

New look for National Office

- > We have relocated – photos inside!
- > Welcome to SPA's new National President
- > New Ethics Board members announced
- > Outcomes of the recent national CPD survey

National Office

Level 1/114 William Street Melbourne VIC 3000
T 1300 368 835 **F** 03 9642 4922
E office@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au





Chief Executive Officer

Gail Mulcair
T 03 9642 4899 **E** execassist@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au

Speech Pathology Australia Board

Gaenor Dixon – President
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Letters can be sent to pubs@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au
 Letters may or may not be published in future issues of *Speak Out* magazine at SPA's discretion.

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Please refer to the 'Publications' menu at www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au to view the 2015 *Speak Out* ad kit.

Any queries may be directed to Lana Busby, Publications Officer
T 1300 368 835 **E** pubs@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au

Advertising Booking Dates for August 2015 *Speak Out*

The official booking form must be received at National Office by **COB Friday 3 July 2015**.

Speak Out Branch Editors

ACT – via pubs@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au
 New South Wales – Jessica Rennie and Eryka Arteaga
 Northern Territory – Bea Staley
 Queensland – Leanne Sorbello, Catherine Hicks, Erika Campbell and Rebecca Sexton
 South Australia – Emma Leeson and Josie Kemp
 Tasmania – Kate Day
 Victoria – Shane Erickson
 Western Australia – Johanna Eppler
 Please see the website for Branch Editor contact details.

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Highlights in this issue...



PAGE 4: CHANGE OF SCENERY: Speech Pathology Australia's National Office has relocated.



PAGE 10: The 2015 Speech Pathology Week theme is announced;

PAGE 16: We have listened to your feedback from the recent CPD survey.



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From the President



This edition of Speak Out reflects the many changes that have occurred in the last two months.

AS THE 2015 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

challenged us to broaden and revolutionise our practice (there will be more about the 2015 Conference and AGM in the August edition of *Speak Out*), your Association has broadened into new premises; broadened its resources for members with new materials now available for supervision; and is quietly revolutionising its CPD offerings to meet member needs as identified through the recent survey.

My personal challenge for this year is to take on the role of National President. In this capacity I would like to thank Professor Deb Theodoros for her leadership over the last 20 months – I have big shoes to fill! I am honoured to serve the profession and look forward to working with the Board, CEO Gail Mulcair, National Office staff, and the Branches to continue to broaden the community and government's understanding of communication and swallowing disabilities. This includes promoting the profession's role, and advocating for a revolutionised future for our profession and clients.

Further new faces at the Association include Jade Cartwright who is working as an Aged Care project consultant. We also welcome new Ethics Board members Ms Felicity Burke and Mr Tristan Nickless to the member-elected positions on the Board, and thank Ms Helen Smith for moving into a senior member role. I would also like to thank the members who are stepping down from the Ethics Board – Dr Nerina Scarinci, Mr Noel Muller and Dr Alison Russell – for their commitment, time and invaluable contributions to the Ethics Board and the Association.

Talking of ethics, in this issue we publish the results of a random audit of websites that was conducted to check they were compliant with our soon-to-be launched advertising guidelines. Interesting reading! Let's keep talking about ethics; it is through keeping our Code at the forefront of our decision-making that we will continue to serve

our clients' best interests. Don't forget that all members are able to access the Ethics Education Package available in the Ethics section of the website.

Speaking of talking – the theme for this year's Speech Pathology Week is announced in this edition of *Speak Out*. I look forward to hearing of your plans to mark this week, broadening and revolutionising the community's understanding of speech pathology.

The Association is continuing with its advocacy for the profession and the recognition of the impact of communication and swallowing disorders. This edition of *Speak Out* provides an update on its advocacy efforts in Aged Care reform, the Medicare review, Primary Health Networks and through the Australian Stroke Coalition. We also report on the South Australian Parliamentary Briefing hosted by Kelly Vincent MLC in early June. The Primary Health Networks provide an opportunity for members to have a say in the decision-making about primary health in your local network. Consider applying to be a member of the Clinical Council.

The 2016 National Conference was launched at the close of the 2015 Conference in Canberra; encouraging us to "make waves". The call for papers information is included in your June mailout. How are you making waves? Are you contributing to the evidence base that we use to best support clients? Can you share to increase the size of those waves?

No matter how you are contributing to the profession, through research, through Association activities, through representation on Boards and committees, or through your work in your local area – I encourage you to keep making waves. As Michelle Quail the 2016 Conference Convenor stated, "If you are not making waves, you are not kicking hard enough!"

GAENOR DIXON
National President



Clockwise from left: The foyer of 114 William Street; the new Boardroom with a view; and SPA's new location as viewed from the street.



Welcome to SPA's new National Office!

AS MENTIONED in the May and June issues of *National e-News*, Speech Pathology Australia's National Office has relocated.

While the offices at Bank Place served the Association very well for more than 18 years, they slowly became filled to capacity, and hence found the need to move to larger premises. The decision to move offices came after a year of market analysis and financial investigations by the Board with respect to the appropriate options to pursue. Scenario options of selling versus renting were thoroughly explored. It was determined that the Association would retain and rent out its offices at Bank Place in Melbourne, and move to new leased premises. After considerable property searching, the Board decided the National Office

would move to new premises in William Street, Melbourne (just a short stroll from the previous office in Bank Place). The new offices are professional, modern (with a lot of natural light), and with leafy views down William Street.

The move took place during the last week of May, and members are thanked for their patience while the office was offline.

SPA's new address is: Level 1/114 William Street, Melbourne. All other details (phone, fax, emails) remain the same. Members are most welcome to visit the new location.

It has been a busy transitional time, but staff have settled in well and are enjoying the new office, which is already proving to have enhanced efficiencies and collaboration.

GAIL MULCAIR
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Directors May Meeting Report

THE SECOND Board meeting for 2015 was held ahead of the **Challenge, Broaden, Revolutionise** National Conference in Canberra, on 15–16 May 2015.

Some highlights from the meeting include:

- The Association continues to maintain pressure on the Government to respond to the **Senate Inquiry's recommendations**, with a large number of meetings held with Government Departments, Ministers, and Shadow Ministers.
- With many items from the Strategic Imperative 'Influence' awaiting the Government's response to the Senate Inquiry, the Board agreed to prioritise a project aimed at **profiling the speech pathology workforce, making data projections and preparing a cost benefit analysis of speech pathology intervention**. This project will provide highly valuable information, especially in the lead up to the Medicare review and other reforms.
- The Board agreed to implement a new **Professional Development model**, which will see the Association offer Professional Development opportunities on three levels of learning:
 - foundation;
 - consolidation; and
 - extension.
- This model will be further developed to ensure that the Association's Professional Development program remains accessible and relevant to the membership.
- Models for delivery of **Clinical Education** are being investigated, in collaboration with heads of speech pathology programs, with a 'White Paper' to be produced. A presentation regarding clinical education in private practice featured at the National Conference.
- A project plan for the preparation of an aspirational document titled '**Speech Pathology 2025**' was considered, with this to be progressed further, in consultation with a futurist.
- Results from research commissioned by the Association, **comparing NAPLAN results with students with Communication Impairments**, were reviewed. The results of this research will be published later this year, with preliminary data informing current lobbying activities.
- With the speech pathology profession currently excluded from the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, the Board considered the standards put forward by the **National Alliance of Self-Regulating Health Professions**, with in-principle support provided. This work will be progressed in terms of seeking government recognition and support for its implementation.
- Contractual arrangements have been finalised with the Department of Health to progress phase two of the **Simulated Learning Environments – Embedding Simulation** project.
- Recommendations from the final report of the **Transferability of Competence** project were reviewed, with consideration given to implementation and potential risks. This will be discussed further at the August Board meeting.
- A review of the fees associated with **Accreditation of University programs** is underway with preliminary findings presented to the Board for consideration. Further modelling will occur, prior to determining the final fee structure.
- **Practice Documents** relating to Scope of Practice and Dual Servicing were approved for circulation. These documents will be uploaded to the website in the coming weeks.
- A review of the **Association's website**, including navigation functions, is currently underway.
- The provision of supports to assist **Branches in delivering strategic outcomes** was discussed, with this to be investigated further in liaison with Branch Chairs. In addition, effective methods to link rural and regional members into Branch activities are being considered.

The Board will next meet on Friday 21 and Saturday 22 August 2015.

