

# SPEAKOUT

THE MAGAZINE FOR AUSTRALIAN SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS

DECEMBER 2016

**MEMBERSHIP  
RENEWALS  
NOW OPEN**

**CLINICAL GUIDELINES  
ON LITERACY RELEASED**

**Policy and  
advocacy  
wrap up**

**PROFESSIONAL  
INDEMNITY  
EXPLAINED**

**CONFERENCE UPDATE  
NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES  
SUPPORT FOR EARLY CAREER SPEECHIES**



**Speech  
Pathology  
Australia**

*in focus...*

## Policy and Advocacy p6

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SPA Policy and Advocacy Manager Ronelle Hutchison, SPA CEO Gail Mulcair with NT Minister for Health Natasha Fyles, and NT Branch Representative Fran Edis.

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# From the President



**Gaenor Dixon**

**GLOBALLY 2016 SEEMS** to have been a year of big events; the US election, Brexit, devastating earthquakes in New Zealand. For the speech pathology community we have seen Rosie Martin, Tasmanian Branch Chair, win Tasmanian of the Year, which places her in the nominations for Australian of the Year. My congratulations to Rosie - a much deserved award for her commitment to accessible services to all. The IALP conference was held in Ireland with Australian speech pathologists giving key notes and responded to key notes, as well as presenting many papers. Those are just two examples of Australian speech pathologists achieving high recognition of their contributions that have occurred over the year.

In the Association, we have:

- collected and established our aspirations for the profession in the Speech Pathology 2030 project. We have worked to embed and work towards the attainment of those aspirations in the development of the strategic plan from 2017-2019.
- started to explore credentialing, what could it mean for the profession, and what does credentialing mean?
- worked with State and Federal Ministers and the NDIA to resolve various issues with the NDIS – with a range of successes – and some ongoing work. We have continued to advocate across a broad range of areas including MBS items, school-age services, youth justice, mental health and aged care.
- added to and updated our suite of clinical guidelines and position statements,
- worked on a model of CPD for our members – ensuring we offer professional learning in a range of formats and cater to the range of experience and needs of our members,
- continued to ensure that we are supporting our early career speech pathologists through support for quality supervision and mentoring,
- continued to provide strong ethical support for members and robust protection for the public through our ethical standards,
- worked with our members to promote the profession through Swallowing Awareness Day, Speech Pathology Week and Book of the Year, and
- continued to work with the International Communication Project – developing a three year plan to ensure the message that communication is a basic human right is embedded throughout the world.

My thanks to our dedicated, hard-working National Office staff, who have either worked directly on these initiatives, or on other day-to-day work of the Association that keeps everything moving so that we are able to continue to work towards our vision of effective communication and safe swallowing – a right for all Australians across their lifespan.

I hope that you have a restful and invigorating summer holiday period, and that you return for 2017 ready to hurtle towards 2030!

**Gaenor Dixon**  
*National President*



# Support for early career speechies

## THE EARLY CAREER REFERENCE GROUP (ECRG)

encompasses a total of 12 key members who are early career speech pathologists. The key members are from all over the country and met for the first time in September 2016. The members meet once a month to discuss issues concerning new graduate and early career speech pathologists. The ECRG is interested in making a difference for the profession and their colleagues.

The aim of the ECRG is to advise SPA and support early career speech pathologists in their engagement with the Association, through the recognition of the unique needs and concerns that early career speech pathologists may face while seeking to establish and build a professional identity and career. The ECRG will seek to increase the Association's ability to further support members embarking on their professional career through identification of, and response to key, issues for this cohort. Through identification and action the group aims to formulate information and resources required to provide support to early career speech pathologists.

In addition to all of this, the ECRG will advise on initiatives of relevance and value to early career speech pathologists as part

of a recruitment and retention strategy for this member segment. This will include developing and implementing relevant vehicles (social media, networking opportunities) for engaging and connecting with fellow member early speech pathologists, raising awareness of the benefits of membership of the Association for both member and non-member early career speech pathologists and, will also work towards identifying priority areas for future research.

