

SPEAKOUT

THE MAGAZINE FOR AUSTRALIAN SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS

OCTOBER 2017

**Are you
ready to
renew?**

The winners are...
**Book of
the Year**

**SP week
wrap up**

**FUTURE DIRECTIONS
FOR THE NDIS**

UPDATES TO CPSP STATUS



**Speech
Pathology
Australia**

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

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 T 1300 368 835 E pubs@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au

Advertising booking dates for December 2017 *Speak Out*.
 The official booking form must be received at National Office by **COB 2 November 2017**.

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in focus...

Speech Pathology Week



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From the President



Gaenor Dixon

AND SUDDENLY IT IS OCTOBER – It feels such a short time ago that I was looking towards cooler, shorter days, and here we are with the heat building, jacarandas blooming in Brisbane and mangoes on the supermarket shelves. This month marks 14 months since we launched the Speech Pathology 2030 report, and it is timely to reflect on how we are travelling towards reaching our aspirations.

This year we have had a focus on communication access. Towards this goal we held a Communication Forum during Speech Pathology Week with a range of stakeholders, to develop a strategy to work together towards developing communication access. A second meeting with stakeholders is being held later this month. We have met with representatives of ISAAC and AGOSCI to start planning communication access activities centred around the Gold Coast for the ISAAC conference next year.

Speech Pathology Week focused on communication access and this edition contains some of the activities that happened around the country to raise awareness of reducing barriers to communication in the community. It was exciting to see the social media posts of the various individual practices making their practice communication accessible. We have also continued to work with the International Communication Project partners (NZ, UK, Ireland, Canada and US) to increase awareness of communication internationally.

We have continued to advocate for communication access (and access to timely services), through submissions on the NDIS (3), submission to an inquiry on the national disability strategy, submission to the law reform office, and submissions to the UN.

Several branches have held strategic planning forums, using the SP 2030 as a framework for their planning.

In other news, next month marks one of my favourite Association activities – Book of the Year, which is being held on 2 November. All members are invited to attend – it's a great opportunity to promote language and literacy, and the importance of collaborating with families, authors, libraries, childcare and schools.

Next month I will also be attending the ASHA convention where I will be signing the Multilateral Recognition Agreement update on behalf of the Association.

We will also be meeting with the other ICP associations for a face-to-face meeting to further our work together. Looking at the program, it is exciting to see many Australians are presenting. I look forward to seeing you there.

Enjoy this month's update on Association activities, information on new initiatives and answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

Until December.

Gaenor Dixon
National President

Association news

August 2017 Board of Directors meeting report

THE THIRD BOARD MEETING FOR 2017 WAS HELD ON FRIDAY 25 AND SATURDAY 26 AUGUST 2017.

Some brief highlights from the meeting are listed below.

- A successful Speech Pathology Week, with the theme “Communication Access – everyone gets the message” was noted, with positive activity and events held across Australia.
- The Association hosted a highly successful Communication Accessible Communities Forum on Thursday 24 August 2017 (during Speech Pathology Week), with 25 representatives from a range of organisations in attendance. It is anticipated that this will lead to valuable collaboration on issues relating to Communication Access.
- Following consistent efforts by Speech Pathology Australia, the Australia Bureau of Statistics (ABS) will be progressing the production of a thematic publication on Communication Limitation, utilising the data collected through the Survey of Disability and Carers (SDAC).
- The Board of Directors approved the signing of the revised Mutual Recognition Agreement to occur at the ASHA Convention in November 2017.
- Considerations and processes for the next review of the Competency Based Occupational Standards (CBOS) were presented to the Board for consideration.
- The Bachelor of Speech Pathology and Bachelor of Speech Pathology Honours programs at Edith Cowan University were provided with full accreditation, against CBOS 2011, for a period of five years.
- A tender process is being undertaken for the publishing of the *International Journal of Speech-Language Pathology* (IJSLP). This tender process is part of the Association’s due diligence in periodically reviewing significant contracts held by the Association.
- The number of new and revised by-laws and policies were ratified by the Board. Corrected policies will be uploaded to the website in the coming week. One new policy concerns the process to provide a certification assessment of non-member speech pathologists, which is aligned with the standards adopted by the National Alliance of Self-Regulating Health Professions (NASRHP).
- Revisions to the Professional Self Regulation (PSR) Program were discussed and the Board agreed that all Certified Practising members of Speech Pathology Australia with either full or provisional CPSP status will be eligible to use the CPSP post-nominals and logo.
- A CPD Live Event titled: “The NDIS, starting at the beginning: Do I want to get in? How do I get in? First Steps once I’m in!” presented by National Advisor Disability, Cathy Olsson, will be offered to members at no cost.
- Support was provided for the inclusion of a leadership webinar series within the Continuing Professional Development program. The Board indicated that this would be broadly applicable across a range of settings.
- The Board agreed that the 2019 National Conference, to be held in Brisbane, will be co-convened with NZSTA. Nominations from Queensland members are currently being sought for the Conference Planning Committee. See page 38 for more information.
- With NZSTA hosting the IALP Congress in 2022, Speech Pathology Australia will not host a National Conference that year; however it will offer a satellite event, following the congress. The satellite event will aim to complement the IALP Congress.
- Speech Pathology Australia supported Developmental Language Disorder Awareness Day, on 22 September, initiated through Dorothy Bishop and RALLI, with a range of aligned social media posts and media releases.

The next Board meeting will be held on 1–2 December 2017 and will include approval of the Association’s Budget for 2018.

Gail Mulcair
Chief Executive Officer

Call for Board nominations

SPEECH PATHOLOGY AUSTRALIA’S Board of Directors is responsible for the strategic development, implementation and evaluation of the Association’s policies and procedures within the rules of the Constitution.

Under the Association’s Constitution Board nominations are currently being sought for four positions.

Directors hold major responsibility within the Association and as such, many Directors have never previously undertaken a role with similar legal, financial and strategic management responsibilities.

Every possible support and assistance is provided by experienced Directors, especially members of Board Executive Subcommittee, the Chief Executive Officer and National Office staff.

This key leadership role offers a wonderful opportunity to develop new skills and contribute significantly to the strategic direction of the Association and the speech pathology profession. Directors are required to attend four Board meetings each year.

From the incoming Board four Directors are then elected to the

office bearer positions of President, Vice President Operations (VPO) and Vice President Communication (VPC), who form the Board Executive Subcommittee (BES).

Board nomination forms for the four vacant Director and an information package are available on our website. Each nomination must address key selection criteria and completed nomination forms must be received at National Office by Wednesday, 31 January 2018.

The appointments will be effective from the 2018 Annual General Meeting in May for a period of two years.

Any voting member is encouraged to nominate, while retiring Directors are eligible to renominate. Elections will be held if more than three nominations are received.

For further information, please see the Director Position Description, contained within the Policy and Procedures Manual, available on the Speech Pathology Australia website or contact a current Director, or Gail Mulcair (Chief Executive Officer).

New faces at SPA



Jessica Hayward – Aged Care Project Officer

Jessica Hayward has joined Speech Pathology Australia two days per week as the Aged Care Project Officer. Jessica is filling the position during Dr Jade Cartwright's parental leave.

Jessica has several years of experience in speech pathology clinical services including aged care, neurology and oncology and is currently working in education and quality leadership across allied health at a metropolitan not-for-profit hospital. Jessica is also completing a Masters of Public Health.

Jess comes to Speech Pathology Australia with not only a passion for aged-care services, but also with a strong desire to empower members and consumers within the sector through education, training and resources. Jessica welcomes contact from members working in the aged care space and will continue to facilitate the work commenced by the Aged Care Working Party.

Contact Jessica at: agedcare@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au



Erin West – NDIS/Practice and Clinical Support Advisor

Erin West trained in South Australia, and has a strong background in disability and paediatrics. She has a wide base of experience, having worked as a speech pathologist in Queensland, Victoria, and South Australia, across schools, community health, private practice and early intervention. Erin comes to SPA with a passion for the right of every Australian to be able to communicate effectively, and swallow safely.

As the new NDIS advisor, she will be responsible for providing advice to members and the community

regarding issues around the NDIS. She will be working closely with Cathy Olsson (National Advisor to Disability) to develop further information and website resources around this new social reform and the changing landscape for speech pathologists. Erin will also be available to answer professional practice related inquiries.

Erin will be working four days a week and can be contacted on: advisor@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au

Research grants 2017

Applications for the 2017 research grant round have now closed, and the review process is under way. We have a record number of applications this year, with 21 in the New Researcher category, 8 in the Nadia Verrall and 9 in the Queensland Review Board Legacy category. Applicants may choose to apply in more than one category, which leaves a total of 31 unique applications. Queensland appears to be a "hotbed" of research in the profession, with 11 of the 21 applications in the New Researcher category from that state, and 15 in total. Applications have also been received from Victoria, ACT, SA and WA.

Our thanks to those who volunteered to review applications. We look forward to letting you know the outcomes of the review process.

Cori Williams
Senior Advisor Evidence Based Practice and Research

On the Board Brooke Sanderson

MEET BROOKE SANDERSON A MEMBER OF THE SPA BOARD.

"I have nine years' experience working as a speech pathologist across a range of health and education settings, currently as clinical coordinator of speech pathology programs at Curtin University. I have had an interest in health professional education since 2010 and through this work, aim to enhance the quality of clinical education and ultimately, contribute to the preparation of a skilled and resilient workforce. My research is in the scholarship of teaching and learning, most recently I delivered a Curtin teaching excellence grant exploring student resilience for fieldwork and professional practice. I am a member of the Speech Pathology Australia University Accreditation panel and am currently serving my second term as a Director of the Board of Speech Pathology Australia."



Before joining the Board in 2014, Brooke contributed to the Association in a number of ways as a member of the SPA WA Branch Executive; including as leader of the Practice Workplace Governance/Professional Standards portfolio and Coordinator and Spokesperson for the 2013 General Election Campaign. The opportunity to serve as a Director is a rewarding and privileged opportunity to contribute to and progress the profession of speech pathology in Australia. This role also provides a fantastic opportunity to apply and develop a diverse range of skills and attributes; including strategic thinking and fiscal accountability.

"My vision for the Association is for it to function as an increasingly powerful body, advocating for the interests of the profession and its consumers and successfully influencing policy; while leading the profession to embrace technological advancements to lead innovative, client driven care.

"The highlight on my time serving the Association on the Board has been the landmark project Speech Pathology 2030. The Board has been pleased with how enthusiastically the profession engaged in the project process, and has embraced the vision since the launch in 2016. I am excited to see how we, collectively realise this vision and proactively shape the future for our profession, workforce and most importantly, people with communication disorders and swallowing difficulties."

Are you ready to renew?



**RENEW
FROM
DECEMBER 1**

Your SPA membership team includes Membership and Administration Assistant Fran Bologna, Membership and Administration Officer Rebecca David, Reception and Administration Donna Witham, and Member Services and Operations Manager Liz Young.

Membership renewals 2018

On 1 December 2017 the membership renewals will open so look out for the email that will give you a unique link to log in directly to your renewal page.

How to prepare!

1 Are your contact details and email address up to date?

Check and update by signing into your member account at

www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au > Members > Update your member details.

2 Certified Practising members: Is your Professional Self Regulation (PSR) log up to date?

You will need to complete this online when you renew. You will need to achieve a minimum of 20 points across at least two different activities in order to renew.

If you have any queries about your membership for 2018 please do not hesitate to contact our membership team at membership@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au or 1300 368 835 or 03 9642 4899.

Did you know...?

The SPA membership year is changing!