GAIL MULCAIR
Chief Executive Officer

Primary Health Networks – An Allied Health ‘Seat at the Table’

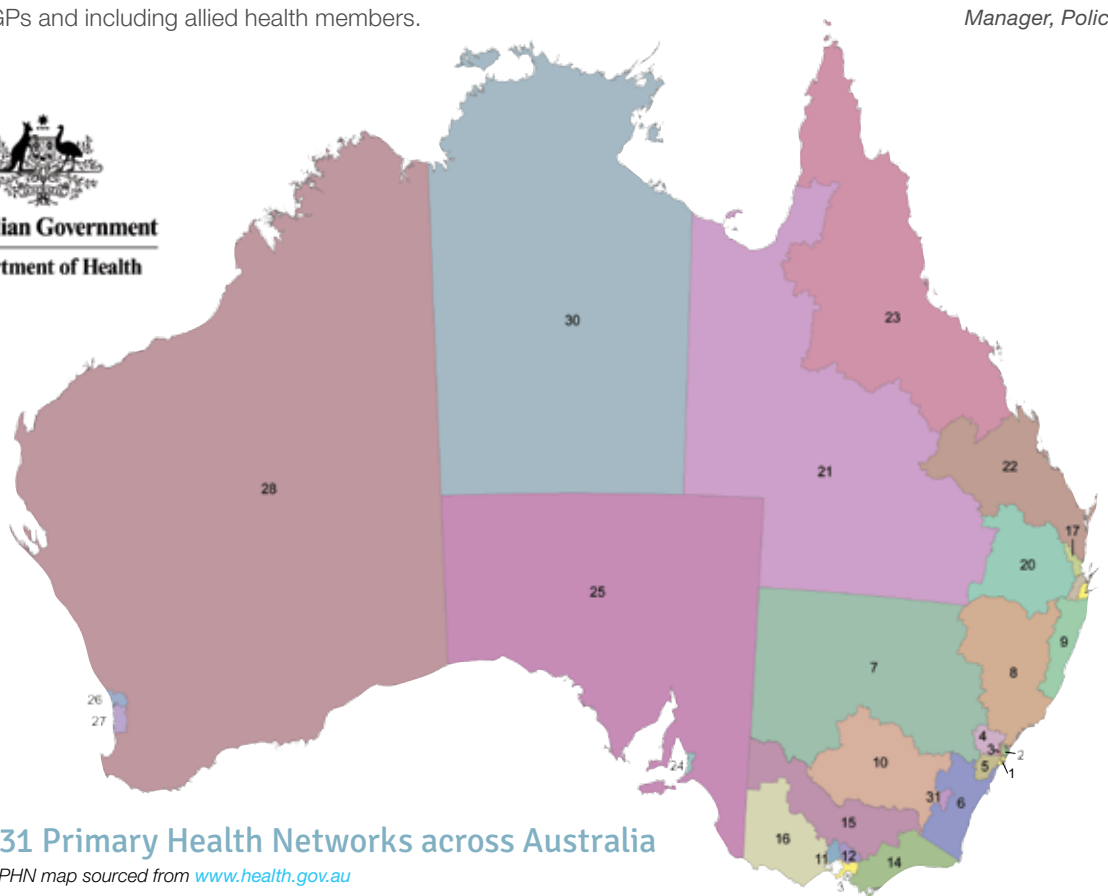
THIRTY-ONE new Primary Health Networks are expected to begin operating on 1 July 2015. The PHNs replace Medicare Locals and are charged with increasing the efficiency, effectiveness and coordination of services for patients. Key priorities for PHNs will be mental health, indigenous health, population health, health workforce, eHealth and aged care.

The PHNs provide an excellent opportunity for speech pathologists to be involved in decision-making about their health care ‘system’. Each PHN will have a Clinical Council, led by GPs and including allied health members.

There is no national or state PHN organisation for which our Association can be involved in advocating for speech pathologists or for our patients. Such advocacy will need to occur at a local PHN level by individual speech pathologists.

Speech Pathology Australia has written to each of the PHNs seeking information about the establishment of their Clinical Councils. Individual members are encouraged to apply to for their PHN Clinical Councils and can be assured of the full support of the Association.

RONELLE HUTCHINSON
Manager, Policy and Advocacy



31 Primary Health Networks across Australia

PHN map sourced from www.health.gov.au

New South Wales (10)

1. Central and Eastern Sydney
2. Northern Sydney
3. Western Sydney
4. Nepean Blue Mountains
5. South Western Sydney
6. South Eastern NSW
7. Western NSW
8. Hunter New England and Central Coast
9. North Coast
10. Murrumbidgee

Victoria (6)

11. North Western Melbourne
12. Eastern Melbourne
13. South Eastern Melbourne
14. Gippsland
15. Murray
16. Western Victoria

Queensland (7)

17. Brisbane North
18. Brisbane South
19. Gold Coast
20. Darling Downs and West Moreton
21. Western Queensland
22. Central Queensland and Sunshine Coast
23. Northern Queensland

South Australia (2)

24. Adelaide
25. Country SA

Western Australia (3)

26. Perth North
27. Perth South
28. Country WA

Tasmania (1)

29. Tasmania

Northern Territory (1)

30. Northern Territory

Australian Capital Territory (1)

31. Australian Capital Territory

Medicare Review – Time to look at the foundations of our health system

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT has embarked on a review of Medicare with three areas of focus:

1. A Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review
2. A Primary Health Care Advisory Group
3. A review of Medicare compliance rules and benchmarks.

The Government has committed to drawing on a broad range of expertise to inform the process – including Allied Health. Recommendations for actions/changes in each reform area are expected in late 2015.

While no 'savings' target has been released by the Government, it is expected that the Review will identify areas of the MBS that can significantly reduce cost and improve sustainability of the system. It is anticipated that the Chronic Disease Management items will be closely scrutinised.

Speech Pathology Australia is preparing a formal submission to the Review process. We are seeking advice from members including:

- What does and does not work about the current MBS funding structure for speech pathology services?
- How can the current MBS funding system be improved?
- Are there particular conditions that should attract MBS items for speech pathology? Why?
- Are there particular speech pathology treatments/interventions that have demonstrated a strong level of evidence for effectiveness that should be funded?

It is important that our submission is informed by the views of members working in private practice across Australia and by the best available evidence of clinical effectiveness. Please send your thoughts to Ronelle Hutchinson, Manager Policy and Advocacy at policy@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au, join the FB Private Practice group discussions or give Ronelle a call on **1300 368 835 by 30 June**.

RONELLE HUTCHINSON
Manager, Policy and Advocacy



**Speech
Pathology
Australia**

Call for expressions of interest to join a working party to update Speech Pathology Australia's Clinical Guideline and Position Statement for **Working in a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Society**

AUSTRALIA'S POPULATION continues to become increasingly culturally and linguistically diverse. Therefore, Australian speech pathologists need to be informed by clinical guidelines containing the most up-to-date evidence and recommendations for practice with this population.

If you are interested or currently involved in practice with culturally and linguistically diverse populations and feel you could make a valuable contribution to Speech Pathology Australia's position statement and clinical guideline, I invite you to join the working party for the development of these documents.

I am seeking clinicians, researchers and professionals (including speech pathologists, educators, interpreters and bi-cultural support workers) with experience in supporting culturally and linguistically diverse adult and paediatric populations in a broad range of settings including hospitals, community health, private practice, schools and educational settings.

If you are interested in collaborating on this project, please send your CV along with a brief statement outlining your experience in this area and how you feel you could contribute to the development of these documents (maximum 500 words) to sverdon@csu.edu.au by no later than 5pm on **Monday 13 July 2015**.

SARAH VERDON
Working in a CALD Society Project Officer

Australian Stroke Coalition



The ASC is an alliance of stroke organisations and groups that formed in 2008 to foster cooperation and coordination in the fight against stroke. Coalition members include state stroke clinical networks and professionals, organisations, and colleges.

Trish Johnson is the SPA representative on the ASC.

THE ASC MET in Sydney in March for the first of its biannual meetings for 2015 to discuss a number of key work areas.

ASC data and quality vision

Several years ago the ASC sub group, the data and quality working group, was established to help further the vision of standardised, funded and mandated stroke data collection to drive quality improvement. Central to the vision is the development of the Australian Stroke Data Tool (AuSDaT), a data warehouse that will reduce data input burden on clinicians and provide high quality stroke data.

The National Stroke Foundation (NSF) has provided seed funding to build the tool, which is due to go live in June 2015. Initially, the tool will be used to collect the 2015 National Stroke Audit data. With the AuSDaT being built using the latest web technologies, participating hospitals should find this year's Audit an intuitive and user friendly experience.

The NSF coordinates the National Stroke Audit to support hospital teams to monitor and improve stroke care. Feedback over several years by auditors has led to a review and restructure of the Audit this year. As a result, the NSF has introduced a mandatory set of questions which has reduced audit questions by 25 per cent.

Further flexibility will also be provided in the future through the introduction of voluntary impairment modules, such as swallowing, communication, incontinence, and mobility. Sites may choose to complete these modules outside of audit cycles for quality improvement. The NSF will work with SPA to seek input and endorsement of the swallowing and communication modules in the near future.

It is expected that other stroke databases, particularly the Australian Stroke Clinical Registry (AuSCR), and several other systems for clinical performance monitoring in stroke along with a number of time limited research projects, will progressively transition over to AuSDaT.