Currently, the team is working on developing resources, creating events and utilising the social media network to better facilitate engagement and liaise with all early career speech pathologists. Please join the Early Career Reference Group Facebook page and join in the conversation.

Keep an eye out for upcoming events, new resources and relevant information on e-News, the ECRG Facebook page and *Speak Out* articles. We look forward to working with you and hope you can join us to help further support our dynamic profession.

**Tiyana Jones**

**Early Career Reference Group Chair**

## November 2016 board report

**THE FINAL BOARD** meeting for 2016 was held on Friday 25 and Saturday 26 November. There were several important components to the meeting, including consideration of the 2017 Budget, review of the initial draft of the Association's 2017-2019 Strategic Plan and discussions around the Speech Pathology 2030 project outcomes.

A range of budget proposals for the operational and strategic activities of the Association were presented to the Board for consideration, with the Board accepting the final budget, following some amendments. Given the current planning of the 2017-2019 Strategic Plan, a number of additional budget items of strategic importance were deferred for consideration at the first meeting of 2017.

Some further highlights from the meeting include:

Discussion occurred in relation to how the outcomes of the Speech Pathology 2030 project will be embedded by members and the Association in the future direction of the profession.

The Board agreed that the Association will use the term Developmental Language Disorder to describe language difficulties that are not part of another condition. This term was determined through a delphi consensus process and outlined within a Catlise paper released by Professor Dorothy Bishop.

Further information regarding the terminology will be included in later editions of *Speak Out*.

Revisions to the Ethics Board procedures were approved. The amendments primarily relate to preliminary hearing of complaints, where it is determined this is required.

Following a stakeholder forum, including representatives from Speech Pathology Australia, New Zealand Speech-language Therapists' Association, Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA), Dietitians NZ and a number of key industry representatives, the Board agreed to support the adoption of the International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation Initiative (IDDSI) framework. Implementation plans and timelines will be developed.

Credentialing Project Officer, Anna Moran and Senior Advisor Professional Standards, Stacey Baldac joined the meeting to discuss the credentialing project.

Practice documents including the Transdisciplinary Practice Position Statement and Parameters of Practice were approved for distribution. These documents will be available on the Association's website in the coming weeks.

The next Board meeting will be held in March 2017.

**Gail Mulcair**

**Chief Executive Officer**

# Rosalie is Tassie's Australian of the Year!

PASSIONATE ADVOCATE ROSALIE MARTIN WAS RECENTLY NAMED THE TASMANIAN AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR.

**SPEECH PATHOLOGY AUSTRALIA** was excited by the news on 11 November of Rosalie Martin's selection as Tasmanian Australian of the Year. Rosalie (or Rosie to her friends) is a long-time member of Speech Pathology Australia and the current Chair of the Tasmanian Branch of the Association.

Speaking following the announcement, Speech Pathology Australia National President Gaenor Dixon said, "Rosalie is a fitting choice as Tasmanian Australian of the Year. She is a highly regarded speech pathologist with over 30 years experience and her dedication and hard work is an inspiration to anyone seeking to pursue a career in the speech pathology profession.

"In a world where people's time seems so precious, Rosalie gives hers freely to help those with a communication disability. Her visits to Risdon Prison as volunteer initiator of the Just Sentences Literacy Pilot Program to help inmates with literacy problems is a perfect example of this.

"Rosalie is a passionate advocate. Communication is her talent. Speech Pathology Australia advocates every day that communication is a basic human right. Rosalie works daily to make this a reality.

"Anyone who has met Rosalie is immediately struck by her infectious personality and her desire to bring out the best in those around her.

"We will be watching keenly for the announcement of the 2017 Australian of the Year Awards."

Rosalie is also the founder of Chatters Matters Tasmania, a charity striving to build awareness and skills in human communication.

## Other awards news:

- Adjunct Associate Professor Dimity Dornan has been named a Fellow by the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE).
- Alesiha Davis, a certified listening and spoken language specialist and speech pathologist, has been rewarded with top honours at the 2016 Sydney City Business Awards as a recipient of the Business Leader category award.



Rosalie Martin at work in her practice in Tasmania.



