \$175 + GST

The ultimate goal of implementation of AAC is for independent functional communication. This course will detail the process for planning and the range of strategies for supporting implementation

Presented by: **Anna Bech**

Target Audience: Speech Pathologist - Disability

2 Hour Workshop

20th October 5pm - 7 pm

North Ryde, Sydney



Anna Bech

Anna is a speech pathologist, specialising in Augmentative and Alternative Communication. Anna has over 15 years experience working as a speech pathologist with people with a disability and has specialised in Assistive Technology for the past 10 years. Anna has a passion in providing effective and evidence based support for clients and families to implement functional communication goals.

To find out more and enrol, visit health.worklearner.com.au or call **1300 789 961**



FROM LEFT Professional Education and Certification Senior Advisor Sharon Crane, SA CPD Coordinator Jessica Baggallay, Professional Education Administration National Office Anita Rodricks, WA CPD Coordinator Erin Masson and, QLD CPD Coordinator Tricia Chardon. While NSW CPD Coordinator Shirani Gomes was unable to travel, she joined in meeting via Facetime. See the image of Shirani on the next page.

Branch CPD Coordinators Meet

THE BRANCH CPD COORDINATORS RECENTLY MET AT NATIONAL OFFICE IN MELBOURNE TO SHARE INFORMATION, DISCUSS CPD MATTERS, AND PLAN FOR 2017.

Branch CPD committees are supported in the running of their events by paid staff based at National Office and CPD Coordinators in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia (who are all SPA members):

But how does this meeting benefit members?

Through:

- Sharing of information and coordinated planning of the 2017 PD program
- Coordinating Branch CPD input re: the National Tour speaker for 2017. Watch this space! We will be excited to bring you further news
- Improving systems and quality through review and updating of CPD policy and practice to improve processes and procedures
- Reviewing and strengthening communication channels with members re: CPD

Let's hear from those involved:

Sharon: For all but these two days per year when the CPD coordinators meet, we are spread across Australia and the communication between us is via lots of emails and scheduled group conference calls, plus individual calls. To be able to meet in person and work our way through a packed agenda is

incredibly valuable and productive. We unanimously appreciate the opportunity to share information and to input the opinions and suggestions that come from working closely with the wonderful CPD volunteers in each state and territory - Shirani with NSW CPD, Tricia in QLD CPD, Jessica with SA CPD, Erin with WA CPD, and Sharon and Anita with Vic, ACT, NT and Tas. Within our meeting, the respect that we have for each other allows us to undertake robust discussion when we need to and to thrash out CPD policies, practices and issues. We make the most of the time; from when we start the meeting early on Thursday morning we work through the agenda all day and then head out for dinner together, and then we start again Friday, meeting over breakfast and then back at National Office for the full day Friday meeting. Through these (now) annual meetings, there has been much benefit for PD at both a Branch and National PD level.

Jess: The CPD Coordinators' meeting was an invaluable two days spent at National Office. We used the time to discuss, collaborate and plan our state and national CPD calendars for next year, based on information gathered from members. Furthermore, we were involved with the planning of our national SPA 2017 CPD Live calendar. It is an exciting time to be involved in the Speech Pathology Australia Continuing Professional Development program!

As a newcomer to the group, I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity to attend the national coordinators' meeting and create personal networks with our national team - everyone is so lovely and it was wonderful to finally 'put faces to names' –something which is very difficult to achieve via our usual interactions of emails and teleconferences. Actively participating in reviewing and updating policies and procedures, financial and budget updates and training for the new website were beneficial for me to consolidate my knowledge of the role. I'm very much looking forward to the year ahead!

Anita: The two days spent discussing and planning future events, based on demand from our members, was invaluable. It was great to meet the coordinators face-to-face, and to welcome Jessica Baggallay to our close-knit team. It does make a big difference to meet colleagues face-to-face (and in Shirani's case via nesting box!). I am already looking forward to next year's meeting.

Erin: The CPD Coordinators' meeting is always such a busy and very productive meeting. It's great to have the opportunity to be involved in collaborative planning with other states to share topic and speaker ideas. We have such a cohesive national CPD team so it's also lovely to see familiar faces (and one new face) each year and build trans-border relationships. The food ain't bad either.

Tricia: This is an exciting time to be involved in Professional Development in SPA; the annual two day face-to-face meeting of Branch PD Coordinators gave us the opportunity to be informed and involved in the national vision. Planning for the 2017 events in each Branch and CPDLive is greatly enhanced by the shared knowledge of topics and speakers between the Branches. The new SPA website offers the PD Coordinators real time information on all aspects of each event as registration is taking place, and it was good to have IT Consultant Lisa on hand to talk us through and advance our skills. We were delighted to welcome Jess, new SA coordinator, to our ranks. While we missed having Shirani, present in person, we did enjoy her Facetime presence with us.