Access to rehabilitation for acute stroke patients

At the August 2014 meeting, the ASC agreed on a new priority: facilitating the collection of information to help understand the gap between those who need rehabilitation and those who are able to access it. It is expected the collection of data to help understand this issue will inform advocacy and planning for improvement. Work is underway to collect data in various states, with the ASC planning to review results later in 2015.

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care stroke standards

ASC members have been regularly briefed by the Commission on its work in developing national stroke standards, with many member organisations participating in stakeholder workshops during the consultation phase. The launch of the Acute Stroke Clinical Care Standards was held on 10 June in Sydney. With the Commission now turning its attention to the implementation strategy, the Coalition continues to offer its support and feedback.

For more information on the work of the ASC, contact executive officer, Kate Leonard at kleonard@strokefoundation.com.au or on (03) 9918 7209 or Trish Johnson in the SPA National Office on 1300 368 835.

TRISH JOHNSON

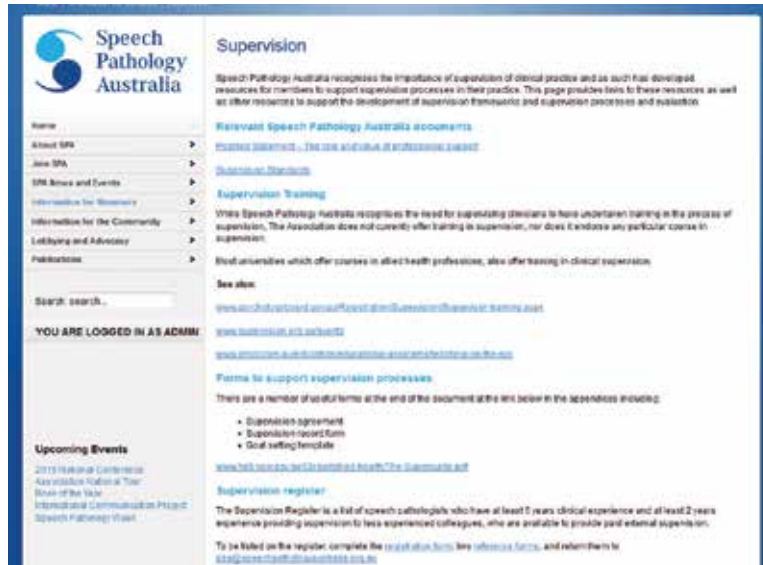
Senior Advisor, Ethics and Professional Issues

NEW – Supervision page on website

WE ARE PLEASED to announce a new webpage has been added to the Speech Pathology Australia website that is dedicated to Supervision. In response to increasing levels of enquiries to National Office regarding supervision, a number of resources have been developed or sourced to support members to both provide and source supervision of clinical practice.

We are working on a number of other resources with regard to supervision and will provide you with updates as new resources are added to the page.

The Supervision page can be accessed via [Information for Members](#) > [Supervision](#).



Resources on this page include:

- Position statement – The role and value of professional support
- Speech Pathology Australia Supervision Standards
- Forms to be listed on the Supervision Register as an external supervisor

- Links to other supervision resources

We are always open to feedback and suggestions on other resources which would assist you in your provision or uptake of professional support, be it mentoring, supervision or peer support.

For queries, feedback or suggestions with regard to professional support, please email Meredith PRAIN – psa@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au.

MEREDITH PRAIN
Professional Support Advisor



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SPWeek 2015 – Talk with me!

SPEECH PATHOLOGY WEEK 2015 will occur during Sunday 23 August to Saturday 29 August.

This year's theme for Speech Pathology Week is ***Talk with me!***

The general nature of the *Talk with me!* theme in 2015 is to allow Association members and their state Branches the opportunity to promote all the different aspects of the speech pathology profession, the work that the profession does, and the various settings in which this work is undertaken.

In 2015, Speech Pathology Week will form part of a wider 29-day campaign period, with general activity in the period 1–22 August and the campaign's main effort focussed during the formal or 'official' period of 23–29 August. The wider campaign period will allow Branches to focus their efforts in this period if not during the formal seven-day campaign.

For the first time, the Association is conducting a postcard campaign to specifically promote awareness of Speech Pathology Week and the speech pathology profession more generally.

The nation-wide campaign will involve the distribution of around 140,000 postcards across 1,500 venues in all states and territories. The postcards will be on display for up to four weeks during August.

As in previous Speech Pathology Week campaigns, marketing and promotional collateral will be available to members and the Branches. Information about how to order this material will be available shortly via *National* and *Branch e-News*.

The Speech Pathology Week 2015 campaign logo is to be confirmed shortly and will be available to all members via the Association's website. Again, details about the logo will be available through *National* and *Branch e-News*.

During August in the lead-up to Speech Pathology Week, a parallel campaign will be conducted through traditional and social media platforms. Members are encouraged to participate in the social media campaign in August by tagging their messages with **#SPWeek**.

MICHAEL KERRISK
Communications and Marketing Manager



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For more information about our Job Board please call National Office on 1300 368 835.



Aged Care Reform in Australia

THE AGED CARE SYSTEM in Australia is undergoing significant reform, creating new opportunities and challenges for speech pathologists. Matters of interest to the profession include the sector's shift towards a wellness and reablement philosophy and consumer directed care model. Through its involvement with the National Aged Care Alliance (NACA), Speech Pathology Australia has been closely monitoring the reform process to understand the intended benefits for older Australians as well as the impacts on service providers. The Association is committed to shaping its own strategic response to the reform agenda to provide direction for members, while looking for opportunities to influence policymakers and to see aged care as a growth area for the profession.

Background to Aged Care Reform

In April 2012, the Australian Government announced the *Living Longer Living Better* (LLLBB) reform package, to build a fairer, more sustainable, and nationally consistent aged care system. The reform package was shaped heavily by the 2011 Productivity Commission Inquiry Report, *Caring for Older Australians*, as well as influential work of NACA. The reforms aim to provide older Australians with greater choice and control over the services they receive, with a strong focus on enabling people to stay at home longer.

A suite of reform changes have already been implemented in residential aged care including: removal of the distinction between high care and low care places; changes to fee structures and subsidies; and strengthening the means testing process. Accommodation prices are now published on My Aged Care, providing consumers with greater information and choice. A trial of Quality Indicators in aged care is underway that will introduce a standardised measurement approach across aged care providers. On 1 July 2015 the next round of reform changes will be implemented, with key changes of interest to the profession outlined below.

My Aged Care

My Aged Care represents a key component of the reform package, providing a central entry point to the aged care system. My Aged Care is a website and contact centre that aims to make it easier for older people, their families, and carers to access information on ageing and aged care, to have their needs assessed, and be supported to locate and access services available to them.

My Aged Care provides a web-based and phone-based entry and screening process, which may present unique challenges to older Australians with communication difficulties. The Association is working to identify opportunities to engage with the Department of Social Services and My Aged Care contact centre staff to ensure adequate support mechanisms are in place and the presence of communication impairment does not present a barrier to service access.

As of 1 July 2015, My Aged Care will include a central client record to facilitate the collection and sharing of client information between assessors and service providers; and a nationally consistent assessment process conducted by the Regional Assessment Service (RAS). Through developing a support plan, the RAS will link clients with appropriate entry-level home support using the My Aged Care assessor portal,

National Screening and Assessment Form (NSAF), and service finder. The NSAF includes questions relating to communication and swallowing needs; but does not appear to include specific triggers for speech pathology referral. The Association has identified the need to engage with RAS assessors to ensure appropriate referrals and support linkages for older adults with communication and swallowing disorders are made. Private speech pathologists will be able to enter information about their services into the My Aged Care service finder; however direct referrals will not be made to non-Commonwealth funded services via the assessor portal.

Commonwealth Home Support Programme

The new Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) will commence on 1 July 2015. The CHSP will provide entry-level home support services to older Australians, bringing together the Commonwealth Home and Community Care (HACC) program, National Respite for Carers Program (NRCP), Day Therapy Centres (DTC) Program, and Assistance with Care and Housing for the Aged (ACHA) Program. The CHSP does not apply to HACC services in Western Australia and Victoria, where the HACC program continues to operate as a jointly funded Commonwealth-State program.

The CHSP will deliver services with a strong focus on wellness and reablement, helping older Australians to stay living in their own homes for as long as possible via domestic assistance, home modifications, personal care, nursing, social support, transport, meals, respite, goods, equipment and assistive technology, and allied health services.

A smaller subset of older Australians may be eligible to receive restorative care under the CHSP that involves evidence-based interventions led by allied health professionals to help a person make a functional gain following a set-back or to prevent future injury or disability. These interventions may be individual or group services, delivered on a short-term or time-limited basis. This presents an opportunity for the profession to showcase its role in maximising the functional independence, autonomy, social wellbeing, and community connectedness of older Australians to promote access to community speech pathology services.

The sector is awaiting further information about the transition plan and training and workforce development strategies to support the roll-out of the CHSP and wellness and reablement services. The CHSP manual and Good Practice Guide for Restorative Care Approaches are also nearing completion.