## Reminder: Call for Board nominations

Under the Association's Constitution, nominations for Directors are currently being sought for three positions.

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.

Board nomination forms and an information package are available on the Association's website. Each nomination must address key selection criteria and completed nomination forms must be received at National Office by Tuesday 31 January 2017.

Appointments will be effective from the 2017 Annual General Meeting in May for a period of two years.

# 2016 policy and advocacy wrap up

**IN 2016 OUR** POLICY AND ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES FOCUSED ON ENGAGING WITH IMPORTANT POLICY AND FUNDING DISCUSSIONS AND RESPONDING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR NATIONAL REFORMS. WITH THE ADDITION OF A NEW POLICY OFFICER, WE INCREASED SUPPORT TO OUR BRANCHES TO PROGRESS STATE/TERRITORY SPECIFIC ISSUES.



WA Minister for Health The Hon John Day MLA opening SPA's National Conference in Perth.



Tim Kittel and Cathy Olsson meet with the Hon. Leesa Vlahos, SA Minister for Disabilities, Mental Health and Substance Abuse.



SPA Chief Executive Officer Gallie Mulcair and SPA Tasmanian Branch Chair Rosie Martin with Tasmanian Shadow Health Minister Rebecca White (pictured centre).

To follow are some highlights from this year.

### Advocating to elected officials

This year we were busy holding meetings with elected public officials both in the Australian Parliament and Senate and in state and territory parliaments. Our advocacy spanned a range of topic areas including registration/self-regulation of our profession, access and funding of services, the senate inquiry into speech pathology, the NDIS implementation, school services, aged care services and more. Our Board members, chairs, CEO and key staff have met with over 30 elected Members of Parliament and their officers and held multiple follow-up meetings with relevant government departments. We wrote to relevant incoming Ministers and Shadow Ministers following the federal, ACT and NT elections.

### Disability

I think members will agree that when it comes to the NDIS “common sense” is not that common! The implementation of the NDIS brought with it some major problems for many members from July to September, with registration issues and payments through the My Place Portal. Our Board and staff worked intensively with the offices of federal Minister Porter and Assistant Minister Prentice, NDIA senior management and relevant state and territory disability ministers to draw attention to the problems and find solutions. It was with a sense of achievement (and significant relief) that we facilitated the payment of over \$1 million dollars to our members by the NDIA for their NDIS services already provided. We all celebrated when an exemption was granted for our NSW private practitioners from the third party registration requirements for NDIS registration! SA and Vic registration issues are actively being worked on to streamline processes for our members – and we will continue this advocacy into 2017.

It was great to see our expertise recognised through SPA's appearance before the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into services for people with autism in September. This year we made seven written submissions relating to disability policy and funding.

### Health funding and reforms

It's been a busy year in health policy reform. We've engaged in advocacy around primary health reforms including the review of the MBS, private health insurance, primary health networks (PHNs), the “opt-out” My Health Record and funding of multidisciplinary care service under the Health Care Homes trial. We supported our members involved in PHN Clinical Council and working groups through regular teleconferences. We are monitoring the roll out of the My Health Record and the Health Care Home trials – with more work on this expected in 2017.

It was exciting to see SPA's advocacy successfully culminating in recommendations by the MBS Review Taskforce for a new MBS item for stroboscopes. Similarly, the new National Oral Health Plan 2015 – 2016 incorporated many of our recommendations. Did you know that a parliamentary inquiry into chronic condition management explicitly recognised speech and swallowing disorders as chronic conditions and our recommendations relating to improvements needed to MBS funding/referrals for chronic conditions? This year we made 12 submissions relating to health sector policy and funding.



Policy and Advocacy Advisor Ronelle Hutchison and SPA CEO Gail Mulcair “front and centre” at the Mental Health Policy Forum in Canberra.

## Aged care reforms

We have had a strong focus on advocacy in the aged care sector this year, particularly through our involvement in the National Aged Care Alliance (the peak body that government uses for the sector). We have had significant influence in national policy through staff and member representation on the Australian Department of Health’s working groups developing the Standards for Aged Care Services and the Aged Care Funding Instrument. We appeared before the Senate Inquiry into the Future of the Aged Care Workforce in April. Now, just to get speech pathologists listed properly on the My Aged Care Finder website – “sigh”. We made five written submissions relating to aged care policy this year.