Shirani: Although I had my bags packed and ready to head to Melbourne my obstetrician decided not to give me a clearance letter to the airline based on the baby starting to engage a bit earlier at 35 weeks! Not wanting to risk having a baby on the plane I decided to stay put in Sydney! I was disappointed not being able to meet my colleagues in person which only happens once a year and is a big highlight for us coordinators. Thankfully I didn't feel that I missed out on too much, as the lovely CPD coordinators from the other states were very accommodating, making a little 'nesting box' for me to 'sit in' for the entire jam-packed two-day meeting via an iPad and FaceTime! I really felt like I was part of all the group discussions and was able to contribute NSW's feedback from all our members and CPD committee members over the two days! From the meeting I was able to take away some new ideas for workshops from the other states and develop a draft calendar of various events to submit for budget approval for 2017! All in all a very worthwhile two days I was lucky not to miss!

“We utilised the time to discuss, collaborate and plan our state and national CPD calendars for next year, based on information gathered from members.”



New South Wales CPD Coordinator Shirani Gomes joined in the discussions via Facetime inside a 'nesting box'.

National Office has a 1300 368 835 number to support members within Australia to have equity in phoning National Office for the cost of a local call.

When phoning about SPA Events, please have your SPA member number ready to help us assist you as efficiently as possible.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SUPERVISION AND MENTORING?

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT ADVISOR MEREDITH PRAIN EXPLAINS THE IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SUPERVISION AND MENTORING IN SPEECH PATHOLOGY PRACTICE.

I have recently received a few requests to register a mentoring partnership, however, after asking a few questions determined that the relationship was actually supervisory rather than mentoring. Three key features of supervisory relationships which differ from mentoring relationships in the SPA Mentoring program (different Mentoring programs will use different definitions) are:

1. The relationship is with a senior or more experienced clinician in the person's workplace
2. The supervisor is paid for the time they spend guiding and supporting the less experienced clinician in clinical issues related to their work
3. The contact is frequent – usually every 1 to 2 weeks or more.

While all of the above can be true of mentoring partnerships, I would encourage those involved to view it as a supervisory relationship given that Speech Pathology Australia recommends that all practicing clinicians receive supervision, and set in place structures to support this process. A useful document which contains

templates to support and guide and supervisory relationship can be found in the document: Supervision and Clinical Support Definitions and Templates which is located at:

www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/spaweb/Document_Management/Restricted/Supervision.aspx

Good supervisory and mentoring relationships will often look quite similar as they both provide opportunities for reflective practice, so it can be difficult to discern what the differences are. While the focus of both supervisory and mentoring relationships may seem to be to guide and support the less experienced clinician, one of the primary and fundamental purposes of supervision is to ensure the less experienced clinician has the competence to adequately perform the duties of their role, thus ensuring clinical accountability within the workplace. This is NOT the responsibility of a mentor.

See the below table for some other differences between supervision and mentoring.

If you have any questions regarding the differences between supervision

and mentoring, please contact Meredith Prain (Tuesdays only) psa@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au

For information about the SPA Mentoring Program, to register as a mentor, or to source a mentor if you are a mentee go to:

www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/SPAweb/Members/Mentoring/SPAweb/Members/Mentoring/Mentoring

For information about Supervision, including access to the SPA Supervision Standards or to be listed on the Supervision Register go to:

www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/SPAweb/Members/Mentoring/SPAweb/Members/Mentoring/Mentoring.aspx?hkey=8c0b9e93-e6c5-4cc4-87c0-9ed8d8851b7d

For any information regarding professional support including mentoring, supervision, peer support and PSR points and categories relating to these activities please contact Meredith Prain (Tuesdays only) psa@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au

Meredith Prain
Professional Support Advisor

Differences between mentoring and supervision

Mentoring	Supervision
Voluntary	A requirement in the workplace
Temporary	Usually for the duration of employment
Equality	Inherent power imbalance. The supervisor is usually of a higher classification and evaluates performance (see below)
Focus on growth and development of mentee	Focus on clinical governance and accountability
Non-evaluative	Linked to performance appraisal, may involve disciplinary discussions
Aims for the mentee to think through situations and work things out independently	Aims for the employee to have competencies required for their job.
Broader discussion at a theoretical and practical level	Focuses more on the current job or caseload
Longer-term broader focus	Focuses on aims within the current job and organisation
Paired according to needs and experience. Choice of mentor.	Paired more according to availability. Limited or no choice of supervisor
Mentoring relationship involves a collaborative and confirming style	Supervisor tends to provide an informational and skill-based guidance approach

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Registering as an NDIS Provider

SPEECH PATHOLOGY AUSTRALIA NATIONAL ADVISOR DISABILITY CATHY OLSSON HAS PREPARED THIS INFORMATION SHEET ON REGISTERING AS AN NDIS PROVIDER FOR INDIVIDUALS OR COMMUNITY PRIVATE PRACTICES.