Home Care Packages Programme

Home Care Packages provide coordinated services tailored to meet an individual's specific care needs, helping them to stay at home, while providing choice and flexibility in the way that care and support is provided. This includes personal services, support, and clinical care. Four levels of Home Care Packages are available ranging from basic care needs, through to high-level care needs. To receive a Home Care Package, older Australians are assessed by a member of an Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) or an Aged Care Assessment Service (ACAS) in Victoria.

As of 1 July 2015, all Home Care Packages will be offered on a Consumer Directed Care (CDC) basis. This introduces a new way of doing business for aged care service providers, giving older people greater control over their care; allowing them to make choices regarding the types of care and services they receive and the delivery of those services. Older Australians will work with providers to co-produce agreements and care plans, with individualised budgets and monthly expense statements.

With the introduction of CDC there is a need to educate and inform consumers of the range of speech pathology services that may be of benefit to them. Training for the aged care workforce is also required to ensure adequate understanding of CDC principles and appropriate knowledge and skills to undertake conversations that encourage and empower consumers. Older adults with cognitive and communication difficulties will require appropriate, tailored support to optimise choice and control.

Looking to the future

To continue to shape the Association's strategic response to aged care reform, members with an interest and expertise in aged care will be invited to share their experiences, respond to requests for information, and provide input to submissions and strategic working parties as they are formed.

Members with an interest in aged care are strongly encouraged to join the Association's **Ageing and Aged Care Member Community** on Facebook, representing a great forum for support and information sharing. Information about joining the member community can be found on SPA's **Member Community webpage**.

There are many ways for speech pathologists to keep up-to-date with the aged care reform process. Updates will feature regularly in *e-News* and *Speak Out*. My Aged Care <http://www.myagedcare.gov.au/> and the Department of Social Services website <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/ageing-and-aged-care> also provide extensive information and resources for providers and consumers about the reform process. The Department's website includes a "What's new" tab which outlines new developments as they occur.

Any members interested in receiving more information about aged care reform or registering their interest in helping to direct the Association's strategic response are encouraged to email Jade Cartwright: agedcare@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au.

JADE CARTWRIGHT
Aged Care Project Consultant



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The full wrap-up of the 2015 National Conference and AGM including Award recipients will appear in the August issue of *Speak Out!*



Speech Pathology Australia National Conference



Major Sponsor

Rooms available for rent

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116sq property for lease in the Gateway Building, Garden City Shopping Centre WA.

Ideal for Speech Pathologist.

Please call Kelly on 08 9316 3622 or email manager@booragoondental.com.au for more details.

17-20 May 2015 National Convention Centre, Canberra, Australia

THANK YOU to everyone who registered to attend. We hope you enjoyed the Conference, listening to all the presentations, networking with fellow colleagues and attending the social events. As always we appreciate the participation of the sponsors and exhibitors who are an important component to the success of the Conference.

The Conference Feedback Survey was emailed to all Conference participants on Friday 22 May 2015 and we thank you for completing it. Your feedback is important in regards to the planning for future conferences.

The August 2015 Issue of *Speak Out* will be the full wrap-up of the 2015 National Conference **Challenge Broaden Revolutionise**, so we look forward to telling you all about it then.

FELICITY MARTIN
Conference Convenor, 2015

PAMELA RICHARDS
National Conference Manager



15–18 May 2016 Crown Perth, Western Australia



THE 2016 NATIONAL CONFERENCE is to be held in Perth, where Australia meets the Indian Ocean with a beautiful stretch of coastline, surf and glorious beaches. Perth's geographical isolation has contributed to a level of innovation, creativity and resourcefulness which is evident in many spheres including speech pathology. This Conference will be **MAKING WAVES** by promoting new ideas and research to ensure that we continuously strive to achieve more for our profession and the people we work with.

The theme takes us from the creation of sound waves when we speak, to the waves made by challenging communication barriers and advancing effective advocacy for people of all ages with communication and swallowing disorders. The Conference will offer a wonderful opportunity for speech pathologists to venture west to share the best of current research and clinical insights.

We want to challenge you to make waves, to gain knowledge, insights and ideas so that you can continue the momentum for dynamic, innovative and creative practice.

In this issue of *Speak Out* you will find the Invitation & Call for Papers. We encourage you to 'spread the news' through your many networks, colleagues and friends, wherever they are in the world. Provide them with a link to the Association's website www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au, where they can read more about the 2016 National Conference and submission process.

We have also included on the Conference website, **Instructions and Guidelines** for making submissions, which will assist you prior to the actual submission process. Please remember that delegates will only have access to the title of the paper and author(s) name when they register and select sessions they wish to attend, so please carefully think about

your presentation title. This will help ensure the audience you wish to attract and those who have the greatest interest in your topic will attend.

While the closing date for submissions is **Wednesday 16 September 2015**, there is no need to wait until the due date to submit your proposal.

Deborah Hersh is Chair of the Scientific Program Sub-Committee and will look forward to working with you during the submission process.

The CPC is currently researching keynote speakers and will look forward to introducing them to you over the coming months.

On behalf of the CPC, we look forward to bringing to you the 2016 National Conference, **MAKING WAVES**.

MICHELLE QUAIL
Conference Convenor, 2016

PAMELA RICHARDS
National Conference Manager

2016 Conference Planning Committee (CPC)

- Michelle Quail – 2016 Conference Convenor
- Deborah Hersh – Scientific Program Sub-committee Chair (SPSC)
- Natalie O'Brien
- Ashleigh Pascoe
- Kathryn Ramsay

National Office has a 1300 368 835 number to support members within Australia to have equity in telephoning National Office for the cost of a local call. When phoning about SPA Events, please have your SPA member number ready to help us assist you as efficiently as possible.

2015 CPD survey – summary of results

EARLIER THIS YEAR, Speech Pathology Australia (SPA) developed an online National CPD survey to seek feedback from members about their preferences for the content and delivery of future Association CPD events.

As part of the strategic imperatives of the CPD portfolio, the 2015 National CPD survey provided a platform for members to suggest topics and speakers for Branch workshops and CPDLive online events. In order to ensure equity of access when planning future events, SPA also sought insights into members' preferred timing and modes of CPD delivery.

Circulation of survey to members

The 2015 National CPD electronic survey comprised nine questions and took less than five minutes for respondents to complete. Details of the survey and the link were distributed to members in various issues of *Branch e-News* and *Events e-News*, and was also published on the CPD webpage. In addition to having the opportunity to put forward their 'wishlist' for future CPD events, SPA members were automatically entered into the draw to receive complimentary registration for a CPDLive event. Members were also encouraged to distribute the survey link to interested non-member colleagues, however non-members were ineligible to win the free event registration. The survey was open to members and non-members to complete from 2 February until 10 April 2015.

Survey participants

A total number of 451 responses were received, with 91 per cent of the survey participants comprising SPA members.

More than half of the respondents indicated their main practice was in the public sector, with 29 per cent indicating they worked in private practice.

There were survey respondents from each Branch, with close to half of all participants from Queensland.

Nearly 60 per cent of participants were located in metropolitan areas, with 30 per cent from regional centres and surrounds, 11 per cent from rural/remote locations, and 0.5 per cent lived overseas.

Results

The survey results are summarised below.

The **format of delivery** that had the highest interest level was face-to-face events/workshops (78 per cent), followed closely by recordings of CPDLive events to view on demand (68 per cent). Respondents showed the least amount of interest for podcasts and audio recording of events.

In terms of **preferred times** for CPD events/workshops, respondents expressed a clear preference for CPD workshops to be held during business hours (just under 70 per cent). There was a strong non-preference for events to be run on weekend days, particularly for events on a Sunday – 63 per cent of respondents showed a marked disinterest in attending Sunday events.

There were 309 free-text suggestions captured regarding Branch workshop topics and/or speakers, each of which was read in full.

Text analysis of the **proposed Branch workshop topics** yielded the following themes (listed in order of response rate):

- Speech
- Child Language
- Dysphagia
- School Age
- Adult
- Communication
- Paediatric Feeding Upper Primary
- Adolescent Language
- Auditory Processing
- Vocabulary
- NDIS
- Play Skills
- Working Memory
- Child Voice
- VFSS
- Hearing
- Sensory Processing

The survey results captured 220 free-text replies for suggested topics and/or speakers for CPDLive online events, the total of which have also been read and considered.

Text analysis of the **proposed topics for CPDLive events** resulted in the following themes (listed in order of response rate):

- Language
- Intervention
- Speech
- Dysphagia
- AAC
- School Age
- Communication
- Research

- Voice
- Paediatric Feeding
- Private Practice
- NDIS
- Early Years
- Palliative Care
- Social Skills
- Dyspraxia
- Acute Setting
- Cerebral Palsy
- Clinical Education
- Dysphasia/Aphasia
- SLP
- Bilingual

What comes next?

The SPA CPD team is committed to ensuring your feedback makes a difference in delivering events that are aligned with your professional and personal areas of interest, and above all, convenient for you to access and attend.