## School services

It was encouraging to see SPA quoted so many times in the report into the Senate Inquiry into Students with Disabilities early in the year and the subsequent media we achieved by recommending an inclusion measure be listed on the My Schools Website. Board members and the CEO appeared before a SA parliamentary inquiry into education for students with disability in March. We held meetings with the Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership and the Australian Curriculum Reporting Authority. Do you know that the Productivity Commission quoted SPA multiple times in its draft report into the Inquiry into the Education Evidence Base? This year, we made five written submission relating to education and early childhood policy and funding.

## Ensuring we have a seat at the table

Our members and staff have represented the profession on a range of government and sector working groups, taskforces and alliances this year. We have had a “seat at the table” to advocate for our profession and clients through key partnerships including Allied Health Professions Australia, National Rural Health Alliance, Mental Health Australia, Consumers Health Forum, Vic Ministerial NDIS Implementation Taskforce, Department of Veteran Affairs Allied Health Working Group, and National Aged Care Alliance, to name just a few.

Thank you to the many members who have shared their expertise and experiences to support our advocacy efforts this year. One of the strengths of our advocacy strategy is that we genuinely reflect the experiences of our members and their clients. So please keep talking to us about what is happening in your part of the speech pathology world – [policy@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](mailto:policy@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)

We look forward to working for you all in 2017.

**Ronelle Hutchinson and Sandy Fowler**  
Policy and Advocacy Team



Western Australian SPA members Jodi Lipscombe, Brooke Sanderson and Michelle Quail, met with Shadow Minister for Health Mr Roger Cook.

## Meeting to inform policy

**IN JUNE**, Speech Pathology Australia CEO, Gail Mulcair, and Manager for Policy and Advocacy, Ronelle Hutchinson, met with Shadow Minister for Health Mr Roger Cook to discuss inclusion of speech pathology into the national registration and accreditation scheme. Mr Cook was in the midst of preparing the Labor Party’s health policy platform and, invited SPA to recommend ideas that might help inform this policy, particularly in the area of early identification and intervention.

In response to the invitation, a group of WA members were convened to identify:

- the current system for early diagnosis and intervention for young children in Western Australia,
- the “gaps” and shortcomings,
- suggestions of initiatives that would improve early diagnosis and intervention.

SPA initiated the meeting in September between SPA WA Branch Members and Mr Cook to discuss the above points. The intention was to continue engagement and provide input into the Labor Party’s policy platform for the upcoming WA general election, scheduled for March 2017.

# Membership renewals 2017 now open!

## How to renew...

MEMBERS SHOULD BY now have received their membership renewal information by email.

To renew your membership simply go to [www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/renew2017](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/renew2017) and sign in.

If you require your login and password please contact us at [membership@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](mailto:membership@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au) or 1300 368 835.

Payments can be made online in full by credit card (VISA or MasterCard) or you can provide your bank account details and elect to pay by direct debit on a monthly, quarterly or yearly basis.

[www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/renew2017](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/renew2017)



### Medicare Provider Status

MEDICARE AUSTRALIA will be conducting an audit of speech pathologists with a provider number early in 2017 to ensure they are current financial members of Speech Pathology Australia. This is a requirement for speech pathologists to maintain a Medicare provider number.

Medicare will be checking whether or not SPA members with a provider number have renewed their membership by the due date 1 January 2017 and hold Certified Practising (CPSP) status. Please renew early to avoid any potential disruption to your Medicare provider status. We look forward to your continued membership and support throughout 2017.

**TOP TIP:** Renew your membership to Speech Pathology Australia by the due date to avoid any potential disruption to your Medicare provider status.

### Updating your details

YOUR EMPLOYER/PRACTICE details will show during your renewal.

It is important for advocacy, policy and lobbying activities that we have accurate and comprehensive information about speech pathologists in Australia.