Speech Pathology Australia is changing its membership year from the calendar year to the financial year 1 July–30 June

From 1 July 2018, the SPA membership year will follow the financial year i.e., 1 July to 30 June. This will supersede the current calendar year.

The reasons for this change are many including feedback from members that the end of calendar year is often challenging financially and has its time constraints with many on holidays. The SPA office also closes over the Christmas period so changing the renewal period will allow more support to members at this time. It also ties in with claiming the total cost of membership as a tax deduction.

As part of the transition to the new financial year you have two options for renewing your membership.

Each option impacts on how you calculate and submit your PSR points if you are a Certified Practising member.

If you have any questions at all please feel free to contact our friendly membership team for assistance at membership@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au or 1300 368 835.

We are offering two options when renewing by 1 January 2018

option

A

18 months

for 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2019

Certified Practising	
Non-Certified	\$803
Re entry	
Non-Practising	\$554
Full Time Post Grad	\$420
Alumnus	\$209
Student	\$99

PSR impact for Certified Practising members

To renew as a Certified Practising member you will need to submit a minimum of 20 points across at least two PSR activity types for the 12-month period: 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017.

Or

option

B

6 months

for 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2018

Certified Practising	
Non-Certified	\$268
Re-entry	
Non-Practising	\$185
Full Time Post Grad	\$140
Alumnus	\$70
Student	\$33

PSR impact for Certified Practising members

To renew as a Certified Practising member you will need to submit a minimum of 20 points across at least two PSR activity types for the 12-month period: 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017.

+

12 months

for 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

Certified Practising	
Non-Certified	\$546
Re-entry	
Non-Practising	\$376
Full Time Post Grad	\$286
Alumnus	\$142
Student	\$66

PSR impact for Certified Practising members

To renew as a Certified Practising member you will need to submit a minimum of 20 points across at least two PSR activity types for the 12 month period: 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.
NB. For this transition period PSR activities for the period from 1 July 2017 to 31 December 2017 can be included within both the 6-month and 12-month renewal period.



Free Medicare learning programs

Medicare has recently produced several free elearning programs to help you use Health Professional Online Service (HPOS) and Provider Digital Access (PRODA). See: PRODA eLearning program and HPOS e learning program

Health professionals can also subscribe to news updates from Medicare: www.humanservices.gov.au/health-professionals/news

Have you looked at SPA's career centre recently?

If you are you looking for a speech pathologist to join your practice:

1. Place an advertisement on the website.
2. Search the SPA database of members looking for work.

If you are looking for work in private practice:

1. View current job listings.
2. Set up a job alert today so you are notified by email of new jobs posted that match your search preferences.
3. Post your CV so employers can contact you privately about job opportunities.

[SPA website](#) > [Resources for speech pathologists](#) > [Find a job](#)

Renewing your SPA membership

The SPA Find a Speech Pathologist search is getting a makeover.

Please make sure any of your details you want available to the public are up to date. Log onto your SPA account at any time to make any changes. You will also be asked to confirm these details at renewal on 1 December.

Don't forget that as Certified Practising member, Medicare, NDIS and Private Health Providers require you to maintain your Speech Pathology Australia membership to ensure continuity of your status. Therefore, please make sure you have renewed your membership by 1 January 2018 so you do not have a gap in your provider status. If a client makes a claim for Medicare service/s you have provided during a gap in your membership then you could be required to pay back this claim to Medicare!

AHPA digital health webinars

This series of webinars was developed by Allied Health Professions Australia (of which SPA is a member) to help practices know more about their software options, benefits they might get from using practice management systems and how you might integrate different elements of digital technology into your practice. The series of four webinars are all available to view for free at www.rainitmedical.com.au/allied-health-providers-free-resources

The final webinar in this series will provide information about the My Health Record Expansion program and how you can connect to the My Health Record system.

Nichola Harris
Acting Senior Advisor, Professional Practice

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✳ Embargoed until
2 November 2017

BOOK OF THE YEAR awards 2017



Speech Pathology Australia

And the winners are...

THE WINNERS ARE in and everything is in place for the Speech Pathology Book of the Year 2017 Awards Ceremony, to be conducted in Brisbane. Thanks to the State Library of Queensland for their ongoing support of the Book of the Year Awards, and for hosting the awards ceremony again in 2017.

The winners of the 2017 Book of the Year will be formally announced on Thursday 2 November. **Until then, please keep the winners a secret!**

Everyone is welcome to attend the ceremony. Formalities get underway from 10.30 am at the State Library of Queensland, Auditorium 1, Level 2, Cultural Precinct, Stanley Place, South Brisbane.

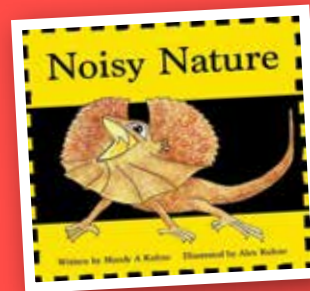
A big thank you to all of this year's Book of the Year judges, without whom there would be no awards. The time and effort taken by the judges to read the books, and then to prioritise and pass comment on the best ones, is significant. The judges can only undertake their tasks once the mountain of nominated books has been reduced to a select few by our dedicated "shortlisters" and our partners at Let's Read (who shortlist the books in the Birth to 3 years category).

In 2017, there was a huge 152 books nominated for the Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards. Feedback from the judges was that the standard across the 55 books shortlisted for judging was extremely high. Congratulations again to all the authors and illustrators who had a book shortlisted. Details of the shortlisted books can be found on the Book of the Year webpage: www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/books

Everyone can help celebrate the Book of the Year Awards and the winning books. You can do this by recommending the winning titles to parents and educators, displaying the Book of the Year poster in your workplace, and talking to your local library about promoting the awards and the winning books. **Again, please keep the winners a secret until 2 November!**

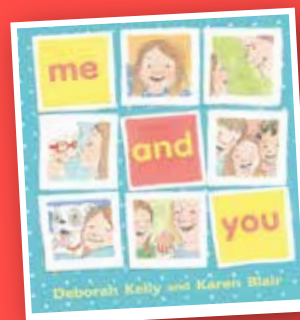


THE WINNERS



BIRTH TO 3 YEARS

Noisy Nature
by Mandy A Kuhne
Illustrated by Alex Kuhne



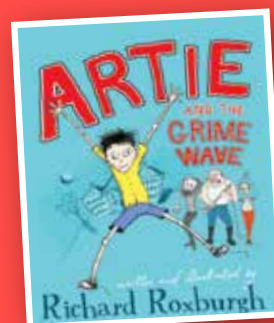
THREE TO 5 YEARS

Me and You
by Deborah Kelly
Illustrated by Karen Blair



FIVE TO 8 YEARS

Somewhere Else
Written and illustrated
by Gus Gordon



EIGHT TO 10 YEARS

Artie and the Grime Wave
Written and illustrated
by Richard Roxburgh



INDIGENOUS CHILDREN

Mad Magpie
Written and illustrated
by Gregg Dreise

Speech Pathology Week August 2017



Communication Accessible Communities Forum

DURING SPEECH PATHOLOGY WEEK, the Association hosted a highly successful Communication Accessible Communities Forum on Thursday 24 August 2017, in line with the SPW theme: "Communication Access – Everyone gets the message!"

The context of the forum included one of the key aspirations of the Speech Pathology 2030 vision, that being, for there to be Communication Accessible Communities. This aspiration is also reflected in Speech Pathology Australia's new strategic plan (2017-2019) which includes the goal that communication inclusivity and accessibility is recognised by government and the community. To this end, Speech Pathology Australia's hope is that, fostering an Australian level collaboration of organisations with an interest and commitment to communication inclusivity and accessibility, will support this goal and future advocacy efforts.

The broad purpose of the forum was to discuss forming an ongoing collaborative, with an initial aim of developing a national consensus on what we mean by communication access and to form a clear advocacy position. A further aim is to create national standards in the area of communication accessibility which can be promoted to government and local community and service organisations.

We were delighted to have 25 representatives across 17 separate

organisations and stakeholders participate in the forum, which provided not only a very broad perspective of communication access, but also very rich feedback on how real change can be achieved.

The following points summarise the discussion and future directions:

- There was an identified need for a strong overarching vision and collaborative effort to ensure change.
- A key to informing future work will be the participation and experiences of those with a communication disability.
- Efforts must be driven from a human rights perspective and to build awareness and respect around communication differences.
- The ability to extend on existing work, to progress towards a national strategy and standards was acknowledged, along with the potential to work towards international recognition of a communication access symbol.
- The need for identified goals to be outcomes focused and drive real change in communication access for all within services, policy and programs, was strongly reinforced.

There was strong support from many of the organisations involved to meet again and progress this work. Updates will be provided as plans and strategies are developed.

Gail Mulcair
Chief Executive Officer

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Many got the message

IN 2017 THE theme for Speech Pathology Week in August was “Communication access – Everyone gets the message.” This year, the theme drew on one of the eight aspirations (communication accessible communities) from the *Speech Pathology 2030 – Making futures happen project*, while reinforcing the important role that speech pathologists play in the lives of Australians with speech and swallowing difficulties.

Feedback from members and others was that the week and the surrounding campaign was very successful in explaining to Australians what communication access is and why it is important.

A key component of the campaign for Speech Pathology Week was the production of a series of videos to promote the week’s theme on communication access. Each video involved an interview with a speech pathologist and one of their clients. The series highlighted the challenges faced by Australians with a communication disability and the issues surrounding communication accessibility. In addition, the Victorian Branch created an online animation to highlight the issues relating to the week’s theme. All the video and the animation may be viewed on the Association’s YouTube channel or on the Association’s website: www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/week

In addition, a record number of Speech Pathology Week kits were distributed to members who had pre-ordered them. The kits included magnets, stickers, fliers, wristbands and a Speech Pathology Week poster. Other materials were downloaded from the Association website, including the Speech Pathology Week logo, poster and email signature. In addition, each state Branch received their own Speech Pathology Week Campaign Kit. In total, National Office packed around 100,000 items into these various kits.

A large number of Association members were able to secure local regional and community media to promote Speech Pathology Week. This included articles in newspapers as dispersed as the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, the *Swan Hill Guardian*, and the *Port Lincoln Times*. The use of the Speech Pathology Week media release template was clearly in evidence. Congratulations to all the Association’s members who were able to spread the word via regional and community newspapers.

Every state Branch was active during Speech Pathology Week and more detail can be found on the pages to follow. Of note, was the Victorian Branch’s “#SLP2B– Pathway in speech pathology”, which was attend by over 160 speech pathology students at Melbourne University. In addition, a number of individual members were very successful in promoting Speech Pathology Week with their own events.

Finally, a huge thank you to all the members who got involved in Speech Pathology Week 2017 in one form or another. The success of the week is directly related to your hard work, efforts and commitments.



ABOVE The Speech Pathology Week posters were distributed with a range of items across the country. BELOW The SPWeek message was successfully promoted through digital media with a range of infographics. Overall the 2017 Speech Pathology Week digital campaign was a success! Over the course of the week, we had record engagement on our social media platforms. Read the full report on page 30.

How will you communicate today?

Make sure everyone gets the message!

ENTER TO WIN A \$100 VISA VOUCHER

Simply upload a photo of yourself with this poster to Twitter, Instagram or Facebook, including #SPweek in your post!

Speech Pathology Australia

The SPA South Australia Branch held a poster competition for SPWeek. Read more on the next page.

Speech Pathology Week 20-26 August 2017

Communication Access - Everyone gets the message!