To this end, a summary of the survey feedback has been circulated to the CPD team across Australia. This includes: SPA's volunteer CPD Leaders and paid CPD Coordinators (all of whom are SPA members); relevant National Office staff (including the CEO and SAPEC); and the Board of Directors (to occur at the May 2015 Board meeting).

In consideration of the survey responses received, SPA has been following up in several areas to ensure your feedback is reflected in future events:

- **Workshops will run during business days in all Branches**, as per the preference of the majority of survey participants. In light of the overwhelming preference of respondents not to attend events on a Sunday, **there will be no more workshops scheduled on Sundays**, with only the occasional event to be held on a Saturday.

- The feedback regarding suggested topics and speakers for both the CPD Branch workshops and CPDLive online events has been read in full, and the themes identified and noted.
- **The proposed workshop and online event themes have been relayed to the CPD team and will be further expounded and discussed** during the CPD teleconferences and the July CPD Coordinator meeting at National Office, so that specific areas of member interest can be taken into account when planning current and future events.
- **Suggested topics and speakers for the CPDLive online events are already being pursued for the 2015 and 2016 CPD events calendar.**

Thank you!

Thank you to all the members who took the time to participate in the 2015 CPD survey, your insights have been invaluable in assisting SPA to organise future CPD events. We welcome your feedback at any time, as a means of ensuring the Association's CPD events reflect and serve the range of our membership's diverse needs and interests.

The three winners of the complimentary CPDLive event registration have also been randomly drawn. Congratulations and thanks go to winners Shannan P, Susan S, and Sophia A – enjoy your chosen CPD event!



2015 National Tour

Kids, communication and context: Providing holistic and evidence-based care to children with speech and language difficulties by **Associate Professor Jane McCormack**.

2015 National Tour workshops are now open for registration in Brisbane, Launceston, Sydney, Perth and Adelaide.

For further information and the National Tour itinerary, you can visit the [Association National Tour webpage](#) (accessed from the [SPA News and Events > CPD Events](#)).

SPA Live Online 90-minute CPD events run in conjunction with CPDLive

Check out the monthly events – upcoming CPD live online events and Recorded events – on the [CPD Branch Events and CPDLive webpage](#) (accessed via [SPA News and Events > CPD Events](#)). These accessible events cover an array of areas of speech pathology practice.

SPA CPD is a member benefit

Where does my CPD registration fee go?

- **To meet the costs of the event:** Branch workshop event running costs include the venue cost, catering costs, AV costs, printing expenses, the speaker fee, and speaker travel and accommodation costs. Numbers are capped for SPA CPD workshops to allow registrants to be able to interact with the speaker/s in a workshop atmosphere and to be able to ask questions and have discussion. Online event costs include speaker fees, technical support, and equipment costs.
- **To cover the expenses of paid staff involved in SPA Branch and National CPD delivery:** Branch CPD Coordinators and paid staff at National Office (including the Senior Advisor Professional Education & Certification and Professional Education Administration) support Branch CPD committees and members in the delivery and execution of CPD programs.
- **To support CPD events that are necessary but run at a loss:** While it is desirable for each event to break even,

it is recognised that this is not always possible, and on that basis the Board supports some events running at a loss if they are in specific clinical areas and/or in new and emerging areas of practice, and/or held in smaller Branches and/or in rural/remote locations.

- **To support SPA members, Rural and remote travellers and Student Speech Pathologists:** Branch workshops allow for all SPA members to attend SPA events at a registration fee that is half or more of the fee for non-members. Travellers and Student SPA members receive an additional deduction to the member registration fee to further support their attendance.

Does CPD make a profit?

- CPD activities are expected to 'break even' and be self-sustaining; that is, the annual income from CPD activities overall is expected to cover national CPD activity costs.
- While this is the expectation, in the last year CPD ran at a small loss.

SPA CPD is supported as a vital activity for the profession and membership –

this is the primary purpose of the Association offering PD, not income generation. While the expectation is that CPD income cover CPD expenses, this is not always achievable (viz. a loss was sustained in 2014). CPD is a supported Association activity and member benefit irrespective of whether it breaks even or a loss is made.

SPA CPD keeps speech pathologists at the core of its business; the vast majority of its workshops are offered to speech pathologists (and speech pathology students) only, with a ceiling on registration numbers to allow opportunity for interaction between participants and speaker.

SPA Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities are supported by a strong and wonderful team of SPA members in each Branch.

CPD – who's who in 2015

The committees in each Branch are headed by the following valued volunteers:

- **ACT** – Katina Swan
- **NSW** – Christine Sheard
- **NT** – Erin Coonan
- **QLD** – Maureen Liddy and Stella Martin
- **SA** – Barbara Lyndon
- **TAS** – Alison Gardner
- **VIC** – Kate Bridgman and Linda Crisci
- **WA** – Kelly Robinson
- And many thanks to all the members who volunteer their time, knowledge and support through their active involvement in their Branch CPD committees.

The CPD Leaders and committees are supported by paid staff, who are SPA members. These include CPD Coordinators in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia:

- **Shirani Gomes**, New South Wales CPD Coordinator
- **Tricia Chardon**, Queensland CPD Coordinator
- **Catherine Quin**, South Australian CPD Coordinator
- **Erin Masson**, Western Australian CPD Coordinator

Branch CPD committees are supported in the running of their events by staff based at National Office – Sharon Crane, Senior Advisor, Professional Education & Certification (also a SPA member), and Anita Rodricks, Professional Education Administration.

CPD program ... To view events open for online registration, watch out for the monthly *Events* and *Branch e-News*, and/or check out the SPA website under *Upcoming Events*, and/or go to the webpage > *SPA News and Events* > *CPD Events* > [CPD Branch Events and CPDLive](#). Earlybird rates available for registrations up to one month before the event date, after which an additional fee of \$66 applies post-Earlybird close.

Registrations are now open for the CPD Events listed below.

CPD Events

Register before the Earlybird rate for 2015 SPA CPD Events and save \$66...

Book before the Earlybird closing date to save money, to assist CPD committees in planning, and to avoid the disappointment of finding the workshop has sold out.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Friday 21 August 2015

Sydney *Receptive Language Impairment in Young Children* by **Mellanie Sherwood**

Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 September 2015

Sydney *Autism Update for Speech Pathologists: research and practice across the spectrum* by **Professor Jacqueline Roberts**

Tuesday 20 October 2015

Sydney *Assessing and Treating Reading and Spelling Difficulties in Children* by **Associate Professor Genevieve McArthur and Dr Saskia Kohnen**

Thursday 3 and Friday 4 December 2015

Sydney *Kids, communication and context: Providing holistic and evidence-based care to children with speech and language difficulties* by **Associate Professor Jane McCormack**

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Monday 17 August 2015

Darwin *Receptive Language Impairment in Young Children* by **Mellanie Sherwood**

QUEENSLAND

Friday 10 July 2015

Townsville *Early Language Treatments: an Evidence Update* by **Kate Short**

Friday 31 July 2015

Brisbane *Narrative Assessment and Intervention: A Research to Practice Update* by **Dr Marleen Westerveld**

Wednesday 19 August 2015

Brisbane *Receptive Language Impairment in Young Children* by **Mellanie Sherwood**

Friday 28 August 2015

Rockhampton *Narrative Assessment and Intervention: A Research to Practice Update* by **Dr Marleen Westerveld**

Monday 31 August and Tuesday 1 September 2015

Brisbane, 2015 National Tour *Kids, communication and context: Providing holistic and evidence-based care to children with speech and language difficulties* by **Associate Professor Jane McCormack**

Friday 18 September 2015

Brisbane *Dysarthria – Let's make it clear* by **Emma McLaughlin**

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Friday 31 July 2015

Adelaide *An update on research on word retrieval impairments and their treatment* by **Professor Lindsey Nickels**

Friday 18 September 2015

Adelaide *Advanced Language Skills in Children and Adolescents: Assessment and Intervention* by **Dr Marleen Westerveld**

Thursday 8 and Friday 9 October 2015

Adelaide, 2015 National Tour *Kids, communication and context: Providing holistic and evidence-based care to children with speech and language difficulties* by **Associate Professor Jane McCormack**

TASMANIA

Thursday 3 and Friday 4 September 2015

Launceston, 2015 National Tour Kids, communication and context: Providing holistic and evidence-based care to children with speech and language difficulties by **Associate Professor Jane McCormack**

Thursday 12 and Friday 13 November 2015

Launceston BLADES – Adding Meaning and Interaction to Language Therapy for 2-5 year olds by **Mellanie Sherwood**

VICTORIA

Thursday 27 and Friday 28 August 2015

Melbourne An update of evidence-based approaches for managing phonological impairment in toddlers, preschool and school-age children by **Dr Elise Baker**

Friday 9 October 2015

Melbourne Getting ahead of audiology, auditory processing and aural rehabilitation by **Dr Chyrisse Heine**