For those who wish to appear on the Find a Speech Pathologist Search, this provides the public with accurate information.

We therefore ask you to complete as many details as possible during your renewal.

Remember you can also log in at any time and update your details.

To update and add to these go to:

➔ [www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)

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➔ Go to Members

➔ From the drop down menu go to Update Member Details

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To view, edit or delete an existing practice click edit or delete next to practice type.

To add a new practice, click on the + sign.

For more information and assistance contact the SPA Membership team on 1300 368 835.



# Certified practising membership

## Thanks to 2016 members

**THANK YOU TO** the SPA membership for demonstrating your commitment to ongoing professional development by meeting CPSP requirements with your 2016 renewal as a Certified Practising or Full-time Postgraduate Student member. At this point in time, 97.4 percent of eligible members have renewed as Certified Practising members with CPSP status (full and provisional).

With your 2017 renewal, please feel free to contact us if you would like assistance with completing your PSR Declaration. Also, if you undertook PSR activities in 2016 but did not declare them when you renewed for 2017, or overlooked this as you are on direct debit, it's not too late

to submit your PSR Declaration now. You can either download the PSR Declaration form online and email it in, or contact National Office for an electronic declaration to be emailed to you. Once your record is updated to reflect that you have met the requirements to be a CPSP, you will be mailed a Certified Practising membership certificate that includes your CPSP status.

Please feel free to contact Sharon Crane, Senior Advisor, Professional Education and Certification, who coordinates the PSR program at National Office on 1300 368 835 or email [scrane@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](mailto:scrane@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)



## Hearing and Deafness in Children: *Identity, Trust and Technology*

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- Prof Greg Leigh (RIDBC)
- Ann Porter (Aussie Deaf Kids)
- Dr Wayne Wilson (University of Queensland) Alex Jones / Leonie Jackson (Deaf Society NSW) Dr Dunay Schmulian (Consultant)
- Dr Chyrisse Heine (La Trobe University) and more

**With contributions from:**

Deafness Forum and Parents of Deaf Children



*Blue Beach Girl. Lino-print. Art work by Donna McDonald; Printed by Wim de Vos, Studio West End. 2016.*

*Thinking creatively about hearing and deafness in children*

Registration	Early bird closes 31 December 2016	Full registration closes 5 February 2017
Full seminar	\$790	\$880
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## Clinical guidelines for SPs working in the literacy domain

SPEECH PATHOLOGY AUSTRALIA COMMISSIONED THE PREPARATION OF CLINICAL GUIDELINES IN LITERACY FOR THE BENEFIT OF ASSOCIATION MEMBERS.

**GIVEN THE INCREASING** focus for many speech pathologists supporting children and adolescents with reading, spelling and writing difficulty – collectively known as literacy – Speech Pathology Australia commissioned the preparation of clinical guidelines in literacy for the benefit of Association members.

The aims of these clinical guidelines were to explore and document the scope of practice for speech pathologists in the literacy domain, to discuss models of service delivery, and importantly, to appraise the evidence for our practices. Dr Tanya Serry, PhD, a senior lecturer in the Discipline of Speech Pathology at La Trobe University in Victoria, was appointed as the project officer in 2015 to lead this project. On the eve of the release of these clinical guidelines for speech pathologists working in the literacy domain, Tanya reported on the journey of establishing a working party and creating the guidelines.

Following Tanya's appointment to lead the project, she called for expressions of interest from within the speech pathology community to form a working party to develop the clinical guidelines. Eleven speech pathologists were assigned and they represented private practitioners, school-based speech pathologists and academics from many states in Australia. The working party members are listed below.

Clinical guidelines for speech pathologists working in literacy is timely based on recent evidence from Australia and the USA, describing a complex landscape for us to be fully engaged in supporting children and adolescents with poor literacy (Fallon & Katz, 2011; Katz, Fallon, DiDonato, & Van Der Linden, 2006; Serry, 2013; Snow, 2009).