INFORMATION SHEET:

Registering as an NDIS Provider (as individuals or community private practices)

This document is based on interpretation of the information on the NDIS website as of 20 July 2016, as well with NDIS provider support and jurisdictional authorities prior to that date. Any changes to information released by the NDIA after this time will not be incorporated in this article. Also be aware that some jurisdictions have not yet published information about the processes that would apply beyond the 'trial' (pre-1 July) and into transition period which has now been entered (post 1 July).

Please see the provider toolkit on the National Disability Insurance Scheme website provider section for current information about the provider registration process, including Module 4, Guide to Suitability.

BACKGROUND

The NDIA hasn't yet developed a national quality and safeguarding framework. Responsibility for quality and safeguarding of services provided to people with disability has been delegated to the states and territories, which have all determined their own credentialing requirements.

These appear to have been based on the processes that were required to become a specialist disability services provider i.e. to access state or territory Government managed funds in order to provide services specifically to people with disabilities.

The state and territory credentialing requirements will continue to be in place until the NDIA has developed and implemented a national credentialing and safeguarding framework, which may not be until the full scheme is implemented, in July 2019.

When the Provider Registration Guide to Suitability Requirements was first published, the NDIS appeared to be defining a specialist disability service as one which provided support items in the

Specialist Disability Services Registration Groups. At this time, additional credentialing for providers of supports typically provided by speech pathologists (such as those listed in the table to follow) was only expected if they were provided as an agent or employee of an organisation providing a support listed in the Specialist Disability Registration Groups.

An example may have been if you were a speech pathologist providing a mealtime assessment and guidelines (therapeutic supports) for a participant living in an accommodation services, as an employee (or contractor), of an organisation providing the support item Assistance with Daily Life Tasks in a Group or Shared Living Arrangement. While this wasn't made clear or explicit, it is apparent that some jurisdictions interpreted the guidelines in this way.

CURRENT SITUATION

The states and territories are responsible for quality and safeguarding of services provided to people with disabilities, including under the NDIS.

To register as an NDIS provider you are required to comply with the new Terms of Business and Guide to Suitability documents which are part of the provider toolkit on the NDIS website.

The NDIS has clarified that to provide any of the supports in a professional capacity, whether as an NDIS registered business or employee or contractor with an NDIS registered provider organisation, a speech pathologist must have current practising membership of Speech Pathology Australia.

The different states and territories also have safeguards for people working with children and/or vulnerable adults (i.e. police check, working with children, working with vulnerable adults check). Members should clarify the requirements and ensure that they have evidence of compliance.

Some state and territories also have additional requirements for credentialing, dependent on which supports providers are registering for (see below - Will I need to undertake additional credentialing/ compliance to register as an NDIS provider?)

REGISTRATION PROCESS

The NDIS posted new and additional information on the website in late June

2016, available via the Providers tab, in the provider toolkit. The provider toolkit has 11 modules, and includes information to assist providers to register and to understand and work with the myplace portal. The Guide to Suitability (Module 4) provides information about the general requirements to provide different supports, including profession and experience. It also includes information about specific credentialing requirements in different jurisdictions, if you are newly registering as a provider, or want to change or add to the support items you are registered to provide. This information is summarised in the table on the next page.

SUPPORT CLUSTERS WHICH SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS TYPICALLY REGISTER TO PROVIDE

Speech pathologists or speech pathology practices applying for NDIS registration typically apply to provide:

- Therapeutic supports
- early childhood supports
- comms and info equipment.

The new Guide to Registration now includes 'other health professional' or 'other' as professions suitable to provide support via the positive behavior supports and support coordination support items.

This would indicate that speech pathologists may now be seen as suitable to provide these registration groups. Being registered to provide items in this group may be useful if you need to access funding that has been specifically allocated against one of these support items in a participant's plan.

Speech Pathology is now also listed as an appropriate profession to provide hearing services, but this doesn't appear as a support item in the pricing and support document. There may be constraints around registering as a provider for this support.