Who can it affect? 1 million Australians

Autism ASD

Multiple Sclerosis

hearing LOSS

STROKE

VOICE AND STUTTERING

Achieving Communication Access What you can do to help!

tips to help COMMUNICATE...

Out and about Speech Pathology Week



The Special Needs Library which is part of the Nerang Public Library on the Gold Coast helped to feature Speech Pathology Week.



Bathurst speech pathologists celebrating Speech Pathology Week together.



A gathering of “speechies” at the Isle of Capri on the Gold Coast in QLD enjoyed a special Speech Pathology Week breakfast.

Poster prize winner

THE SA BRANCH ran a social media competition in Speech Pathology Week to raise awareness of the need for communication access. The Branch developed a poster that aimed to have people reflect on the ways they and their customers/community members communicate. Anyone who posted a photo of themselves with the poster to social media and included #spweek, was eligible for a Visa voucher prize.

Posters went up in locations around and beyond South Australia, and we know this prompted some interesting conversations about communication difficulties. We had entries from as far afield as Bhutan! But there could only be one winner, and we were delighted to be able to present Seth (pictured) with his prize!

When asked about his experience of speech pathology, Seth reflected that “Speech pathology has helped me a lot with knowing more words, practising my Uno skills, and it makes me more happy and confident at school.”

The Community Awareness Working Group hopes to maintain a focus on communication access throughout the next year.



Some great advice being given by the panel at the Victorian Student Branch event SLP2B-Pathways in speech pathology. Get yourself a mentor, love what you do and network, network, network was the message.

Fun and games with a message



STUDENTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY and Macquarie University joined Mary Woodward and Kirsten McCosker at the Concord Centre for Mental Health in Sydney. Their SPWeek stand was stocked with information, games, and cookies to raise awareness of communication difficulties and the role of speech pathology in a mental health setting. Everyone had great fun—even the police officers who they managed to get to participate.

The students set up four challenges for participants.

1. Key Word Sign It: Students had to request a baked good using key word sign.
2. Decode IPA: Students had to decode sentences that had been transcribed into IPA.
3. Decode Paraphasia: Students had to decode sentences that had 3–4 semantic or phonemic paraphasias.
4. Guess the Thickness: Students were required to swallow a sample of thickened fluid and guess whether it was mildly, moderately or extremely thick.



WA networking event

THE WA BRANCH hosted a networking event to see in Speech Pathology Week for 2017. 71 speech pathologists attended the evening, where they caught up with new and old friends and co-workers, and were treated to four speakers who shared their experiences in communication access. Three of the speakers were speech pathologists, and the fourth had an education background. All shared some interesting “food for thought” and attendees left feeling inspired to spread the message about SP week!



Journal club launched – ACT



Speech pathologists in the ACT celebrated Speech Pathology Week by launching the first ever ACT Journal Club. Thank you to Andrew Watt and Leah Hanley for organising, and to Jenna Golab for hosting. Canberra based speechies interested in attending future events are encouraged to email Andrew Watt (acwatt@live.com).

Certified Practising membership updates ...

Keeping a record of your PSR activities

MEMBERS CAN KEEP a record of PSR activities via their online member record and the PSR Activities log. As the SPA website is a responsive website, activities can be logged via mobile devices.

Since this option to log PSR activities online was made available in 2010, over 21,660 activities have been logged by nearly 2,000 members, with 10% of members using this in the previous renewal year. To date, this has provided members who have used this facility with a ready reference when it comes to renewal time and completing the PSR declaration.

In response to feedback, we have recently worked on improving the visibility and functionality of this existing PSR activities recording function. New features include the following:

- The My PSR section of your online member record will be able to be accessed via a more prominent “Log my PSR Activities” button under your online member profile.
- Points for SPA CPD Branch workshops will be transferred across to the member’s PSR Activities record one week after the event was run. This period is necessary to allow follow up and cancellation or amendment of attendance records. (Points for the SPA Conference cannot be transferred across automatically as member attendance may vary from sessions selected and can be either C/S or W/S depending on the nature of the presentation.)
- Activities you have logged under your PSR in “Log PSR Activities” will be transferred across to your PSR Declaration once you commence your renewal process. You must then review and confirm the declaration before proceeding further with your renewal.

To access this option, go to the **SPA website > Members tab > Update your member details > Log in > My PSR tab > PSR Activities >**

The screenshot shows two sections: "PSR History" and "PSR Activities". The "PSR History" section has a table with columns: Year, Certified Status, Total Annual Points, and Extension Granted. Below the table, it says "There are no records." The "PSR Activities" section has a heading and a paragraph explaining that the page allows recording PSR activities throughout the year. It states: "You are still required to complete the PSR declaration when renewing your membership." Below this, it says: "The PSR program is an annual program. A minimum of 20 points per annum must be reached, with a ceiling of 12 points per activity type. A minimum of 10 points per year must be accrued in activities related to clinical practice." At the bottom, there is a table with columns: Activity Type, Activity Description, Number of Points, and Date of Activity. Below the table, it says "There are no records." There is a plus sign icon to the right of the table header.

This section allows you to record PSR activities undertaken throughout the year – click on the + sign and enter each activity and then hit **Save & Close**.

The screenshot shows a form titled "Add" with a dark header bar containing window control icons. The form has four fields: "Activity Type" with a dropdown menu showing "(None)"; "Activity Description" with a large text area; "Number of Points" with a text input field containing "0.00"; and "Date of Activity" with a date picker. At the bottom right, there are two buttons: "Save & Close" and "Cancel".

Sharon Crane
Senior Advisor, Professional Education and
Certification (CPD and PSR)



New outcomes for members with provisional CPSP status

CERTIFIED PRACTISING MEMBERSHIP WITH PROVISIONAL CERTIFIED PRACTISING SPEECH PATHOLOGIST (CPSP) STATUS WAS DISCUSSED AT THE RECENT BOARD MEETING WITH THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES.

Provisional? You can use CPSP

- All Certified Practising members including provisional CPSPs are now eligible to use the title Certified Practising Speech Pathologist and the post-nominals CPSP.
- Certified Practising members with Provisional CPSP status who received 2017 membership certificates without the wording are, “eligible to use the title Certified Practising Speech Pathologist and the post-nominals CPSP” are entitled to a new membership certificate with this wording.
- The updated certificate can be obtained by logging into the member’s profile online.

Go to the [Speech Pathology Australia Website](#) and log in to **Members > Update Your member Details**. Click the tab **My Membership** and then the button **Membership Certificate** to download. To print your membership certificate simply click on the PDF icon.

If you have any questions please contact the membership team on membership@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au or 1300 368 835.

Don’t get caught out! Provisional to full CPSP

As we reach the first cohort of renewing Certified Practising members with Provisional CPSP status who completed their entry-level speech pathology course three or more years ago, the options for renewing are as follows:

Members can upgrade from Provisional to full CPSP status if they have met the requirements below prior to renewal:

- The member **MUST** have worked a minimum of 200 hours in speech pathology practice post course-completion, with at least 12 points in PSR activity type M for receiving mentoring and/or clinical supervision since commencing employment. This must have occurred in the period prior to the first renewal at which the member is eligible to move from Provisional to full CPSP status,
- The member has undertaken sufficient professional development to meet the annual requirements of the PSR program of a minimum of 20 points per annum across at least two different activity types, with at least 12 points in PSR activity type M receiving mentoring and/or clinical supervision and completion of both SPA online Independent Study activities – the SPA Evidence-Based Practice Independent Study Resource and the SPA Ethics Education package.

Provisional CPSPs have up to three (3) years to meet the requirements to move to full CPSP status or failing this, the member is no longer eligible for Certified Practising membership with SPA.

According to which criteria have not been met, the following actions will occur:

- If the member has NOT worked a minimum of 200 hours of speech pathology practice, they will cease to be a SPA Certified Practising member and will not be able to renew/rejoin as a Certified Practising member until they have successfully completed the Speech Pathology Australia’s Re-entry program.

OR

- If the member has worked a minimum of 200 hours of speech pathology practice but NOT with supervision and/or mentoring (as per SPA Guidelines) post-course completion, a SPA staff member will follow up with the member who will become Non-Certified in the first instance.
- If the member has worked a minimum of 200 hours of speech pathology practice with supervision and/or mentoring (as per SPA Guidelines) post-course completion, and the **ONLY** criteria not met is completion of SPA’s the Ethics and EBP resources, a SPA staff member will follow up with the member who will become Non-Certified in the first instance.

For further information, please contact office@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au or phone 1300 368 835.

Please note that this information may be subject to updates – for current information, members are encouraged to go to the PSR webpage www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/information-for-members/professional-self-regulation-psr

Association news



Leading the way on International Literacy Day

“Illiteracy and poverty constitute a mutually reinforcing vicious cycle that is difficult to break.” UNESCO

The International Communication Project (ICP)* resolved in 2017, as part of a wider communication action plan, to undertake a series of social media campaigns in support of a number of international days.

The first of these was conducted around UNESCO's

International Literacy Day on Friday 8 September. In 2017, the theme for International Literacy Day was “Literacy in a digital world”.

September 8 was declared International Literacy Day by UNESCO in 1965. The day aims to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and societies.

The ICP is a strong supporter of the UNESCO International Literacy Day because literacy, like communication, is a basic human right.

Commencing on 1 September and in the days leading up to Friday 8 September the ICP, via its various social media platforms, highlighted issues relating to literacy. This included information about the size of the world's illiteracy problem, the gender bias associated with illiteracy, the world's shortage of teachers, and the importance of reading and writing in a child's development.

The aim of the various social media was to heighten awareness of the importance of literacy, to drive people to the ICP's website, and encourage visitors to the site to sign the online ICP pledge.

The communication and marketing team at Speech Pathology Australia played a central role in initiating and supporting the ICP's social media campaign. This included designing all the campaign's graphics and infographics, scheduling the various social media posts, and crafting content for the ICP's website. Thanks also goes to the team at ASHA that developed a short video to help promote the ICP's International Literacy Day campaign. The video along with many of the campaign's graphics can be viewed on the ICP's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ICP2014

**The International Communication Project was formed in 2014 by Speech Pathology Australia, Speech-Language & Audiology Canada, New Zealand Speech-language Therapists Association, Republic of Ireland: Irish Association of Speech & Language Therapists, Royal College of Speech Language Therapists (RCSLT), and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.*

Michael Kerrisk
Manager Communications and Marketing



Australia's AAC Community

AGOSCI is an inclusive group interested in enhancing the participation of all people with complex communication needs.

Membership

On-line payments via website: www.agosci.org.au or by direct debit to AGOSCI bank account. See website for details.

As a member of AGOSCI

- Receive twice yearly editions of AGOSCI *in Focus* magazine
- Discounted rate for AGOSCI events such as the National Tour, Biennial conference and state based events
- Access to the AGOSCI listserve and members only section of website
- Network & share information about complex communication needs at a state and national level.

THERE IS AN ANNUAL FEE FOR AGOSCI MEMBERSHIP (January to December).

Full time undergraduate student - \$55
Non-practicing membership - \$55
Parent/guardian or unpaid carer of a person with complex communication needs - \$55
Person with complex communication needs - \$55
Organisational Membership - \$110
Standard Membership - \$110



Majority World countries and developing communities grants – call for applications

SPEECH PATHOLOGY AUSTRALIA seeks to support speech pathology services and training in Majority World countries and developing communities through the following funding streams:

- Support for establishment of a professional body/association within a Majority World country or developing community.
- Funding to support research and/or project activity in the majority world country or developing community to support development or extension of speech therapy training and service delivery.
- Support of attendance at relevant conferences and seminars, internationally or within the applicant's majority world country. (Funds to be used towards travel, accommodation and registration.)
- Significant project work or awareness raising activity in the majority world country or developing community that is relevant to speech pathology.