Friday 16 October 2015

Melbourne Practically Speaking – Practical Voice Techniques by **Sarah Wilmot**

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Friday 12 June 2015

Perth Working with Adults with Cognitive-Communications Disorders by **Dr Petrea Cornwell**

Friday 24 July 2015

Perth Sense from Sentences: Current Psycholinguistic Approaches in Aphasia Management by **Dr Petrea Cornwell**

Thursday 27 August and Friday 28 August 2015

Perth Autism Update: research and practice across the spectrum by **Professor Jacqueline Roberts**

Wednesday 30 September 2015

Perth Australian Curriculum for West Australian Speech Pathologists: what difference does it make? by **Dr Carmel Bochenek**

Monday 5 and Tuesday 6 October 2015

Perth, 2015 National Tour Kids, communication and context: Providing holistic and evidence-based care to children with speech and language difficulties by **Associate Professor Jane McCormack**

NATIONAL

Online 90-minute events run in conjunction with CPDLive

Recordings available via CPDLive

Managing Dysphagia via Telepractice: What's the Evidence? by **Professor Liz Ward**

Live event ran on 2 July 2014

Viewing available until 2 July 2015

The role of speech pathology with clients with mental health disorders by **Mary Woodward and Natalie Albores**

Live event ran on 28 August 2014

Viewing available until 28 August 2015

A clinical advantage: the art of accent modification within a speech pathology context by **Tristan Nickless**

Live event ran on 19 November 2014

Viewing available until 19 November 2015

A professionally collaborative approach to supporting upper primary and secondary students with language and literacy difficulties by **Dr Julia Starling**

Live event ran on Friday 12 December 2014

Viewing available until 12 December 2015

Enhancing practice with children and families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds by **Professor Sharynne McLeod and Sarah Verdon**

Live event ran on Tuesday 24 February 2015

Viewing available until 24 February 2016

Stuttering across the lifespan: Could I use telehealth? by **Dr Kate Bridgman**

Live event ran on Wednesday 25 March 2015

Viewing available until 25 March 2016

Diagnosing and treating apraxia of speech for optimal outcomes by **Associate Professor Kirrie Ballard**

Live event ran on Wednesday 15 April 2015

Viewing available until 15 April 2016

Step back and take a fresh look at adults with an intellectual disability who present with dysphagia by **Monika Kaatzke-McDonald**

Live event ran on Monday 4 May 2015

Viewing available until 4 May 2016

Upcoming live events via CPDLive

Live event to run on **Tuesday 11 August 2015 (10.30am–12pm AEST)** *What's it all about: AAC?* by **Cathy Olsson**

Live event to run on **Tuesday 25 August 2015 (2.30–4pm AEST)** *Title TBC – in area of Paediatric Feeding* by **Jeanne Marshall**

Live event to run on **Monday 21 September 2015 (2.30–4pm AEST)** *Title TBC – in area of Aged Care* by **Dr Michelle Bennett**

Live event to run on **Wednesday 28 October 2015 (3–4.30pm AEST)** *Title TBC – in area of Childhood Apraxia of Speech* by **Elizabeth Murray**

Live event to run on **Monday 9 November 2015 (2.30–4pm AEDT)** *Title TBC – in area of people with Parkinson's* by **Professor Deborah Theodoros**

Live event to run on **Thursday 10 December 2015 (11am–12.30pm AEDT)** *Title TBC – in area related to 2015 National Tour* by **Associate Professor Jane McCormack**

SHARON CRANE

Senior Advisor, Professional Education & Certification (CPD & PSR)



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Speech pathology practice – no room for fine print (Part 2)

FOLLOWING ON from the article in the last edition of *Speak Out*, this month's article highlights the fact that what is commonplace to you may not be to your client.

If you have managed the intake process well then your client should have some understanding of what a speech pathologist is and what a speech pathologist does. Don't assume, however, that this translates to knowing and understanding what a speech pathology assessment session(s) will entail. What has become second nature to you may be very unfamiliar to your client. Often we assume that because a client has requested and is attending an assessment session that they fully consent to and understand what is going to take place during the session. This does not equate to informed consent. At the beginning of the session you need to explain what is going to happen in the session and then ask your client whether they agree to you conducting the assessment. If you work with children in a school you need to obtain consent from the parent prior to seeing the child at school. Simply providing a form for the parent to sign does not constitute informed consent. You will need to discuss the information with the parent prior to them returning the signed form to school.

Explaining the assessment process and why you will be doing certain things will reduce misunderstandings and the likelihood of not meeting the client's



expectations. SPA occasionally receives calls from a client who states, "All the SP did is talk to me and play games with my child." It appears that the assessment process hasn't been adequately explained to this client.

To avoid this happening to you we suggest you provide information in writing prior to the session (e.g., why the assessment is required; what the client needs to bring; what the session will involve). Don't forget to review this information at the beginning of the session and to ask for feedback or questions. Make sure you also discuss how many sessions the assessment may take and what the decision-making

process will be for whether or not extra sessions are required.

Information about fees needs to be provided upfront, prior to the client agreeing to the assessment. This includes whether or not there will be a separate fee for a report.

The next step in your assessment process will be deciding whether or not you need to obtain or provide information from/to a third party. How to manage this process will be discussed in the August edition of *Speak Out*.

CHRISTINE LYONS

Senior Advisor, Professional Practice

Private Speech Pathology Practice – Policy and Procedure Manual – available to download from the website

SPA's Private Speech Pathology Practice Policy and Procedure Manual can be used as a guide to develop your own policies and procedures. *Section 2 – Communication between the speech pathologist and the client* includes a range of policies related to intake. Templates provided include an information sheet for new clients and a letter confirming an appointment.

Private practice website audit

THE NEW Code of Ethics – Advertising policy will come into effect on 1 July. Only a few weeks away! SPA is keen to assist members to ensure the advertising you use is compliant with the policy.

The policy and FAQ document, discussing many common issues, are available on the [Association's website](#), and there is a checklist at the end of the FAQ document for members to audit any advertising used.

To gain an understanding of how members are progressing with the changes required to be compliant with the new policy, an audit of a random selection of websites used by private practices in every state and territory was performed during April and May. Individualised, confidential feedback will be provided to private practitioners whose website was reviewed during the audit.

It is fantastic to see that many members are using advertising that is largely compliant, **here is the summary of results:**

The audit identified that some members are using valuable and appropriate advertising tools available through SPA membership:

Audit item usage	%
Identify on website as a Member of SPA	74
Approved SPA logo used	11
CPSP status stated	40
CPSP status provided for each staff member	31
Approved CPSP logo used	11
Link to SPA website	54
Qualifications stated	57
Inducement offered with type (e.g. discount, gift) and terms and conditions stated	9

There were a number of websites audited utilising content that will not be compliant with the new policy after 1 July:

Audit item – not compliant with policy	%
Use the term 'Expert'	9
Use the term 'Specialist'	37
Advertising contains testimonials	23
Inducement offered without type (e.g. discount, gift) and terms and conditions stated	0
Guarantee of results without provision of appropriate evidence	3



Identification of membership with SPA can be used in advertising while you are a current member. Current members can request permission to use the SPA logo in advertising, and if you have full CPSP status, you can use the CPSP logo as well to demonstrate your commitment to developing and maintaining current professional knowledge and skills.

Speech Pathology Australia Ethics Board

THE NEW ETHICS BOARD MEMBERS were announced at SPA's 2015 Annual General Meeting on Monday, 18 May. The new members commenced on the Board from that date, for a term of three years:

Chair	Dr Suze Leitao
Senior Members	Ms Trish Bradd Dr Susan Block Ms Helen Smith (<i>new to senior position, previously in elected member position</i>)
Elected Members	Dr Belinda Kenny (<i>re-elected</i>) Ms Felicity Burke (<i>new</i>) Mr Tristan Nickless (<i>new</i>)
Community Representatives	Mr Grant Meredith Dr Richard Saker (<i>new</i>) Ms Donna Dancer (<i>new</i>)
Reserve Pool	Dr Nerina Scarinci Mr Noel Muller

If members have any questions or concerns of an ethical nature and wish to seek advice, please contact Trish Johnson at the SPA National Office on **1300 368 835** or tjohnson@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au.

TRISH JOHNSON

Senior Advisor, Ethics and Professional Issues

Creative Connections

WESTERN SYDNEY SPEECH PATHOLOGY (WSSP) is collaborating with Blacktown City Libraries to raise awareness about communication disorders. This year, our partnership commenced with a large display in Max Webber Library's foyer called 'Read, Play, Talk'. The display focuses on early language intervention. It contains simple language stimulation techniques, book recommendations and ideas for toys to enhance communication and language learning opportunities.

Blacktown Libraries also invited WSSP review one of their most popular community programs – Baby Rhyme Time. The Library staff was very receptive to our team's suggestions and will be incorporating some of them into their program. This is due to debut in July 2015.

The library staff has also agreed to continue to support the HUSH! project. HUSH! is an awareness raising event for communication disorders.