The training that speech pathologists receive for entry-level into the profession makes us well-equipped to work in literacy support given the fact that reading and related literacy-based activities are underpinned by oral language competencies. Taking into account the fact that speech pathologists are suitably equipped, yet are

likely to face some challenges when seeking to work in the literacy domain, these guidelines were designed with two key foci: (i) as a practice document to guide speech pathology practice based on the best available evidence, and (ii) as a framework to assist with advocating for an established role as part of a literacy support team.

At a practice-based level, the guidelines adopt a framework for working at various levels which include: prevention to reduce the risk of later difficulty in learning to become literate; strategies to promote strong oral language competencies and emergent literacy; assessment – from screening to detailed analysis and intervention – from young children who do not make a strong start learning to read and spell, through to secondary students who experience difficulty in any aspect of literacy.

Difficulties may include poor word decoding, poor reading comprehension, poor spelling and/or poor extended written language or narrative.

The clinical guidelines also explore and appraise the evidence for various service delivery models that reach well beyond the traditional one-to-one approach. With respect to the importance of acknowledging the quality of evidence (Sackett, Rosenberg, Gray, Haynes, & Richardson, 1996), the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines were referred to throughout the clinical guidelines when appraising the evidence for clinically oriented content.

At a systems-based level, the clinical guidelines provide some strategies to assist speech pathologists to advocate to undertake a greater role in establishing and supporting literacy initiatives. This component of the clinical guidelines relied on some of the existing literature combined with experiences and reflections among working party members for this clinical guideline.

In May 2016, the working party presented a workshop reporting on a draft version of the clinical guidelines at the Speech

### At a practice-based level, the guidelines adopt a framework for working at various levels...

Pathology Australia national conference in Canberra. This was an opportunity to put forward our clinical guidelines framework and seek feedback from the audience. Following this feedback, the Board of Speech Pathology Australia then reviewed these clinical guidelines and provided approval for the document to be made available on the Speech Pathology Australia website.

#### Working party members

Emma Jones, Private practitioner, ACT

Kate Walmsley, Private practitioner, WA

Marleen Westerveld, PhD - Griffith University, QLD

Melinda Schambre, Private practitioner, University of Melbourne, VIC

Pamela Snow, PhD, La Trobe University, VIC

Rachael Furner, Department of Education and Training, VIC

Roslyn Neilson, PhD Private practitioner, Consultant, NSW

Shae Morrish Independent School Speech Pathologist, VIC

Suze Leitáo, PhD Curtin University, WA

Toni Seiler, PhD Curtin University, Private practitioner, WA/VIC

Tracey Rowe, Department of Education and Training, VIC

#### References:

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**Stacey Baldac**  
**Senior Advisor, Professional Standards**



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# New way to submit articles to JCPSLP

### SPEECH PATHOLOGY AUSTRALIA

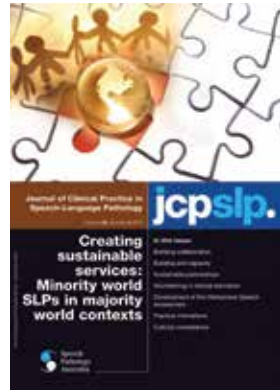
has arranged a new system for authors to submit their manuscripts for the Journal of Clinical Practice in Speech-Language Pathology.

The new system is “up and running” and will significantly streamline the current JCPSLP manuscript and article submission process.

Authors can simply upload their manuscripts via Scholastica HQ, a fully automated system that will link, the editor, reviewers and authors to ensure a smooth transition between each role.

Once an author has created a basic account they can upload the article and extra files, and track the feedback and acceptance process.

Visit [www.scholasticahq.com](http://www.scholasticahq.com) for more information about the new system.



## Research fellowship awarded

**CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY** (CSU) PhD student Sarah Masso was awarded a Federal Government Endeavour Research Fellowship recently to work with leading international researchers in Newfoundland, Canada.

The Endeavour Research Fellowship for Sarah, a PhD candidate in the CSU School of Teacher Education who works with children who have difficulty communicating, will enable her to work in Newfoundland for four months.

"By using current technology, and adapting resources such as 'Phon' to be specifically useful for speech pathologists, I hope to support speech pathologists to use technology to improve the productivity, efficiency, and accuracy of their assessments," said Sarah.