Grant applications are open to individuals and not-for-profit organisations, engaged in the advancement or provision of speech pathology services or training programs in Majority World countries or developing communities. Organisations applying will be considered in terms of their charitable status, including whether they hold registration with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC); the Australian Council for International Development; or an official government or NGO regulatory body in the relevant overseas country. Individuals will

be required to be affiliated with a recognised organisation (as per above) or have their application supported by a Speech Pathology Australia member, acting as the applicant's referee. Candidates must clearly demonstrate the significant and positive impact they have within the region and provide detail on their long-term goals. The applicant/s is responsible for demonstrating the impact within the community.

The grant must be used to improve access to speech pathology services or knowledge within the region. Levels of potential funding against identified streams are indicated in the application form

Applications will be considered by the Grant Review Panel on their merit and in consideration of the criteria within the guidelines. The decision is at the discretion of the Board.

A final report detailing the outcomes of the funding must be submitted to Speech Pathology Australia within twelve months of receipt of funding.

For further information please refer to the Majority World Countries and Developing Communities Grants Application Form on the website www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/news or contact Gail Mulcair, Chief Executive Officer.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE: Friday 17 November 2017

Please note late applications will not be accepted.





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Vale Helen Hatzis

17/10/1965–8/12/2016

HELEN HATZIS' LIFE WAS ONE OF LIFE LIVED TO THE FULL, REplete WITH LOVE, AND FILLED WITH ACCOMPLISHMENT AND GIVING TO OTHERS. HER CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPEECH PATHOLOGY PROFESSION WILL BE PART OF HER RICH LEGACY. HELEN'S SPEECH PATHOLOGY COLLEAGUES REMEMBER HER TALENTS AND GIFTS.

Remembering Helen by Rachel McGrath, Helen's manager in the Speech Pathology Department, Caulfield General Medical Centre

Helen was bright, vivacious, and articulate. She had a keen intellect and was passionate about speech pathology, neuro-rehab, Caulfield Hospital and was an integral member of the speech pathology and rehab B teams.

To say that Helen was adored by her patients is an understatement. Helen was never one to rest on her laurels and was always looking for ways to improve both her clinical knowledge and skills. Central to everything that Helen did was the outcome and benefits for her patients. She thought laterally about patient management and was involved in introducing numerous novel programs including the Return to Work program, developing a manual for running communication and cognition groups, and development of an educational language video.

When Helen completed a six month Advanced Diploma in Business Management, I attended the final session of her course in which all participants presented their projects. Helen's project was by far the most impressive but also the most functional project presented. Indeed, Helen's project, which included the development of diet labels to minimise aspiration and choking risk for dysphagic patients, has been adopted throughout Alfred Health and has influenced other health services as well.

Helen was a wonderful leader and mentor for staff and students. She led by example and inspired staff and students alike to reach their potential.

Helen was a beautiful caring and compassionate person. She was the first to congratulate, console, or organise a present (always a magnificent present). And she had a strong sense of duty and responsibility.

On a personal level, Helen was always great fun to be around. She was quick to laugh and always had a funny story to tell, especially if she had a glass of champers in her hand.

With each recurrence of her cancer, she would be brave in public, wanting to ensure that everyone else was OK and not worried about her. And so Helen's passing did feel like a shock, as I am sure it did to many of us. She worked so hard to bolster everyone's spirits, keeping that happy external face, and addressing her pain and sadness in private.

We are all sad but also so incredibly lucky to have known Helen and to have shared some of her joy. Helen was an inspiration and her memory will live on at Caulfield.

Helen you will be remembered for your beautiful ever-present smile, your vibrancy, your courage and grace.



Remembering Helen by Catherine Naismith, Senior Clinician, Speech Pathologist, Acquired Brain Injury Unit, Caulfield General Medical Centre

Helen was my beloved friend and colleague for more than 20 years and I was fortunate to work with her in a number of different settings.

We first started working together in the very early 1990s at Essendon Hospital which was the rehabilitation unit for the RMH at that time. From the outset, Helen and I built a strong friendship as well as a very productive professional relationship. We worked together with manager Christina Wilson and a number of other colleagues to build the speech pathology service in this developing unit. Helen was loved universally – by her patients, their families, and all the staff she worked with – across all areas of the hospital. Those days at Essendon were challenging but a great deal of fun.

Helen moved on from Essendon Hospital to work at Ivanhoe Manor – moving into the field of severe ABI/ TBI. Helen found this work challenging and confronting, but as always, she kept her eye firmly focused on the needs of her patients and their families and continually strove to achieve the best outcome possible in often devastating circumstances.

Though we were no longer working together, we remained close friends and continued our professional links through working on various Speech Pathology Australia Victorian Branch portfolios together and sharing regular social dinners with family and other colleagues. I have been privileged to have known John, the love

of Helen's life, for all of these years as well and, in recent years, her proverbial rock throughout her complex cancer journey. They have shared many incredible experiences together over these years. The highlight of their lives was no doubt the arrival of their children – Georgeena and Nicholas. Helen was incredibly proud of her children.

Helen has been part of the Caulfield General Medical Centre extended family for more than 15 years and she had also been part of Caulfield prior to that – being one of the first speech pathologists at what was then called Florence Nightingale Hospital – “on loan” from Caulfield to establish their service. Helen worked for a time within Caulfield Community Health as a case manager – a role she fulfilled with empathy and commitment. She spent her substantive time at Caulfield as a highly respected speech pathologist. Helen was the glue in a job-share role which was quite innovative for its time, with Helen and I sharing our role and our patients for five years until her diagnosis with ovarian cancer.

I learned an incredible amount from Helen who was a very astute clinician, great therapist, teacher and mentor. There are many staff here today who have had the benefit of her wise counsel over the years. Helen had a strong intellect and quest for knowledge. She pursued this when she could and was instrumental in researching and introducing the dysphagia sticker system at Caulfield. This was designed to reduce the risk of miscommunication between clinicians and staff in managing patients who needed modified food or fluid. This followed Helen's research into a coroner's report about an adverse event which had occurred interstate. This innovation has considerably reduced this risk and has become common practice in many other health services, which is testament to Helen's visionary thinking and desire to optimise patient care. Helen also presented a single case study research at the 2010 National Speech Pathology Australia Conference in Melbourne, in the midst of another round of treatment.

Helen held another role at the TAC where she worked as clinical advisor for several years. Helen was as loved and respected at the TAC as she was at Caulfield. In this role she provided education and expert speech pathology advice regarding current best practice, once again with a primary focus on the best outcomes for the clients, and she continued to fulfil this role through most of her illness and treatment.

Helen continued to work following her diagnosis of ovarian cancer in 2008. She maintained an incredibly determined and positive mindset throughout the often taxing and physically debilitating treatment she undertook. She was determined to beat the cancer. We tried our best to support her and were always overjoyed when she returned to our speechie fold after a course of treatment. When Helen made the difficult decision to resign from her role at Caulfield, we were all deeply saddened. In typical fashion though, Helen was thinking more about others – the disruption to patients and the department of her ongoing treatment – than herself.

Helen's final role within the organisation was when she took on the facilitator role for La Trobe University's Problem-Based Learning units. Helen absolutely relished the role of sharing her incredible breadth of knowledge and experience with the up and coming generation of student speech pathologists. I know it helped her keep that connection to the profession and our department. It was common for these students, completing clinical placements with us at Caulfield, to share with us some of the gems of wisdom Helen had imparted to them and murmur in awe when we told them we had been privileged to have been her colleague.

Helen will be remembered for so many things. It is hard to encapsulate all her incredible qualities in a few words. In essence, she was a wonderfully generous and thoughtful person – both professionally and personally. Her smile, I'm sure you would all agree, did without doubt light up any room. She was always stylish and classy, had a fantastic sense of humour, loved a good social event, glass of bubbles and a gossip!

Helen worked tirelessly as an ambassador for the OCRF, even at times when she was so unwell, to raise awareness and understanding in the community of ovarian cancer. Helen appeared regularly in the paper, magazines, TV and featured as a key note speaker in many forums in order that others would not have to travel the same path that she had been required to navigate. It was her fervent wish that an early detection test for ovarian cancer be developed and we will continue to honour and support that wish.

Rest in peace my dear friend – you fought this battle so incredibly hard and we will forever remember you.



Research grant report

A collaborative initiative: Supporting the emerging profession of speech therapy in Vietnam



MARIE ATHERTON WAS awarded a Postgraduate Research Grant in 2014 for her project “Supporting the emerging profession of speech therapy in Vietnam – a collaborative initiative”. The grant was used to support two phases of a broader PhD research program exploring the emerging practice of speech-language pathology (SLP) in Vietnam.

This research program adopted qualitative methods, and involved the doctoral researcher and a group of Vietnam’s first

SLP graduates participating as co-researchers to:

- identify the nature of the graduates’ emerging professional practice in Vietnam;
- identify opportunities and challenges to the progression of the speech therapy profession in Vietnam;
- identify the priorities of the graduates to progressing their practice and engage in actions to support their practice.

The initial phase of the research involved the conduct and thematic analysis of face-to-face interviews between the researcher and the Vietnamese SLP graduates at 12 months following their graduation. These interviews identified the nature of the graduates’ professional practice, their professional priorities, and barriers and facilitators to their practice.

In the next phase of the research, the researcher and the graduates engaged in four cycles of collaborative research (Table 1). In July 2014 the researcher travelled to Ho Chi Minh City to interview the SLP graduates, and to establish a research advisory group (the participatory research group – PRG) comprising the Vietnamese graduates to inform the future priorities for the research. The interviews at this time sought to garner the graduates’ reflections as to their practice of SLP at 24 months post-graduation, and were followed by the inaugural PRG meeting. At this meeting the overarching objectives of the research program were outlined, the role of the PRG discussed and clarified, and reflection and negotiation commenced to identify the key professional issues the PRG would like to investigate. A cycle of research meetings followed, using skype and email correspondence. The meetings held during 2014–2015 are summarised in Table 1.

A number of key outcomes were achieved during this phase of the research, including agreement upon the professional issues to be investigated, the development of research questions to guide investigation of these issues, and the methods and actions to be employed in the investigation. These issues were further explored when the researcher returned to Vietnam in October–November 2014 for face-to-face meetings with the PRG.

Three face-to-face meetings of the researcher and the PRG were held in Vietnam in 2015. At these meetings the PRG revisited the outcomes from the 2014 research cycles. Actions to effect positive practical changes in relation to their professional issues of concern were identified, and plans made to progress these into 2016.

The final phase of data collection for the research program took place in HCMC in November 2016. To date, the research has resulted in three conference presentations and two publications. A third paper is under review.

Atherton, M., Davidson, B., McAllister, L. (2016). Building collaboration - A participatory research initiative with Vietnam’s first speech-language pathologists. *Journal of Clinical Practice in Speech Language Pathology*, 18(3), 108–115.

Atherton, M., Davidson, B., McAllister, L. (2017). Exploring the emerging profession of speech-language pathology in Vietnam through pioneering eyes. *International Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 19(2), 109–120.

Atherton, M., Davidson, B., McAllister, L. Supporting the development of rehabilitation services for people in Vietnam with communication and swallowing disabilities: A participatory research approach. Manuscript submitted for publication.

The significance of the research lies in its potential to support the development and provision of contextually relevant, sustainable, evidence based speech pathology services to the people of Vietnam with communication and swallowing disabilities. It is hoped that learnings from the research will influence future educational initiatives seeking to introduce a range of health professions into majority world countries such as Vietnam.