CELINE LOWE PASCUAL
Speech Pathologist,
Western Sydney Speech Pathology



Above, from left: Celine Pascual and Julie Carey (Speech Pathologists) and Margaret Redrup-May (Library Outreach Programs Co-ordinator); left: Margaret Redrup-May, Julie Carey and Celine Pascual with the HUSH! artwork.

Investigating friendships following traumatic brain injury

IT IS WELL KNOWN that people who have sustained a traumatic brain injury (TBI) are susceptible to social isolation secondary to changes in cognition, communication, behaviour and physical ability. People with TBI recognise that friendships seem different after a TBI. Shorland and Douglas (2010) interviewed participants with TBI about the impact of communication changes on their friendships, revealing that changes to communication affected friendships adversely. It is unknown which other factors contribute to the success or deterioration of friendships post TBI. Therefore, it is difficult for clinicians to assist with the development and maintenance of friendships post TBI.

Tennille Thomasz (Masters Candidate, University of Sydney) and her supervisors Professor Leanne Togher (University of Sydney), Doctor Emma Power (University of Sydney) and Professor Jacinta Douglas (La Trobe University) are currently conducting a study investigating friendships following TBI. There are two parts to the study. The first part aims to determine current practices surrounding friendship. Sixty-eight speech pathologists completed an online survey. The data collected from the survey is currently being analysed using descriptive statistics.

The second part of the study involved interviewing friends of people with TBI. Four participants with TBI selected

one to three people that they identified as friends, not including family members. Nine friends completed a semi-structured interview. Data was transcribed and analysed using principles of grounded theory.

The data for both parts of the study is currently being analysed. Results from the survey study will be presented at the upcoming 5th International Neuropsychology Society and Brain Impairment Conference of the Australasian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment (ASSBI), in Sydney. The researchers look forward to sharing this data.

TENNILLE THOMASZ
Masters candidate, University of Sydney
and Speech Pathologist

Community Based Rehabilitation in the Philippines



MONTE IS A 10-YEAR-OLD BOY

with cerebral palsy who lives near the rural town of Sariaya. Monte has never attended school; refused enrolment because of his disability. I met Monte and his family during my nine months in the Philippines as a Speech Therapy Trainer, with Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID). I worked with a Filipino NGO, Bethsaida Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Services for the Disabled.

Bethsaida CBR organise and coordinate programs across seven towns and cities, in Quezon Province, Philippines, working with children and young adults with disabilities. The staff consist of mostly Filipino volunteers without formal training in health or education: bringing a wealth of experience from on-the-job training.

To visit Monte at his family's home, a small coconut palm hut, my colleague and I rode motorbikes through the coconut plantations and rice fields. Big smiles and merienda (Filipino snacks), usually sweet bread rolls and even sweeter coffee, always greeted us.

My colleague used a Tagalog speech assessment developed by a former volunteer to assess Monte's speech, and together we generated recommendations and resources for the family. Monthly visits lasted over an hour, with my colleague skilfully translating between English and Tagalog, one of the many languages spoken in the Philippines. We would inquire about Monte's health, progress, and the family. Monte's mother headed a group for local mothers of children with disabilities, so we discussed their advocacy projects and how Bethsaida could support these.



Meg Redway conducts a speech pathology workshop for special education teachers and parents at a high school in Tiaong; above, Meg's view of Mt Banahaw and rice fields from her door.

Finally, my colleague would provide basic literacy and mathematics tutoring for Monte, and leave some homework.

My role as a speech therapy trainer focused on building capacity in Bethsaida CBR staff to support clients with communication difficulties, and establishing a basic speech therapy program. I was the first allied health professional Monte and his family had met, and one of the only speech therapists in a Province of almost two million people. I conducted workshops for my colleagues, and used home visits to help them incorporate new ideas and skills into their fieldwork. I also conducted workshops for parents, day care workers, teachers and local government employees.

Monte and his family are like many others across the Philippines, who lack access to healthcare or education due to poverty and disability. It was a wonderful and challenging nine months, where I experienced so much warmth and hospitality, and was inspired by the resilience of families in providing for their children with special needs, given the lack of resources.

Now that I have returned to Darwin, I anticipate these experiences will shape the clinician I am in various ways. My time in the Philippines has given me greater insight into making speech pathology intervention relevant to each family's situation. For example, finding small sustainable actions families can incorporate everyday. In the Philippines I learnt to transform any object or routine into an opportunity to target communication skills rather than rely on toys, laminators, Internet access or electricity.

I am also excited to incorporate elements of the CBR model into my practice. CBR focuses on building capacity and empowering communities and people with disabilities. It aims to make rehabilitation services more accessible for people with limited access to healthcare services. This is relevant in the NT where a number of our speech pathology clients and families live in rural and remote communities.

MEG REDWAY
Speech Pathologist

Griffith University to New York City

I WAS COMING TO THE END of my Master of Speech Pathology degree, while everyone else was busy applying for jobs, I was applying for an overseas internship.

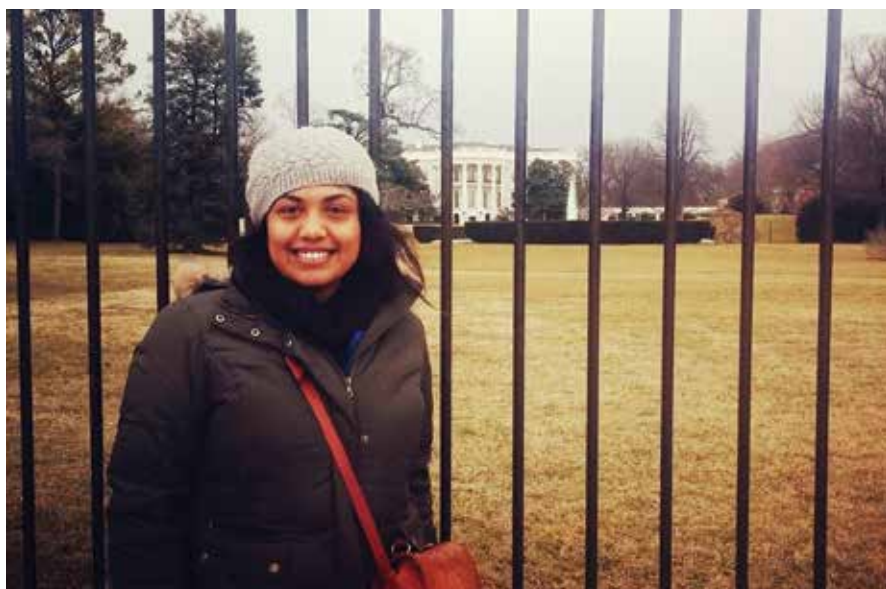
Where did I go? New York City of course! It was even more beautiful than I'd ever imagined. I set off with a lengthy bucket list and I managed to tick each item off, except for seeing Jimmy Fallon live! His shows were booked out for months.

Once my NYC bucket list was complete, I made a new one. This time for Washington, DC. I hopped on a bus and arrived in DC five hours later. No, I didn't run into Obama, however I may end up on YouTube. There was an incident, with me sitting in a park and squirrels climbing all over me, begging for food. Fellow tourists pointed, took photos and recorded the impromptu show.

But on the topic of my internship! It ran for six weeks and involved me working in a research capacity at one of New York University's (NYU) research facilities, the Nathan Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research. I worked on research projects led by Professor Diana Van Lancker Sidtis. Professor Sidtis was also my supervisor and we were investigating deep brain stimulation and its effects on speech and the voice on patients with Parkinson's Disease. During the six weeks I was also given the opportunity to attend doctoral seminars and specialist lectures at NYU alongside NYU's doctoral students.

One of my biggest goals while I was in NYC was to write the ASHA praxis exam. I wrote it and passed! I was so happy when I received my results that I forgot to hold on while travelling on the train, I went tumbling across and broke a toe. One day I hope to move to NYC for a little while to work in a clinical capacity. I think it is fair to say that I did fall in love with everything that is NYC.

This internship was truly a once in a



Griffith University graduate Tiyana Jones sees the NYC sights while undertaking an internship.

lifetime experience and I'm so grateful I was given the opportunity. A huge thank you to my supervisor, Professor Diana Van Lancker Sidtis; Griffith Head of Speech Pathology Program, Associate Professor Elizabeth Cardelli; clinical

educator Kristy Cooney; and the Griffith Global Mobility Team & the Academic Internship Council.

TIYANA JONES
Speech Pathologist,
Griffith University Alumni

New and Aspiring Speechies (NAAS) Twilight Lawn Bowls event

ON 28 APRIL NAAS hosted a Member Engagement Night at the Beaumont Lawn Bowls Club. Despite the night being a bit frosty, it was fantastic to see a large number in attendance enjoying one another's company and attempting to play a few games of bowls!

In addition to the social side of the night, the aim of the event was to encourage new graduates and current university students to consider what to expect from the interviewing process and to ask any burning questions they may have had.