The pricing and suitability guidelines can help identify which support items are seen as part of the scope of allied health professionals.

The Guide to Suitability on the NDIS website provides additional information regarding levels of experience and capacity expected, to register as a provider of supports.

Information from Pricing and Supports Document and Guide to Suitability Document

Support Purpose: Capacity Building

OUTCOME DOMAIN: IMPROVED DAILY LIVING SKILLS

Outcome Domains as per Pricing and Support Document:

NB - these are a guideline only - providers should select the outcome domain which the support being provided most closely aligns.

Professional Registration Groups Support Items	Item number and registration group	Profession Title (as per Guide to suitability)	Item description
Specialised group early childhood interventions	15_039_0118_1_3 Early Childhood supports	Speech Pathologist	Group based specialist interventions to assist a child with disability or developmental delay and their family in home, care, community and education settings. Maximum group of 4.
Specialised individual therapy for early childhood	15_040_0118_1_3 Early Childhood supports	Speech Pathologist	Individual specialist interventions to assist a child with disability or developmental delay and their family in home, care, community and education settings.
Transdisciplinary early childhood intervention	15_041_0118_1_3 Early Childhood supports	Speech Pathologist	A coordinated and integrated program where multiple professionals share responsibility in evaluating, planning and implementing supports to improve capacity of a child with disability or developmental delay and their family.
Group therapy	15_044_0128_1_3 Therapeutic supports	Speech Pathologist	Provision of interventions by more than one professional in a group session towards the participants agreed goals. Group of three.
Therapy assistant	15_045_0128_1_3 Therapeutic supports		Program to empower participants and improve interactions between participants and their social networks. Assistance to engage effectively in the community through a group approach to help achieve goals, gain insight into their lives and make informed decisions.
Individual assessment, therapy and/or training (includes assistive technology)	15_048_0128_1_3	Speech Pathologist	Assessment, therapy, training, fitting and any approved travel to deliver support.
Multidisciplinary team	15_049_0128_1_3	Speech Pathologist	Multidisciplinary model of support delivered to participants over six years to improve community outcomes for participant.
Specialised Hearing Services#	0119 Specialised Hearing Service	Speech Pathologist	No description provided

OUTCOME DOMAIN: COORDINATION OF SUPPORTS

Specialist Support Coordination	07_004_0132_8_3	Other	The provision of support coordination within a specialist framework necessitated by specific high level risks in the participant's situation. Support is time limited and focuses on addressing barriers and reducing complexity in the support environment, while assisting the participant to connect with supports and build capacity and resilience. It may also involve development of an intervention plan which will be put in place by disability support workers. When profession = other supports are delivered by allied health professionals with extensive experience in support coordination for people with complex needs.
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OUTCOME DOMAIN: IMPROVED RELATIONSHIPS			
Specialist behavioural intervention support*	11_022_0110_7_3 Specialised Positive Behaviour Support	Other Health Professional	Highly specialised intensive support interventions to address significantly harmful or persistent behaviours of concern. Development of behaviour support plans that temporarily use restrictive practices, with intention to minimise use of these practices.
Behaviour management plan, training in behaviour management strategies*	11_023_0110_7_3 Specialised Positive Behaviour Support	Other Health Professional	Training for carers and others in behaviour management strategies required due the person's disability.
Support Purpose: Capital supports			
Outcome Domain - Daily Living			
<i>Assistive Technology and Equipment Clusters (Support Category 2.05)</i>			
Communications and Information Equipment	0124 Comms and Info Equipment	Speech Pathology	This comprises of aids and equipment to assist participants with alternate communication or to access written or spoken communication via electronic or other means.

* These support items may now be seen as sitting within scope for some speech pathologists, i.e. if being provided within a structured team and with appropriate levels of experience and advanced development of competence.

Items separately listed in Guide to Suitability, but not in Pricing and Support Document.

WILL I NEED TO UNDERTAKE ADDITIONAL CREDENTIALING/COMPLIANCE TO REGISTER AS AN NDIS PROVIDER?

The information is relevant for speech pathology businesses which would not previously have been identified as a Specialist Disability Provider Service. Specialist disability services are organisations such as those previously funded through the state Government to provide services specifically and solely for people identified as having a disability under the state legislation.

Please see the table on the next page to determine whether provision of a support will require further credentialing in the jurisdiction in which you are applying for registration.