Cori Williams

Senior Advisor Evidence Based Practice and Research

Table 1: Summary of participatory research cycles in 2014–2015

	Cycles of research	Meetings	Present
July 2014	Face-to-face meetings in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam	x8 semi-structured individual interviews Inaugural meeting of the PRG	Members of the PRG Primary researcher Experienced interpreter
July–October 2014	Skype meetings	x5 Skype meetings of the PRG	
October–November 2014	Face-to-face meetings in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam	x2 meetings of the PRG	
September–October 2015	Face-to-face meetings in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam	x3 meetings of the PRG	

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Future directions for the NDIS?

IT IS TEMPTING TO ONLY FOCUS ON THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS OF THE NDIS THAT IMPACT ON SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS, BUT SPEECH PATHOLOGY AUSTRALIA ALSO NEEDS TO LOOK AT THE “BIG PICTURE” OF THE NDIS REFORMS ON BEHALF OF MEMBERS.

There is an important government process currently underway that will significantly impact the future directions of the NDIS. The Productivity Commission is the Australian Government's principal review and advisory body and was responsible for the initial proposal for the NDIS in 2011. In 2017, the commission is required by law to undertake a review of the costs and sustainability of the NDIS. Recommendations from the commission's inquiry will be critically important in determining how the NDIS functions in the longer term.

Overview of NDIS reforms

The NDIS is a new funding reform designed to change the way support is provided to people with permanent and significant disability. The NDIS differs from previous systems of disability support by:

- providing a nationally consistent scheme (WA is at present administering their own scheme that will be consistent with that delivered through the NDIS);
- adopting a person-centred model of care and support where funding is provided for supports that are reasonable and necessary for that individual to meet their goals. People with disability (participants) are able to exercise choice and control over which supports they need and which provider they receive them from;
- being an insurance-based scheme – taking a long-term view of the total cost of disability to improve an individual's outcomes;
- determining funding by assessment of an individual's needs and goals (rather than a fixed budget).

The NDIS has rolled out in stages (trial sites) in different states and territories since 2013 with full implementation rollout across Australia from 1 July 2016. This rollout schedule is significantly faster than what was originally proposed by the commission for the scheme.

The NDIS is a major reform, reflecting an investment of \$22b annually when fully implemented with costs and responsibilities shared across all governments. When it is fully implemented, the NDIS costs per year will exceed that spent by the Federal Government through aged care and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. Governments are very focused on ensuring the NDIS stays on budget.

Impact of NDIS for speech pathologists

A large proportion of SPA members currently provide services within the NDIS (1195 or 17.4 per cent of CPSP members) – the majority through private practice and non-government organisations. This is likely to grow significantly once NDIS is rolled out nationally and issues with provider registration have been resolved (a current major disincentive for many of our members to become providers). Significant investment by members, and by SPA has been spent in responding to the policy implementation problems and requirements of the NDIS. Speech pathology (along with occupational therapy and psychology) is recognised as a current unmet demand in the most

recent intermediate report of the evaluation of the NDIS.

While data on the total of NDIS funding provided for speech pathology supports is unavailable, it is expected that NDIS funds now contribute to a significant and growing revenue stream for Australian private and non-government speech pathology practice.

At present there are a number of challenges facing the development and sustainability of the speech pathology workforce within the NDIS – including provider registration processes, administrative burden on practices and communication processes between the NDIA and providers.

The commission's initial findings

SPA made formal submissions to the commission's inquiry in June and July. In the interim report released by the commission, multiple concerns and recommendations made by SPA have been acknowledged or adopted, and SPA is quoted a number of times. This reflects an acknowledgement that the speech pathology profession plays an important role within the NDIS.

In the interim report the commission made numerous findings across a range of scheme components (e.g., eligibility, supports, provider readiness). Of most interest to speech pathologists are the following findings:

- The NDIS is a highly valued and complex national reform, driving unprecedented change, that, if implemented well, will improve the well-being of all Australians.
- NDIS costs are broadly on track with the NDIA's predictions.
- Autism and intellectual disability are the largest primary disability groups (about two thirds of all participants) in the scheme.
- A disproportionate number of NDIS participants are children aged 14 or younger (about 44 per cent of participants). Around 45 per cent of children in the NDIS have Autism. While the data may be skewed due to the age cohorts in the different rollout areas, the commission has determined that there is a higher than expected number of children entering the scheme.
- The number of children exiting the scheme (from the early intervention stream) is lower than expected.
- The development of the Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) Pathway “seeks to tighten the entry pathways for children aged 0–6 years”. Effectively this pathway will triage children in short term early intervention services provided by Early Childhood Partner Organisations for those with milder functional problems, and will direct children with more significant and permanent functional problems on to an individual NDIS plan. The commission said, “It is too early to gauge the success of the ECEI approach in upholding the eligibility criteria for NDIS and to assess its effectiveness in supporting children who are not eligible for individual supports”.

- Benefits from the scheme are being realised by participants. However, those not seeing improved outcomes include those receiving fewer services than previously, those who are unable to advocate for themselves, those who find it difficult to navigate NDIS processes and those with psychosocial disability.
- The speed of the NDIS rollout has put the scheme's success and financial sustainability at risk. The speed of the rollout has:
 - compromised the quality of plans;
 - caused implications for the development of the disability workforce, which is unlikely to be sufficiently developed by 2020 to deliver the scheme;
 - imposed challenging timeframes on the development of important structure in the scheme (including the responsibility at the coalface for health and transport services) and for the creation and implementation of the Quality and Safeguarding Framework (which includes provider registration processes).
- Greater emphasis is needed on pre-planning, in-depth planning conversations, plan quality reporting and training of NDIS Planners.
- There is confusion/lack of clarity about the interface between NDIS and mainstream services.
- A significant challenge is growing the disability workforce.

The commission's recommendations to date

The commission has made numerous recommendations that if accepted by governments will change the way the NDIS is designed and operates in the future. Of interest to speech pathologists are the commission's recommendations:

- That the NDIA should improve their data collection and reporting (including data on the functional domains for which participants enter the scheme),
- significant changes to the process of plan reviews and planning processes,
- improved training for NDIS Planners,
- the federal government should retain oversight of workforce development,
- improved clarity from state and territory governments about their approach to ensure continuity of support/services for those not eligible for individualised NDIS plans,
- establishment of data collection and reporting mechanisms about the provider market, including allied health providers,
- an independent price monitor to be responsible for pricing of supports,
- an electronic provider "market place" – the eMarketPlace should be implemented as a matter of priority,
- improved public performance reporting on the scheme (reporting in greater detail, granularity about plan reviews, time frames, and review decisions).

The commission's interim report for the inquiry into the NDIS costs can be found at www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/ndis-costs#report. A final report from the commission is expected to be published in October 2017 and a response from government to the recommendations will follow.

Ronelle Hutchinson
Manager Policy & Advocacy



Funding decision on mealtime and dysphagia

RECENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SPA and senior leaders in the NDIA have focused on access to speech pathology services, including those related to mealtime supports. The NDIA recently advised SPA that the NDIS will no longer fund mealtime and dysphagia supports for NDIS participants. This is of grave concern to SPA.

The NDIA's rationale is that this support is primarily to prevent a health risk (pneumonia or choking) and therefore the health sector should finance it. We believe this decision demonstrates a lack of understanding of the important role eating and drinking play in participating in social, economic and educational life for everyone, including people with disability.

It is our understanding that no agreements are currently in place between the NDIA and any state, territory or federal health or disability ministers, or their departments for the transition of funding and service delivery of community-based speech pathology mealtime supports from disability to health.

It is the view of Speech Pathology Australia that this decision by the NDIA reflects an inappropriate cost shifting of this service for people with disability to state and territory health budgets.

The transition of such a fundamental disability support from the disability sector to the health sector is going to be very complex for people with disability, disability support workers, speech pathologists and hospitals.

We have begun to have meetings with all Ministers for Health and Ministers for Disability to raise this urgent issue and highlight the considerable budgetary and service implications of such a decision. We have also raised this issue with the Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS in our submission to their inquiry on the NDIS transitional arrangements. SPA will appear at a hearing for this inquiry in early November to discuss this issue.

To date, we have received a written response from Tasmania and SPA representatives have met with ministers in Western Australia and the Northern Territory and have meetings scheduled for the ACT and Queensland.

We would like to hear from any member working in the disability sector whose clients have experienced access issues to mealtime services. We would also like to hear from members working in health and hospital settings who have witnessed an increase in demand for mealtime support services. Please email your contact details to arrange a confidential discussion to either Ronelle Hutchinson, Manager Policy and Advocacy, on policy@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au or Cathy Olsson, National Disability Adviser on disability@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au.

NDIS Concerns about the Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) approach



The Honourable Jenny Macklin MP, SPA National Advisor Disability Cathy Olsson, SPA Chief Executive Officer Gail Mulcair and The Honourable Kevin Andrews MP after discussions at the NDIS ECEI Inquiry.

AS PART OF OUR ONGOING ADVOCACY EFFORTS SPA PREPARED A SUBMISSION, IN CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS, TO AN IMPORTANT INQUIRY THAT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO CHANGE THE FUTURE OF ECEI SERVICES.

The inquiry is being conducted by the Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS.

We are very pleased to report that SPA representatives were subsequently invited to appear before the Parliamentary Committee, with Gail Mulcair and Cathy Olsson giving evidence at a public hearing in Melbourne on 19 September.

SPA holds a number of concerns about the ECEI approach as it is currently being implemented through the NDIS. While our members report that the ECEI approach has improved access to therapy and supports for many children, there is general confusion and lack of transparency about what the ECEI approach is and what families and providers can expect from it.

Our key points and recommendations in our submission included:

- The need to streamline and fast track the registration processes for qualified speech pathologists to register as NDIS providers.
- That the NDIA recognise the variability of supports required for children with differing communication needs. The NDIA needs to seek advice from SPA and other stakeholders to develop processes to determine access, reference packages and recommended clinical pathways for children under the Early Childhood Early Intervention approach.
- That the NDIA put in place processes to expedite planning and review time frames for children under the age of 6 years – in recognition that delays in process are likely to have a disproportionate impact on longer term outcomes for young children. A delay of 6 months is a “big deal” in the life of a 3-year-old.
- That clarification is urgently required regarding the roles, responsibilities and service delivery parameters of state/territory departments of health and the NDIS is supporting children with health and disability needs.

- That the NDIA convene a rural NDIS forum (including Speech Pathology Australia, other peak allied health professional bodies and the National Rural Health Alliance) to advise on issues relating to the support of NDIS ECEI services in rural and remote parts of Australia. Urgent issues to be addressed include sustainable solutions to the funding of travel, access to allied health with specialised skills, and telepractice arrangements.

Systemic changes to the ECEI planning process include:

- minimum standards relating to the qualifications, skills, experience and knowledge of planners to be mandated (and monitored);
- induction and continuing professional development training of planners on the roles of the allied health professions providing services to young children within NDIS;
- review processes for plans to allow for mid-cycle reviews so that plans can be amended in light of changes in functional needs or in response to key transition experiences in a child's life.

As always, we are extremely grateful to those members who contributed their time and expertise to inform and strengthen the submission.

The submission can be found on the [SPA website](#)
>Resources for the public > Advocacy > Submissions

Sandy Fowler
Policy Officer



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Keynote and invited speakers

As announced in the September issue of Conference eNews, Professor Marion Kickett has accepted the invitation to present a keynote address and keynote seminar in Adelaide.