In order to answer these questions we invited Speech Pathologists from Education, Health, and Private Practice Services across Metropolitan Adelaide to sit on a Q&A panel. All guest speakers have been on interviewing panels and were asked to discuss **'Important Tips for Interviewing, and the Interviewing Process'**.

Our guest speakers included:

Helen Tedesco – *Flinders Medical Centre*

Amanda Crockett-Naini – *Repatriation General Hospital*

Helen Smith – *The Queen Elizabeth Hospital*

Penny Miller – *Novita Children's Services*

Liberty Gates – *Liberty Speech Pathology*

Barbara Lyndon – *Department of Education and Child Development*

The event was a huge success thanks to the support of all involved. A big thanks to the South Australian SPA Branch for supporting the work of NAAS as well as all of our guest speakers who volunteered their valuable time in order to deliver some very insightful, humorous, and invaluable information on their experiences with the interviewing process! We hope to continue hosting similar events based on the needs and interests of our group members in the near future.

JASMINE CRISANTI and **ELLA CONBOY**
on behalf of the NAAS Committee



From top: Emma Foreman and Selena Petrou from the NAAS group; Penny Miller, Amanda Crockett-Naini and Helen Tedesco from the Q&A panel; Helen Smith and Barbara Lyndon from the Q&A panel.

BRANCH NEWS – TASMANIA

An update from Tassie Branch

THE TASMANIAN BRANCH of Speech Pathology Australia are considering some restructuring and new projects. As Branch Chair Rosalie Martin puts it: "There are a number of projects not quite cooking yet, but certainly moving into sauté phase. And there is a lot of great energy".

We'd love to hear from Tasmanian speech pathologists. What changes would you like to make? What would you like us to keep doing? Email your ideas to Branch Secretary Cat Wood: cat.wood@live.com.au.

We're planning a SPA Tasmanian Branch "workshop/retreat" in the second half of the year, with guests from National Office. Date and place TBA. Keep an eye out for more details.

And finally, we've started making some changes to the way we're doing *Branch e-News*. Let us know what you think about the new format/content.

KATE DAY

Speech Language Pathologist and Speak Out Editor

1,2,3; Muay, Pir, Bei: From Australia to Cambodia!

HARRY* IS A FIVE-YEAR-OLD boy living in metropolitan Melbourne. Harry was recently assessed by a paediatrician and speech pathologist. He has been diagnosed with a severe language disorder and currently participates in intervention with an occupational therapist and speech pathologist. Harry is in prep and attends a private school. He is reportedly very "social".

Tai* is six years of age and lives 20km outside of Siem Reap. He has cerebral palsy and cannot sit, stand or walk by himself. He cannot swallow adequately and has been tube-fed for one year, referred to in Cambodia as a "straw". Tai has received only infrequent services from the Angkor Childrens Hospital, and receives services from CABDICO (an NGO in Cambodia that provides basic speech therapy through the OIC: The Cambodia project).

As is apparent, age is not the only difference between Harry and Tai! If we fast-forward a few years and think about each of these children's use of services and prognosis, we see a tremendous disparity. While there are more than 6,000 speech pathologists registered with SPA, there are no university-trained Cambodian speech therapists in Cambodia. The few speech therapy services that are available for the estimated over 600,000 people who require services, are provided by a few international speech therapists or Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) workers who have received very basic training (often a 1-2 week training program) in speech therapy.

A strategic workshop held in December 2013, coordinated by CABDICO in collaboration with the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs provided a platform for discussion regarding the possibility of developing speech therapy services in Cambodia. OIC: The Cambodia Project was initiated in June 2014 with the aim



12-year-old Ling with CABDICO worker Phearom.

of providing training programs to CBR workers, coordinate services, advocate for speech therapy services and work towards the establishment of a formal speech therapy training program in Cambodia.

Since January 2014, OIC: The Cambodia project has facilitated the following:

1. Four short-term speech therapy training programs – trainers were from Australia and France, whilst the trainees were CABDICO staff and their partner NGOs. All training programs were translated into Khmer and included modeling and on-site practice.
2. The investigation of the first 50 words a Cambodian child would acquire. These were created in the form of culturally appropriate picture games and communication boards so that they could be used by CBRs, parents of children with communication difficulty as well as teachers. To date, approximately 100 children have benefited from these training programs.
3. Funding which was secured through the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs;

donations (tax rebatable through the Global Development Group); a generous grant from Speech Pathology Australia and numerous successful crowdfunding campaigns.

4. Research to establish prevalence rates of communication and swallowing disorders as well as evaluating the effect of the training programs. Application for ethics approval from the required Ministry to conduct research in country has ensured the continuity of a research program.
5. Advocacy with government officials, other NGOs and through media (for example, The Conversation Hour) has proved paramount to ensure sustainability of the program.
6. Volunteer engagement through Speech Pathology Australia, Australian Government exchange programs and social media.
7. Collaboration with La Trobe University with the signing of an MOU.

The strategic plan for the project is to continue the training programs in the form of 'train the trainer'; advocate

Victorian Branch 2015 welcome to members

ON THURSDAY 30 APRIL a welcome event for members of Speech Pathology Australia, both clinicians and students, was held at the Kent Hotel Carlton.

Organised by the Member Engagement group of SPA's Victorian Branch, we welcomed 2015 with a bang! An Italian feast was provided and members were able to network and share experiences from the university and workplace. There were opportunities to discuss information about current work practice, new technology secrets such as AAC, and potential job and student placements.

It was a great opportunity to meet new contacts in the speech pathology field and many business cards were exchanged. Several students at various universities also shared experiences and speech pathologists trained interstate were able to network with colleagues and extend their contacts in Melbourne.

To encourage mingling there were some games – 'Famous Speech Pathology Faces' tricked many but two teams managed a draw to share the prize. The door prizes were well received and games were rewarded but we all won



on the night by meeting people in speech pathology and sharing our interests.

We would like to thank the Member Engagement group and the team for a great night.

JENNY ELLIOTT

*SPA Victorian Branch Member
(Engagement Committee Member)*

for Cambodian people with communication and swallowing problems; compile content in Khmer; develop resources that are culturally and linguistically appropriate for a Cambodian context; and encourage capacity building in-country. Within five years, we aim to facilitate a formal speech therapy training program with a Cambodian institution to train the first generation of Cambodian speech therapists.

Volunteering is an enriching experience and you too can be part of this era of change. In the words of Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has."

Correspondence to:

Dr Chyrisse Heine
email: c.heine@latrobe.edu.au
www.oiccambodia.org

Chyrisse Heine is a speech pathologist and audiologist. She is a Senior Lecturer at La Trobe University and the Senior Technical Advisor for the OIC: The Cambodia Project.

* Note: names have been changed for anonymity



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Autism Awareness walk

ON 29 MARCH, speech pathologist Patricia Mizzi (pictured below), from Sounds Right Speech Pathology, joined forces with Plenty Valley Clubhouse, Mill Park Library and Norparrin Early Intervention as part of the City of Whittlesea Autism Awareness walk to highlight autism in the northern suburbs of Melbourne.

The event attracted more than 500 people and was coordinated completely by volunteers. The event was one of the many celebrations held in the City of Whittlesea to celebrate Autism Awareness week. Thrilled to be asked to be part of the event, Patricia Mizzi felt that this was a great opportunity to highlight the role of speech and language pathologists for children with an ASD. As Patricia said, "The event created a sense of community amongst families who often feel alone. It was great to see so many people in our community joining together to promote autism awareness".

Well done, Patricia!



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WA Branch's New Graduate Representative role

GRADUATE SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS entering the job market for the first time see the profession through fresh eyes – and it is this perspective the WA Branch Executive is interested in tapping into.

To achieve this, the WA Branch has created a new role on its executive committee called the New Graduate Representative. This role will consult with members of the branch and provide a “New Grad” perspective on issues.

Ann-Marie Haygarth, a recent graduate of the Masters of Speech Pathology degree at Curtin University, and who worked with the WA branch as a student representative in 2014, was invited to take up the inaugural position.



More about Ann-Marie

Before I started my Master's degree, I was a senior executive with a 15 year track record in corporate communications, marketing and business development for professional services firms. I headed up these functions within a number of organisations in

Melbourne and Sydney. It was a career built on, and around, communication, within a corporate environment. It is against this backdrop that I developed an appreciation of just how important it is to be able to communicate effectively in order to engage fully with the world around you.

Three years ago I decided to return to my home state. I also wanted a change – to do something completely different. If we have to work longer, and we keep hearing that we do, then I figure there is time for more than one career! My choice of speech pathology as that second career, while different in both nature and form to my former corporate career, is a career still very much centred on communication.

It's been a great ride so far. I really enjoyed the course, the practicums and now like many who graduated at the end of last year exploring options. I am working as a research assistant on a dementia related project, contracting part-time and volunteering.

All of us, those settling in and those still finding their way, are exploring the profession for the first time – forming views, opinions and impressions.



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