If it is required, you need to provide proof of compliance with state/territory quality and safeguard arrangements, issued either by the relevant state(s) and/or territory (ies) in which you wish to register or an authorised Third Party Verifier, as part of completing your registration with the NDIS and updating your *myspace* profile. This is also the time when you may need to provide evidence of practising membership of SPA, and completion of checks for working with children or vulnerable adults required in that jurisdiction.

NB: The NDIA is aware that some providers registration may be pending because they are not yet able to provide evidence that they comply with the jurisdictional requirements. In cases where a provider is already supporting a participant who has, or is about to be provided, with an NDIS plan, and the participant wishes to continue with that provider, participants/their families are able to request that the NDIS planner draw up a separate service

agreement with a provider so that they can continue to provide supports to a participant. Participants are also able to self-manage some parts of their plan, including a proportion of their trans-disciplinary support.

This information will be made available as a FAQ on the SPA website, and updated regularly as new or clearer information is provided.

Cathy Olsson
National Advisor Disability



Quick Guide: additional requirements within specific states and territories to complete registration and be compliant to provide supports under the NDIS (if the business is a sole provider, single discipline or multi-discipline private practice which offers services to the general public in addition to NDIS participants).		Additional credentialing process?
Grey highlighting = 'trial only' – information pending re arrangements for transition.		
South Australia	<p>Additional processes are required if providing some supports in the Professional Registration Group.</p> <p>The SA Government views any and all provision of Allied Health Services as specialist. Given that the application is to become an NDIS provider, providers will by definition be providing services to people with disability. Ergo: a speech pathologist providing NDIS funded supports is a specialist disability service.</p> <p>This applies to organisations providing single discipline supports and sole providers. Providers will need to apply to the South Australian government to meet the requirements for the Disability Service Provider Panel (DSPP) within the Department of Communities and Social Inclusion.</p>	<p>Yes—for all speech pathologists.</p> <p>Professions registered with AHPRA are only required to provide proof of registration.</p>
Tasmania	<p>Based on a conversation with the NDIS, it is unlikely that solo, single profession or even multi-professional providers will be required to undertake the due diligence assessment to become an NDIS provider of any supports which sit in the professional supports cluster or the assistive technology and equipment cluster.</p> <p>The supports which will trigger the requirement for the additional credentialing in Tasmania are listed on page 15 of the Provider Registration Guide to Suitability.</p>	Unlikely
Victoria	<p>If registering to provide specialised positive behaviour support, support plan coordination or early childhood supports, there are additional credentialing requirements for providers specialising in services specifically for the support of persons with a disability within the meaning of the Disability Act 2006 (not including psychosocial or early childhood intervention supports). Advice from a representative of the Victorian Government agency managing the quality and safeguarding for the sector is that allied health practices set up and providing services in the community, including to but not exclusively for people with disabilities would not be seen as “specialising in services specifically for the support of persons with a disability”, and therefore would not have to undertake additional credentialing.</p>	No
NSW	<p>Providers of the supports identified must comply with the NDIS Rules – rules for registered providers of supports and agency’s terms of business.</p> <p>Early Childhood supports providers must:</p> <p>Undertake third party verification to confirm organisational performance against the NSW Disability Service Standards or relevant comparable standards such as <i>National Standards for Disability Services</i> (2013)</p> <p>Providers of positive behaviour supports or support coordination must undertake a third party verification to demonstrate compliance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Disability Inclusion Act 2014</i> (NSW) and <i>Disability Inclusion Regulation 2014</i> (NSW), • All other relevant laws of NSW and Australia, • Applicable codes of conduct, professional standards or quality assurance standards, and • <i>NSW Disability Services Standards</i> (NSW DSS) or relevant comparable standards. Comparable standards include <i>National Standards for Disability Services</i>, <i>Attendant Care Industry Standards</i>, <i>Home Care Standards</i>, <i>Victorian Department of Human Services Standards</i> and <i>Queensland Human Services Quality Framework</i>. 	<p>Yes – if providing Individual or group multidisciplinary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early childhood interventions • Positive behavior support • Support plan coordination
Queensland	<p>Advice from a representative of the Queensland Government agency managing the quality and safeguarding for the sector is that allied health practices set up and providing services in the community, including to but not exclusively for people with disabilities would not be seen as specialising in services specifically for the support of persons with a disability and therefore would not have to undertake additional credentialing.</p>	<p>No – if registering to provide supports from the professional registration groups or assistive technology group.</p> <p>Yes – if registering to provide supports from the Specialist Disability Registration Group.</p>
ACT	<p>Within the ACT only new providers who are registering to provide supports within that sit within the Specialist Disability Registration Group in the Guide to Suitability are required to undertake credentialing.</p>	<p>No – if registering to provide supports from the professional registration groups or assistive technology group.</p> <p>Yes – if registering to provide supports from the Specialist Disability Registration Group</p>
Western Australia	No information available in the Guide to Suitability	Information is currently unavailable
Northern Territory	No information available in the Guide to Suitability	Information is currently unavailable