The Conference Planning Committee (CPC) is also pleased to announce that Professor Elizabeth Ward has accepted the nomination for the Elizabeth Usher Memorial Award 2018.

Professor Marion Kickett is a Balardong Noongar on her father's side and Wongutha/Yamitj on her mother's side. However, she grew up in Balardong country in the wheat belt area of the South West of Western Australia. She has a nursing and health science background. Marion completed her PhD in 2012 at the University of Western Australia using an Aboriginal methodology. Her topic was "Why are some Aboriginal people more resilient than others?"



She has been teaching Aboriginal health and culture for the past 30 years both at a community and academic level. Marion has worked in and with Aboriginal community controlled organisations developing, designing and implementing educational programs. Marion is currently the director of the Centre for Aboriginal Studies at Curtin University. She strongly believes the way forward is education and her strongest leadership attribute is the empowerment of her own people.

Elizabeth Usher Memorial Award recipient

Professor Elizabeth (Liz) Ward is the professor of the Centre for Functioning and Health Research (CFAHR) in Queensland Health and professor in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at The University of Queensland. She is a leading international researcher with over 250 publications, and has been a keynote/invited speaker in 20 countries. Her research interests primarily centre on the practice area of dysphagia, with particular interest in acute care populations and patients receiving management for head and neck cancer. She has had extensive experience in health services research: building evidence for clinical practice areas, evaluating new models of care and addressing undergraduate/workforce clinical training issues. In her 20 years working at The University of Queensland, Professor Ward has received multiple university awards for the high quality of her undergraduate teaching, and in 2017 was awarded The



University of Queensland Award for Excellence in Research Higher Degree Supervision. In 2014, Professor Ward was made "Fellow" of Speech Pathology Australia in recognition of the standing of her contributions to the profession.

Since 2010, Professor Ward has been the professor of the Centre for Functioning and Health Research (CFAHR); a conjoint position between the Metro South Hospital and Health Service of Queensland Health and The University of Queensland. In this role she has had the responsibility of building research capacity and stimulating clinical research within the allied health workforce of the public health service of Queensland. Through her leadership role within CFAHR, Professor Ward has assisted numerous clinical teams to implement and evaluate new models of care. She is passionate about improving health services for patients and reducing the "research-to-practice" gap in evidence implementation. Her work has led to many health service enhancements and has validated multiple new and expanded clinical roles in both speech pathology and other allied health professions.

Call for papers

The closing date has passed and the reviewers are busy assessing each abstract. The CPC would like to thank everyone who submitted an abstract and looks forward to developing an inspiring and comprehensive conference program following completion of the review process. Authors of abstracts accepted into the conference program will be contacted in mid-November 2017 and asked to confirm their participation.

Win a \$100 voucher for Regattas (R Bar)

Each month we will include a conference question in Conference eNews and the first 10 correct entries will go into the draw to win the \$100 voucher for Regattas (R Bar). The draw will be held on the Sunday night of the conference during pre-registration. To be eligible you must be in attendance when the "lucky" name is drawn.

For the best view in town look no further than the newly relaunched Regattas Bar (now popularly known as the R Bar). A casual riverside destination and part of the Adelaide Convention Centre complex, the R Bar offers local wines, beers and seasonal produce in a pleasant indoor/outdoor setting with unparalleled sweeping views over the stunning River Torrens.



A carefully selected menu means there's something for everyone with dishes ranging from pub classics to handmade pizzas and open grills.

An ever-changing modern wine and drinks list provides a taste of diversity from the best of the state's regions and production styles. Open seven days a week, 10am until late, R Bar provides the ideal destination for a pre or post show or dinner or drinks.



Sponsorship and exhibition

The sponsorship and exhibition Invitation is now available from our website. Please visit [www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/Professional Development/ National Conference 2018](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/ProfessionalDevelopment/NationalConference2018) for full details. The CPC would like to welcome the first sponsor Guild who has confirmed sponsorship of the conference dinner and photo booth.



The following companies have booked an exhibition stand: Guild Insurance, IOPI Medical, IJSLP/JCPSLP, Liberator Pty Ltd, Precise-Enprocal, Pro-Ed Australia, Reading Doctor, SP in Cambodia and Vietnam, Speech Pathology Australia, The Hanen Centre and Wise Words Australia.

Accommodation

PR Conference Consultants will manage the accommodation requirements for the 2018 conference delegates. Details regarding the accommodation options will be available from the conference website shortly.

Due to the various airlines, discounted fares and private company arrangements, Speech Pathology Australia has decided to invite conference delegates to make their own travel arrangements and pre/post conference tours.

We are currently negotiating with a local company to offer delegates airport transfers. Details will be available from the conference website shortly.

Barbara Lyndon
2018 Conference Convenor
Pamela Richards
National Conference Manager

Call for conference planning committee

The Board is pleased to announce that Speech Pathology Australia and the New Zealand Speech-Language Therapists Association have agreed to hold a joint conference in Brisbane from Sunday 2 – Wednesday 5 June 2019 at the Brisbane Convention Centre.

Nominations are now being sought from Queensland members for four positions. Find out more and about how to apply on page 38.

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Tips for a successful mentoring experience

THE ONLY TIME that mentoring fails is when communication breaks down. Even with all our training and skills in communication, feedback from members involved in the mentoring program highlights that we are not always good at communicating with each other.

While the majority of mentoring partnerships are established and progress smoothly with no issues, some mentees and mentors do encounter issues resulting from communication breakdown. To avoid these issues and frustrations please observe the below communication guidelines:

For mentees

1. Contact one mentor at a time. When searching for a mentor, contact only one speech pathologist at a time (except if you require mentoring in two very separate and distinct areas). If you are doing this via email, give the speech pathologist the option of replying to you by a nominated date if they are willing to discuss and/or act as your mentor. Wait until this speech pathologist has replied to you and you have both discussed and determined whether this will be an appropriate match before contacting others, or until the date has passed with no reply.
2. Communicate. If you no longer feel you require a mentor, **LET YOUR MENTOR KNOW!** Sometimes I hear that mentees simply never got back to their mentor. Mentoring is a mutual, two-way relationship and it is fundamental to the success of the relationship that clear communication is maintained through the duration of the relationship. It is courteous and respectful to let your mentor know you no longer wish to continue the partnership for whatever reason, so they are clear that the partnership has ended.
3. Be professional. Be prepared for meetings, be reliable, be polite, and be mindful of the other person's needs within the relationship. Be mindful of your responsibilities as a speech pathologist to your mentor and your profession. Professional behaviour will be noticed and bring positive consequences—mentors can become referees and important links in your professional network.
4. Be grateful. Senior members of the profession generously give their time, energy, skills, knowledge and experience. They do this to contribute to the profession and maintain high standards in less experienced members of the profession. Genuine and expressed gratitude can go a long way to helping senior members of the profession feel justifiably valued and willing to continue to share their time and expertise with others.

The quality of the mentoring partnership is primarily dependent on the quality of the communication between the mentee and the mentor and **BOTH** are responsible for this communication.

For mentors

Be responsive. If you have signed up to be a mentor it is your responsibility to respond to any mentee who makes contact with you. Even if you don't think you would be a suitable mentor for this mentee, it is important to respond and express why you don't think you should enter in to a partnership together. If you no longer wish to be listed in the Find a Mentor search, email Meredith Prain at psa@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au

Be proactive and assume nothing. I sometimes hear from mentors that they have not heard from their mentee for a while and so assume they do not require mentor support. It is important that both mentee and mentor are clear at all times on the status of their partnership. If regular contact is no longer required, perhaps it is time to end the formal aspect of the partnership. This does not mean you never contact each other again, but simply that the regular goal-oriented contact comes to an end. If you haven't heard from your mentee for a while, get in touch with them to confirm how they'd like to proceed.

If you have any questions regarding the mentoring program contact Meredith Prain psa@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au (Tuesdays only)

Meredith Prain
Professional Support Advisor

“Professional supervision fosters reflective practice, encouraging clinicians to think about and evaluate what they do as practitioners.”

Supervision

How to demonstrate professional values

THE VALUES WHICH underpin speech pathology professional practice support us to demonstrate professional, that is, ethical, behaviour and are displayed through our actions and choices. There are many professional obligations, interests and responsibilities requiring our time and attention, even before we consider the personal activities we undertake. This may restrict the time we allocate for reflection on our actions. However, if we take the time to consider the values that underpin the delivery of our professional services, we can have confidence that the decisions we make and the services we provide will reflect our commitment to the highest standards of care and benefit our clients.

One method to reflect on how we demonstrate professional values is to identify an area of practice and explore how our actions in that area confirms our commitment to uphold those values. An example is the provision of professional supervision.

The role and importance of supervision is stated explicitly in the SPA Code of Ethics (2010) in the following sections:

3.3.3 Professional Competence

We maintain our capacity and competence to practise. In particular we:

...continually update and extend our professional knowledge and skills through activities such as... engaging the support of a mentor or supervisor

3.3.4 Supervision

We provide appropriate supervision.

We accept responsibility for clinical and support staff, students and volunteers who are assigned to us.

We demonstrate and discuss ethical practice with those we supervise to facilitate their ethical reasoning skills.

3.4.2 Our Staff

If we manage, supervise or employ staff we:

... give them regular supervision, feedback, and access to continuing education and mentoring.

Whether currently engaged in a supervisory relationship or not, it is valuable to reflect on how participating in supervision would demonstrate adherence to the four values described in the Code of Ethics in a practical way.

Integrity

We are accountable for our professional actions and decisions, and demonstrate a willingness to have our practice appraised and developed. Supervision provides us with a forum to raise issues,

undertake problem-solving and to work through concerns with a view to ensuring consistency and integrity.

Professionalism

One of the objectives of supervision is to provide accountability within professional behaviour. Professionalism is a foundation for appropriate service provision and workplace interactions and can be guided and supported by a supervisor.

Respect and care

Similarly, through discussions with a supervisor, demonstration of the values of respect and care towards clients and colleagues can be confirmed.

Quality standards and continuing competence

The Code of Ethics requires speech pathologists to maintain professional competence and continue to improve and update knowledge and skills. The Competency Based Occupational Standards (CBOS 2011) also require speech pathologists to demonstrate “lifelong learning and reflective practice”. A key aim of supervision is to ensure the person being supervised has the competence to undertake their work role, and is receiving adequate and appropriate training and support to meet the needs of the client.

Professional supervision fosters reflective practice, encouraging clinicians to think about and evaluate what they do as practitioners. By engaging in supervision, we can display the professional values we aspire to. During supervision the above values may be discussed explicitly. However, even if they are not, behaviours and professional practices are shaped and developed through the process of supervision and the resulting professional behaviour is assured to be consistent with these values.

It is through our actions that we demonstrate commitment to the values of the profession. Engaging in supervision is one way we can demonstrate all the values described in our Code of Ethics.

If you would like to know more about supervision you can visit the Supervision page on the [SPA website > Supervision](#)

From time to time the Ethics Board seeks experienced supervisors to provide paid supervision to members who have breached the Code of Ethics and require supervision to rectify the issue with their practice. If you are interested and have appropriate experience, please contact Trish Johnson at National Office or provide an expression of interest with a copy of your CV.

Trish Johnson
Senior Advisor, Ethics and Professional Issues
Meredith Prain
Professional Support Advisor

Early career group represented at Allied Health Conference

IT WAS A GREAT honour and absolute pleasure to represent the Early Career Reference Group and Speech Pathology Australia at the 12th National Allied Health Conference in Sydney on Sunday 27 August.

The Early Career Reference Group unites the views of new graduate speech pathologists from a variety of workplace settings across Australia. Two scientific posters were accepted into this year's conference under the theme "Stronger Together". The conference highlights the importance of allied health practice in the continuum of building responsive services, reliable systems and a resilient workforce.