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Speech pathology in Vietnam

A student's perspective

THE UNIVERSITY OF Newcastle (UoN) offers the South East Asian stream, where students complete an elective to learn about speech pathology in South East Asia, and NGOs like Speech Pathology Australia and the Trinh Foundation. Students also complete an individualised learning project and undertake a clinical placement abroad. In April 2016, three fellow speech pathology students and I were lucky enough to complete this placement in Vietnam.

We spent the first two weeks at the Kianh Day Centre in Hoi An. The centre was established by Jackie Rafter, and there are 99 beautiful children who have the opportunity to learn in a supportive classroom environment. There is no speech pathologist employed at the centre, however with the input of volunteer speech pathologists, clinical educators, and student speech pathologists from UoN, children have been able to improve their communication skills. Under the supervision of speech pathologists, and in collaboration with teachers, teachers' aides, and interpreters, we worked with more than half of the children. Daily group therapy focused on articulation, picture exchange, social skills, and object/picture matching. Individual therapy saw us working with children with autism, cerebral palsy, visual and hearing impairments, and developmental delay. The skill level of teachers at the centre, who have not necessarily received formal training, was astounding.

In our final week, we travelled to Ho Chi Minh City to work with speech therapists at various hospitals. A speech therapist who previously graduated from the two-year post-graduate training course delivered at Pham Ngoc Thach University of Medicine provided joint clinical support with our clinical educator from Australia. We each had different experiences with assessments and therapy for voice, swallowing, early language, and speech. We spent time in the NICU ward with premature babies who had cleft lips and cleft palates, and witnessed the positive impact that speech pathology had in the lives of these children and their families. It was a wonderful experience to work collaboratively with the Vietnamese speech therapists and understand their role in delivering a service that is in such high demand.

Following my trip, a part of my individualised learning project now involves the production of a short video to raise awareness of the need for speech therapy services in Vietnam. While the Kianh Centre is an important step towards providing those services, there are still only 32 Vietnamese-trained speech therapists to support a population of 90 million. But the word is spreading,

and families are realising how speech therapy can help their loved ones. The Trinh Foundation welcomes volunteer speech pathologists to assist in the growth and development of speech pathology in Vietnam, and I would encourage more Australians to get involved.

On our trip there were challenges, but also opportunities. We saw the importance of flexibility, embraced holistic practice, and focused on the needs and culture of the people with whom we worked. For me, working collaboratively as a team, and considering speech pathology beyond our own borders, is a passion that will never die.

Chloe Jitts
*4th Year Student, Speech Pathology,
The University of Newcastle.*

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Chloe Jitts taking a group therapy session at the Kianh Centre.

TASMANIA



Tas 107 Members

as at June 2016

Explore the possibilities of your voice

ON JULY 2, I had the great pleasure of presenting, alongside NSW Speech Pathologist and Estill Voice Training Certified Master Teacher, Beth Atkins, a workshop entitled 'Explore the Possibilities of your Voice' at Hobart's Festival of Voices.

The Festival of Voices has been filling Hobart's winter air with the magic of the human voice for over 10 years, with a lively program of choral performances, cabaret, masterclasses and workshops. The festival attracts singers from across the globe to come together to sing, share knowledge, develop new skills and generally celebrate all things VOICE! So what better place to connect with a community of passionate voice-users and to raise the profile of our profession and our knowledge of vocal health?

It was with this thought that I approached Festival Director, Tony Bonney, to ask if he would be interested in working with the TAS Branch of

Speech Pathology Australia to produce a workshop as part of the *Where Does Speech Pathology Fit In To Your Life?*

campaign. He jumped at the opportunity to broaden the scope of the festival's engagement with voice, beyond simply singing, to incorporate aspects of vocal technique and preventative

health care for voice. The festival's theme this year was PARTICIPATION, which fit beautifully with the basic tenet of speech pathology, being to positively support people to participate in life through effective communication. Thus, a partnership was born!

Having recently completed Levels 1 and 2 of Estill Voice Training (EVT), I was keen to draw on this model, which has relevance in both therapeutic applications and singing technique – the perfect combination for this context. EVT is a certified training program, so I contacted Beth Atkins, whom I had met while doing my training, and invited her to bring her expertise to Hobart. Beth is the only speech pathologist in Australasia who

is also a Certified Master Teacher of EVT, and so is uniquely qualified to provide instruction in Estill methodology.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with EVT, a brief history: EVT was developed by Jo Estill in the late 1970s and 80s. Jo had been a professional opera singer who, motivated by a desire to understand how she was able to do what she did with her voice, became a voice scientist. Through her research she was able to identify the key structures in the vocal tract that affect the quality of the voice. She developed ways of isolating the movements of each individual structure and analysed corresponding changes in voice quality. She then "deconstructed" specific vocal styles (or voice qualities) to identify which "ingredients", or muscular movements/positions, were needed for each one. Her philosophy was that through vocal control comes artistic freedom. That is, when you can control exactly what you are doing with your voice, you can have the freedom to choose what you do and not be limited by habitual patterns of voicing. EVT was initially used in training singers, but the therapeutic possibilities were eventually recognised and speech pathologists have been using the methods for around 30 years in the treatment of functional voice disorders.

EVT is usually taught in a five-day course, so this two-hour workshop was a mere morsel of the usual feast! Our aims were these: to give participants an experience of singing in a couple of Estill's voice qualities with a new level of understanding and awareness of their vocal mechanism; to impart the importance of developing healthy techniques for voicing in order to maintain vocal health; and to raise awareness of speech pathology as a profession and our involvement in the area of voice. We had a small-ish but enthusiastic group of participants, comprised of both singers and non-singers, including several speech pathologists. The feedback we received on the day was extremely positive. Several participants called out for "more! more!" Clearly their appetites only whetted!

We are so fortunate to have the Festival of Voices here in Hobart, for the life that it breathes into our cold winter. To be able to bring the knowledge of our profession into the sphere of this world-class arts festival was both a pleasure and a privilege. I hope that this may be a partnership which continues and grows in the future.

Mariam Seeney
Speech Pathologist



Mariam Seeney & Beth Atkins
"Explore the Possibilities of your Voice" workshop

TASMANIA



TAS 107
Members
as at June 2016



Swallowing Awareness Day

MAY 11 WAS Swallowing Awareness Day. DAAT (Disability Assessment and Advisory Team) North speech pathologists took the opportunity to highlight the impact of swallowing disorders for people with a disability. We hand delivered information packs to many of the disability support organisations with which we work. We provided a range of posters, including the Australian Standards for Texture Modified Foods and Fluids, for organisations to place in their kitchens. Initial feedback from the organisations was positive and we hope they continue to remind everyone of the impact of swallowing disorders and the support that speech pathologists can provide.

Diane Symons and Ria Ferris
Speech Pathologists (DAAT, North)

More speechie catch-ups

THE SPEECHIES IN the Launceston region enjoyed another lovely dinner at an Indian restaurant, following a branch meeting back in May. Much curry, rice and naan was enjoyed by all. It was so fantastic to see our profession represented in so many different areas as there were speechies who work in the field of paediatrics, disability and adults (acute and rehabilitation). Yet again, another reminder of the diversity our profession! It was great to see so many new faces at the latest gathering, especially meeting so many of the new grads in our region. We look forward to meeting up with everyone again at the next gathering.

Rachael Zeeman
Tas Branch Editor



TOP FROM LEFT Jess Becker, Isabelle Russell and Vanessa Vanderpols.
LEFT Teagan Hensen-Helgeson, Rachael Zeeman, Ria Ferris, Diane Symons, Dennis Lo, Paige Woods and Charlotte Boatwright.

NORTHERN TERRITORY



NT 44 Members

as at June 2016



Diversity in Darwin

WORKING AS THE sole Speech Pathologist in seventeen Catholic Schools across the Northern Territory offers many diverse experiences and challenges. One day I may be assessing a student in an urban Darwin classroom, and the next I might be providing a workshop to Indigenous teachers in a remote community school. I love the diversity of working across a large geographical region; our team services schools in urban areas such as Darwin, Alice Springs and Katherine as well as the remote areas of Daly River, Wadeye,

Bathurst Island and Santa Teresa. I am surrounded by an extremely hard-working and supportive team including two psychologists, an occupational therapist and four inclusion support advisors who make my job that much easier and more rewarding. In order to provide services to such a large geographical region, our team employs a model where each inclusion support advisor is the key contact to number of schools. The inclusion support advisors take on a generalist support role and will refer students to the specialists in our team (psychologist, speech pathologist and occupational therapist) when these services are required.