A reference group was developed to ameliorate current issues new graduate clinicians experience as they embark on their careers, and to create specific resources that equip members with clinical knowledge and advisory support to build a resilient, future-ready workforce.

Presenting a scientific poster was a great opportunity to showcase the work and network with a range of professionals from allied health associations, universities and public and private sectors. The advice, support and encouragement were gratefully received on the day. Throughout the conference there was an overwhelming sense of collaboration and reminders that allied health professionals are at the forefront of change. Presenting at a national conference has been a career highlight, and I would like to thank everyone who assisted and contributed to the posters.



Natalie Lloyd
Speech Pathologist NSW Health

On the socials



THE 2017 SPEECH PATHOLOGY WEEK digital campaign was a success! Over the course of the week, we had record engagement on our social media platforms.

New to this year's campaign was a series of videos produced by the communications team at Speech Pathology Australia. These videos showed speech pathologists and their clients across a range of situations where speech pathology has helped improve quality of life. There were eight videos in total (seven interviews and one wrap-up "thank you" video). An animation put together by the Victoria branch advocacy team and Maddie Gwynne was also featured as part of the campaign.

From 20 August until 31 August, we accumulated a combined 169,034 views (165,548 on Facebook and 3486 on YouTube)!

Did you miss them? You can watch them all on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/SpeechPathAus

FACEBOOK

Our Facebook reach was 670,488—that is the number of people who saw one of our posts in the period 19–27 August.



TWITTER

We had our most retweeted tweet ever posted on 20 August—88 retweets and 76 likes!

The total number of "retweets", "likes" and "impressions" for tweets posted from the @SpeechPathAus handle during 19–27 August, included 384 retweets, 501 likes and 151,000 impressions.

INSTAGRAM

We had our highest ever Instagram engagement on a single post – 454 likes on the Communication Access infographic!

FUN STAT

Speech Pathology Australia more than doubled the Facebook engagement of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) for the week! Engagement is the number of people who directly interact with our posts (likes, shares and comments). This is pretty extraordinary since ASHA has a built in audience of 126,000 on their Facebook page compared to our 14,800.



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Witness intermediary update

SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS WITH an interest in the justice system may recall several articles in *Speak Out* in recent years, for example in the December 2015, October 2016, and April 2017 issues, which highlighted developments in the use of intermediaries in Australian jurisdictions. The role of an intermediary is to enable effective communication between a vulnerable individual and the police/courts so that they may give as complete, coherent and accurate evidence as possible. The Witness Intermediary Scheme of England and Wales (under s16 Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act, 1999) is considered to be a model of best practice.

South Australia now has the Communication Partner Scheme, in which trained volunteers provide recommendations and advice to police (and in the future, also to courts) regarding the management of communication needs of victims, witnesses and suspects with identified disability. New South Wales is in its

second year of the Children's Champions Pilot providing for the use of an intermediary (under the Criminal Procedure Amendment (Child Sexual Offence Evidence Pilot) Bill 2015) for child complainants in sexual assault cases in specific geographical locations. Plans are now being made for intermediary schemes in Victoria and in Western Australia, as well as ongoing consideration in Tasmania.

Speech Pathology Australia will continue to advocate for the need to identify, and address communication difficulties of many of those in contact with the justice system, and the value that speech pathologists in the role of intermediaries can add to this process. We will continue to update our members as developments progress and opportunities arise. Speech Pathology Australia will also endeavour to support members who are approached to provide input into the justice system outside the pilot schemes. One such case is described below.

A question of competence

MARY WOODWARD WAS RECENTLY APPOINTED AS SPA'S NATIONAL ADVISOR JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH. MARY WORKED ON A CASE RECENTLY THAT HIGHLIGHTED THE INCREASING VALUE OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY WITHIN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM.

ALTHOUGH THERE IS now an intermediary pilot for certain child sexual assault cases in New South Wales (NSW), there is currently no provision in NSW for intermediaries for adults with communication needs. These needs are increasingly being identified, and thankfully the value of speech pathology in enabling people to access the justice system is also gradually being recognised. This was demonstrated in a recent case where a referral from the NSW Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) was received for the speech pathology assessment of a 73-year-old lady, called Hope. Hope had moderate intellectual disability and significant communication difficulties, who 18 months previously, reported a sexual assault by a member of her care staff. At the time of the referral Hope had completed two recorded police interviews, with inconsistent reports given and limited speech intelligibility, as a result there were questions regarding her competence to give evidence. Under sections 12 and 13 of the Evidence Act 1995 (Cth), "every person (regardless of age, race and gender) is competent to give evidence unless they do not have the capacity to understand a question about a fact or do not have the capacity to give an answer about a fact that is able to be understood and this incapacity is not able to be overcome". It is surprising that it is rare for consideration to be given to how an "incapacity" in understanding or giving an answer might be overcome, with speech pathologists not routinely involved in competency hearings. In this case Witness Assistance Service Team Leader Gerard McGeough, in collaboration with ODPP Solicitor Maire Grimes, suggested to the trial judge, Judge Girdham SC, that a speech pathologist be consulted. With her authorisation, the request was made for an urgent assessment, a court report, and then attendance in court to act as an "assistant in communicating" (pursuant to s275B Criminal Procedure Act) while Hope gave evidence. Independent speech pathologist (and former registered intermediary in England and Wales) Mary Woodward received the referral and accepted the case as outlined below.

As well as gathering information from Hope's carers, Mary's

speech pathology assessment included exploration of her receptive language (including her ability to respond accurately to different question forms), expressive language, and speech intelligibility. Hope could follow one key word instructions but her responses were not consistently accurate when questions or instructions contained two or more key words. She was able to respond accurately to linguistically leading questions (e.g., those containing "tags") when the subject matter was concrete, such as when she was asked, "this is red, isn't it?" she correctly responded "no, it's green", but when questions involved more abstract concepts (e.g., opinions, or time) she either responded off-topic with perseverative utterances or just agreed with whatever had been said. For example when asked "you're going to the movies later, aren't you?" she said "yes", even though this was not the case. Her speech was extremely difficult to understand, particularly when in connected speech or out of context, but several patterns in her speech errors were identified. Some of these were typical phonological processes (e.g., fronting, cluster reduction, and final consonant deletion), as well as atypical sound substitutions (such as vowel distortions, and the reduction of final syllables to 'der', e.g., apple = 'ader' and banana = 'banader'). She spontaneously used gestures descriptively to support her verbal communication, but was not able to read or write, and was not aided by the use of visual symbols.

In court, viewing Hope's police interviews gave further information regarding her communication. The speech pathologist suggested to the ODPP that the plan for Hope to be questioned from a remote room might exacerbate her communication difficulties and suggested that the questioner, in this case Judge Girdham, should go to the remote room to question her face-to-face. The evidence would be screened via audio-visual link to the other parties in the courtroom. The crown prosecutor smiled and said "the wheels of justice turn very slowly", however, agreed to it, and thankfully Judge Girdham agreed as she "could see no reason why not".



New national advisor Justice and mental health

SPEECH PATHOLOGY AUSTRALIA is pleased to announce the appointment of Mary Woodward to the role of National Advisor, Justice and Mental Health. This new 0.4FTE position was approved for a 12 month period to progress strategic activities and advocacy across both of these sectors. Mary brings to the role extensive clinical experience in both mental health and justice, and has advocated passionately for the need to

recognise and overcome communication difficulties in these settings. Mary is thrilled to be representing her profession in this way, and looks forward to collaborating with other speech pathologists working in these fields. She would like to encourage anyone interested to join the SPA Justice Member Community and/or SPA Mental Health Member Community on facebook

Mary's email is: mwoodward@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au

“There has been a historical tendency to limit the interventions of non-lawyers in adversarial trial process.”



A forensic psychologist, called as an expert witness, cast doubt on Hope's capacity to give evidence given her cognitive impairment including her difficulty with concepts of time, short-term memory, and her limited understanding of the obligation to tell the truth in court. She agreed that a speech pathologist may add “tremendous value” though not necessarily enough to overcome all of Hope's difficulties. Mary Woodward was then questioned, under oath, about her report and Judge Girdham (who, fortuitously, was one of the district court judges involved in the NSW pilot scheme) began to use the term “intermediary” to describe the speech pathologist's role. A “ground rules hearing” discussed how recommendations from the report about Hope's communication may be implemented. Later that evening, the judge sent the intermediary her planned questions for feedback. Many suggestions were made as to how the language may be simplified so Hope would be more likely to understand.

The following day, Judge Girdham, Gerard McGeough and Mary Woodward went to an audio-visual room in a different court for Hope's questioning. The interaction was live-streamed to the main courtroom. The intermediary intervened as necessary to clarify Judge Girdham's questions and Hope's responses, and Judge Girdham requested a break to discuss further how she may phrase the questions she wished to pose. In her ruling, Judge Girdham recognised that Hope;

‘has some capacity to answer simple concrete questions and can be understood once familiar with her patterns of speech, however anything beyond such questions she was clearly incapable of giving an answer that could be understood, most probably because she did not have the capacity to understand the questions asked of her for the reasons stated by [the forensic psychologist], and notwithstanding the assistance I was given by Ms Woodward’.

However, because of the other difficulties which the forensic psychologist had identified, Judge Girdham ultimately ruled that Hope lacked competence to give evidence.

While not all the issues relating to Hope's competence were able to be overcome, the case demonstrated accommodations that can be made to the justice process in NSW in order to give a vulnerable adult witness the best possible chance to testify. As Maire Grimes commented,

‘The recognition by the courts that certain categories of people require a more flexible approach to the giving of their evidence, and that other specialists can provide greater assistance in ensuring that witnesses are properly supported, represents a shift in the legal culture. There has been a historical tendency to limit the interventions of non-lawyers in adversarial trial process. The judiciary and broader legal profession has been preoccupied with maintaining the presumption of innocence and the obligation on the prosecution to present its case beyond reasonable doubt. This focus trumped all considerations as to how evidence could best be elicited from a witness. If a witness could not properly give their evidence because of fear or other limitation they were usually deemed to be unreliable.

In the present case the court in questioning the complainant in an untypical way allowed for a better assessment of the complainant's communication and intellectual deficits. It ensured that the complainant had every opportunity to present herself in a way that was appropriate to her needs and abilities. In my view, it also allowed the court to assess more fully the complainant and ensure that the reasoning and decisions it made regarding the complainant's competency was fully informed and legally sound. There is much to be gained from the judiciary and legal profession taking a more flexible approach to the questioning of witnesses, it should not be assumed that it will automatically erode the rights of the accused or undermine the long held traditions of adversarial testing of evidence. Instead it can ensure that the testing of evidence is moulded to the facts of the case and the individual needs of the witness thereby ensuring that the evidence obtained is more robust and trustworthy.’

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BRANCH NEWS

So much to “access” in Tasmania!

OUR MEMBERSHIP MIGHT be relatively small compared to other states but the creativity and commitment has been running high in Tassie this month. Our Speech Pathology Week activities included a community information stall at the iconic Salamanca Markets in Hobart as well as a breakfast in the north and south of the state for members to get together and celebrate the profession. Now getting out of bed early is difficult most winter days in Tasmania but when there is snow on the mountains it can be especially hard! A special thank you to those people who came to the early morning pre-work breakfasts and also to the wonderful volunteers who helped out at Salamanca on that chilly day.

We always try to have one fun social event for members too each year and this time we held a children's yoga session and lunch. This was a wonderful opportunity to bond with each other on a whole new level and learn some fun child-friendly yoga moves!