Darwin is a small, geographically isolated community, which makes it all the more important to connect with local speech pathologists. Since arriving in the top end, I have been grateful to find friendly speechies who are so generous in supporting one another. The SPA NT Branch is small in number, but is very welcoming to newcomers such as myself, when I arrived last year from Queensland.

In recent weeks, Catholic Education NT has begun a project to install a sound field system in every classroom of our seventeen schools across the Northern Territory. Many children in the Northern Territory present with a hearing impairment, with a high percentage of these students coming from an Indigenous background. This project is aimed to support all students in increasing their ability to process auditory information in the classroom as well as to ensure our teachers are looking after their voices! In my position as speech pathologist, I have a key role in the coordination of the purchase, installation and ongoing training of the sound field systems. I was fortunate to recently attend a presentation from Deadly Ears QLD about improving hearing acoustics in classrooms and will incorporate these findings into the rollout of the sound field systems. The many benefits of sound field systems for our students and the positive response from school principals and teachers, is motivation for ensuring the rollout of the sound field systems commences in the near future.

Ashleigh Morris
Catholic Education NT Speech Pathologist





VICTORIA



**VIC 1812
Members**

as at June 2016

National Conference inspires

EARLIER THIS YEAR I was fortunate enough to attend the Speech Pathology Australia National Conference in Perth, WA. It may seem unlikely that sitting in a room listening to people speak for three days could be enjoyable, but therein lies the incredible power of communication. The Conference was nothing short of inspiring as I heard about cutting edge research from internationally renowned researchers and participated in workshops that showed me new ways of thinking and practising. The keynote speakers were particularly engaging. Pam Enderby provided an entertaining, yet logical, approach to speech pathology delivery, using the analogy of Masterchef to illustrate the importance of getting all the 'ingredients' just right. Andrew Whitehouse urged us to challenge the status quo regarding the way we classify and treat autism. His explanation of the potential for screening tools, such as eye gaze monitors and facial analysis, to identify children who are at risk of autism at 12 months of age, and the implications for significantly decreasing the burden of disability associated with the disorder is simply mind blowing. On the last day of the conference, Susan Ebbels planted the seed for continuing research as she showed us the benefits and relative ease of conducting research within our own clinical sphere. Through her presentation she addressed many of the daunting knowledge gaps that clinicians often find deterring when considering conducting their own research.

The need to be connected with society and the difficulties often faced in the quest to communicate was a consistent theme throughout the conference. Encouragingly, this was always followed by the challenge of how we as speech pathologists can 'make waves' of difference by continually looking for new and innovative ways to deliver the best service. As a student, I was in the privileged position of being free to imagine what it would be like working in any of the clinical areas that I heard about, without concern that it was outside my practice domain. The conference also provided an opportunity to strengthen my connections with students from La Trobe University and ACU. We enjoyed sharing what we learned during the different conference sessions and it was fascinating to compare the (quite different) structures of our respective courses.

I would like to extend an enormous thank you to the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology, in particular to Elaina Kefalianos, Matthew Poole, and Angela Morgan, for giving me the opportunity to attend the conference. My enthusiasm for speech pathology has continued to grow and I am excited to transition into the world of clinical practice and further research, which I now know are by no means mutually exclusive. The conference itself certainly lived up to its theme of 'making waves' and I hope that I am also able to make some waves of my own in the future.

Sarah Draper
*Master of Speech Pathology
University of Melbourne*

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In Appreciation of **Daphne Cleave**

MY NAME IS Tessa Ronan and I'm a speech pathologist currently working as a clinical educator at the University of Queensland. It was with enthusiasm that I sat down to write this article about Daphne Cleaves, whom I have had the pleasure of knowing both professionally and personally for many years.

I first came to work with Daphne after a momentous relocation from Northern Territory to Queensland, where I joined Queensland Health and re-aligned my wobbly speech pathology feet under her guidance and encouragement.

During this time, Daphne's caring, diligent and ethical approach to managing her caseload left an indelible mark and set a high benchmark to which I still aspire.

Her specialist generalist skills are extensive and have been developed through many years of rural practice and driven by her need to continually improve her knowledge and skills. Daphne has mentored many students and speech pathologists and during this process and is always generous with her time and knowledge.

In my work as a clinical educator, Daphne's mentoring continues in an unofficial and indirect capacity as I recount the occasional Daphne-ism to my students, her words of wisdom that have stayed with me.

Throughout the time I have known her, Daphne has remained a strong advocate for our profession in the workplace and within the community and continues to 'keep the fire burning' for speech pathology. Thank you Daphne.



Tessa Ronan
Speech Pathologist

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