September also saw the 2017 National Tour with Tanya Serry come to our shores. This event was very well attended and created some positive discussion and idea sharing. We always value the opportunity to hear about new research and discuss how it applied to our local contexts.

There will be another literacy-focused workshop, this time run by Ros Neilson, in Hobart in late October so jump onto the website to find out more details and to register.



SP Week in WA

WEST AUSTRALIAN SPA members are no stranger to coming together to launch Speech Pathology week, and this year was no different. Our 2017 launch event at The Wembley Hotel saw upwards of 60 members celebrate and raise awareness of “Communication Access - Everybody Gets the Message.” While drinks and nibbles were enjoyed, WA speechies made the most of an opportunity to catch up with friends and colleagues, to make new connections and to welcome some newcomers to the WA membership.

The highlight of the evening was listening to a range of speakers share their thoughts on and experiences with communication access. Speech pathologist Kelly Savage started the ball rolling with a wonderful reflection on her time working with clients with complex communication needs and sharing her passion for Variety Motor Mouth Camp. Kelly's infectious passion and enthusiasm left many wanting to know about how to get involved; certainly encouraging those of us who may not usually work in the area of AAC to expand our skillsets.

We then heard from Rod Mackintosh, a vastly experienced educator from Malibu School in Perth's south, who shared his journey over many years creating low tech AAC resources for all



schools to access. It was fascinating to hear from someone outside the Speech Pathology profession who shares the same passion for ensuring that communication is accessible for all students. He spoke about the challenges of consumer “buy-in” and the huge benefits to schools once communication access is seen as a priority.

Finally, speech pathologists Freya Allen and Yvette Theodorsen shared their insights as WA representatives of AGOSCI; a group that aim to enhance participation for people with complex communication needs. There are exciting things to come for this national community as WA prepare to host the national biannual AGOSCI conference in Perth in 2019.

**Jessie Sansalone and
Asha Bodycoat**
Public Affairs Portfolio

TASMANIA



**TAS 124
members**

as at September 2017

WA



**WA 902
members**

as at September 2017

ACT/
NEW SOUTH WALES



ACT 83
NSW 2478
members

as at September 2017



Building connections in South East Asia

THANKS TO THE Australian government's New Colombo Plan funding, myself and five other students from the University of Newcastle travelled to Singapore. The aim of this trip was to build connections between students from the University of Newcastle and speech pathologists working in organisations in South East Asia.

The New Colombo Plan is an initiative by the Australian government that allows undergraduates and young professionals to foster relationships with their peers in the Indo-Pacific. The trip was an observation placement and was an exciting opportunity to dive into another culture. We learnt about the different ways speech pathology services are delivered in Asia, especially in a country with a diverse range of cultures and languages. Over the course of our week of observation in Singapore, we were warmly welcomed by the Speech Pathology Department of Singapore General Hospital, THK Charities, Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore, Techable and Auditory Verbal Department of the Centre for Hearing and Ear Implants. We walked away with a new perspective on our undergraduate studies.

Singapore is incredibly diverse. One of the amazing things about Singapore is it has four official languages: English, Malay, Tamil, and

Mandarin. This had real impacts on the care administered by the speech pathologists we observed. This diversity in spoken language made the way the speech pathologists work fascinating to watch, as they often only spoke two of the four official languages but provided treatment in whatever language the client could understand. The communication between the speech pathologist and client depended on gestures and, hopefully, a language that they could both partially speak and/or understand. This gave us a positive new perspective for the importance of communication with CALD populations, and some insight into how I can improve my own skills when working with this population.

It wasn't all serious though, we immersed ourselves in the Singaporean culture while there. The experience included some sightseeing, shopping, and the odd sneaky cocktail. I count myself to be extremely lucky to have been given the opportunity to travel to Singapore. Australia is such a multicultural country that is ever increasing in diversity, and it was invaluable to have experienced speech pathology in a country that truly epitomizes multiculturalism.

Alison Kershaw
University of Newcastle

Aphasia Integration Program recognised



THE AUSTIN APHASIA INTEGRATION PROGRAM (AAIP) was awarded the HESTA Primary Health Care Team Excellence Award at the Allied Health Research Conference Dinner in August. The program was recognised for its contribution to supporting people living with chronic aphasia in the community.

The AAIP is an intensive comprehensive multidisciplinary group program which aims to improve mood, functional communication, community integration as well as provide carer support. The program was successfully piloted through clinical research conducted in partnership with La Trobe University (Lauren Kovesy, Associate Professor Miranda Rose, Michelle Attard and Gillian Steel) in 2015. Management support was then gained to rollout the program within the existing Health Independence Program rehabilitation services budget 2016–2017.

The AAIP is comprised of an Intensive Comprehensive Group Program (four hours a day, two days per week for eight weeks) followed by a Transition and Community Integration Program (four weeks), to bridge the gap from community rehabilitation services to community-based networks.

The AAIP participants engage in pre-assessment and individual goal-setting. Goals are addressed through group program activities, including: conversation, technology, music, art, carer support/training, aphasia advocacy and community connections (leisure/recreation).

The program is led by two speech pathologists, Lauren Kovesy and Emma Burns, with the assistance of a dynamic team of social workers, music therapists, art therapists, community integration and leisure workers; and trained volunteers (which also included people with aphasia in the role of peer supporters).

31 people with aphasia and their families have participated across three iterations with the following outcomes:

- participants achieved the majority of their goals;
- positive change in formal measures of mood, social participation, community integration, communication skills and carer burden.

Upon completion, participants commenced their own social aphasia support group, were linked in with community services, and were successfully discharged from community rehabilitation services.

The AAIP translated research into clinical practice, achieving an effective cost-neutral approach to the major challenge of supporting people with chronic aphasia.

The AAIP team has collaborated with the research team at the Aphasia Hub at LaTrobe University; clinical education schools at LaTrobe University and Australian Catholic University; and the Stroke Association of Victoria Stroke Hub (Kew). The team also acknowledges the generous initial research funding support from the Becher Foundation, Eireen Lucas Foundation and the Royal Talbot Research Fund.

The AAIP team are delighted that the experience of people living with aphasia has been highlighted through the HESTA Primary Healthcare Award. The prize money will be reinvested into further development of the program with the view of promoting the model to other community rehabilitation services.

For further questions regarding the Austin Aphasia Integration Program do not hesitate to contact Lauren Kovesy (lauren.kovesy@austin.org.au) or Emma Burns (emma.burns@austin.org.au)

VICTORIA



VIC 2066 members

as at September 2017

QUEENSLAND



QLD 1745 members

as at September 2017

Displays and information for SPWeek

SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS AND services across the state ran events for Speech Pathology Week 2017 with great success.

1. Mater Hospital

Over Speech Pathology Week, Mater Hospital hosted a baking stall where funds were raised for SPA. Fourth year students from the Australian Catholic University, on placement at Mater, collaborated to help man the stall for the day, engage and advocate for the professional.

3. James Cook University

Speech Pathology students at James Cook University created a wonderful video, www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6hP42JAqkM! Students also had a display at the JCU library during the week that attracted lots of interest.

3. The Prince Charles Hospital

The Prince Charles Hospital Speech Pathologists held a week-long information display in the hospital cafe and spoke daily to hospital staff and visitors

about speech pathologists' role and providing tips on how everyone can support patients with a communication disability.

Yvette Dempsey (Gold Coast Private Practitioner)

Yvette Dempsey visited Gold Coast Child Care Centre in Ashmore, where parents had the opportunity to ask her question about their children's communication. Yvette also made herself available at the Nerang Library during Rhyme Time and at the Special Needs Library to chat with parents and staff.

Australian Catholic University

The Australian Catholic University Speech Pathology Society held an event in SP Week called "Find Your Future". A panel of five speech pathologists from various universities and areas of clinical practice, shared their experiences on transition into the workforce. Representatives from Qld Health, DET and SPA/private practice also attended.



Call for 2019 National Conference Planning Committee

2019 Joint SPA and NZSTA National Conference, Brisbane

(1x SPA; 1x NZSTA), Scientific Program Chair (1x SPA; 1x NZSTA) and Conference Committee members (2 x SPA; 1 x NZSTA)

The Board is pleased to announce that Speech Pathology Australia and the New Zealand Speech-Language Therapists Association have agreed to hold a joint conference in Brisbane from Sunday 2–Wednesday 5 June 2019 at the Brisbane Convention Centre.

Nominations from Queensland members are

now being sought for the above positions. Your expression of interest should include a covering letter stating relevant experience and a curriculum vitae to support the application.

Applications should be submitted to Pamela Richards, National Conference Manager via email conference@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au

Applications close **Monday 23 October 2017**.



A PhD journey with Machado Joseph Disease

"I remember writing the final edits of my honours thesis in mid-2011 and thinking, 'I am never doing research again'. But if a job opportunity doesn't feel equal parts scary and exciting, it's not really worth doing. So here I am, six years later and 11 months into a PhD.

"I've always been interested in our role as speech pathologists in the bigger picture of communication and social justice. This PhD is an opportunity to bring all my passions together – to work alongside Yolngu (Aboriginal people of Northeast Arnhem Land); share knowledge; learn together in the spaces between two worlds and languages; talk about communication, what is important and the potential of AAC to change peoples lives.

"Machado Joseph Disease (MJD), also known as Spinocerebellar Ataxia Type 3, is an autosomal dominant neurodegenerative disease. In Australia, MJD affects the lives of Aboriginal people in the Top End, Central Australia and some parts of Queensland. 'Anticipation', a phenomenon associated with MJD, causes successive generations to experience earlier onset and more severe symptoms than their parents. MJD causes damage to the cerebellum and results in ataxia. Cognition is not affected, but people with MJD slowly lose control and coordination of muscle, including progressive dysphagia and dysarthria, and eventually a complete loss of functional speech.

"More than 600 people are at risk of inheriting MJD in the NT, with the number of people living with moderate and severe MJD expected to triple in the next 10 years. Rates of MJD among

Aboriginal people are the highest in the world, 100 times the global average. In other countries where the disease has a high prevalence, MJD has been declared a public health issue and legislative measures to address the cost and disadvantage of the disease have been implemented. In Australia, the typical response from health professionals and the general public is, 'MJ what?'.

"Around the world, people who experience progressive dysarthria with normal cognition have greatly benefited from the use of high-tech AAC devices. In Arnhem Land, mobile phones are now commonplace, but so too is sharing mobile devices between family members, limited access to the internet and low rates of English and computer literacy. In Arnhem Land, English has little relevance in day-to-day interactions, but most Yolngu understand and speak several related Yolngu languages, as well as using Yolngu Sign Language in daily interactions.

"Might Aboriginal people in Arnhem Land be interested in high-tech AAC options when their speech becomes difficult to understand? What about other low-tech options? How could we develop AAC systems in Yolngu languages? Who are their primary communication partners and what's important for Yolngu anyway?

"These are some of the questions I've set out to explore. I get paid to learn and work in a field of speech pathology that I am passionate about. I get to design my own ways of working with amazing people – what a dream job!"

Rebecca Amery

NORTHERN TERRITORY



NT 53 members

as at September 2017



Speechie success at national awards

The speech pathology profession was well represented at this years' Hesta awards. Northern Territory speech pathologist Annette Mikecz from SARRAH was selected to be a part of the National team that facilitated the awards process. She is pictured centre with Lauren Kovesy and Emma Burns who lead the team for the Austin Hospital's Aphasia Integration Program. The team were recipients of the HESTA Primary Health Care Team Excellence Award. Read more about the program on page 37.

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