Ms Masso will join Associate Professor Yvan Rose and Dr Greg Hedlund at Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada, to help them build a user-friendly interface for Phon, an innovative and comprehensive open-source analysis software that has been developed for free use by linguists.

"This fellowship is an amazing opportunity for me to work closely with Associate Professor Rose and Dr Hedlund, some of the world's leading developers of speech analysis software, who I met at the International Clinical Phonetics and Linguistics conference in Canada a few months ago," Sarah added.

"This opportunity will allow me to be a voice for speech pathologists who need efficient ways to analyse the speech of children and adults who have communication difficulties. I am very excited to be a part of an innovative team and to develop software for speech pathology practice in Australia and around the world."

**Multisensory Instruction in Language Arts 1 Teacher Training Course**

Gain the skills to teach writing, spelling and reading to primary school students.

**Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, Brisbane and Perth**  
*Additional courses organised by demand*

**Contact**  
Robyn Grace  
03 9889 4768  
[robyn.grace@spaldingaustralia.com.au](mailto:robyn.grace@spaldingaustralia.com.au)

# InformMe

delivering quality stroke care

A dedicated website for health professionals  
working in stroke care

[www.informme.org.au](http://www.informme.org.au)

enable *me*

stronger after stroke

A free online resource and community for  
stroke survivors, carers and their families

[www.enableme.org.au](http://www.enableme.org.au)



# Continuing professional development

## Looking to 2017

**FOR 2017 CPD** events, after holding the registration fee constant in 2014–2015–2016, we reluctantly have increased the registration fee by \$11 (incl GST) per day workshop. This increase reflects increasing costs for venue hire, AV and catering, speaker fee, travel costs, and printing costs.

### 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 2014 CPD ran at a small overall loss, and in 2015 CPD sustained a loss of \$51,000.

### 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 or 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 generally 50 percent 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.

### Member benefits for SPA events

Non-members pay double the fee of SPA members to register for CPD Branch Events, CPD Live online events, and the National Conference.

- The traveller's rate for CPD Events is available only to SPA members who meet the criteria. These SPA members pay 50 percent of the member rate for workshop registrations.
- SPA Student members pay 25 percent of the registration fee paid by student non-members.
- The SPA Events e-News and *Speak Out* with the current information on Events goes out only to SPA members.

- The CPD Events Library offers a range of items to hire on paediatric, adult and general topics – only SPA members can hire from the library.
- SPA has online resources, such as the online Evidence-Based Practice Independent Study Resource available on the website – only members can view these items at no charge.
- Only SPA members can join the Facebook Member Communities Closed Groups dedicated to information sharing and support.
- Only members can participate in the PSR program and earn points towards Certified Practising Speech Pathologist status when they attend SPA Events.

### National tour 2017

The 2017 SPA National Tour speaker will be Dr Tanya Serry presenting on *Speech Pathology in the literacy domain: From prevention to intervention*.

This two-day workshop will explore the scope of practice for speech pathologists in prevention or reducing the risk of children becoming poor readers; early identification and management; assessment and formal intervention for children and adolescents. The focus will be more on younger children but principles can be applied across age groups. A response-to-intervention model will underpin the discussion regarding formal intervention. In addition to this two-day workshop that will run in most Branches, the National Tour program will finish with a 90-minute online CPD live event.

Tanya Serry, BApp Sc (Sp Path), MA (Applied Linguistics), PhD, is a member of the Living with Disability Research Centre at La Trobe University. She is also a senior lecturer in the Discipline of Speech Pathology at La Trobe University and an Honorary Research Fellow at the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute in the Policy Equity and Transition group. Tanya's research interests include prevention and early identification strategies for young children at risk of reading difficulty. Tanya has also investigated intervention approaches at a systems level within schools and universities. Taking an alternative perspective, Tanya has also studied the experiences of people involved with the person with reading difficulty including parents of children receiving intervention and school-based intervention providers.



The Association is looking forward to Tanya sharing her knowledge, experience and clinical skills in applying speech pathology knowledge of language and phonology to promoting oral language competency and emergent literacy, and of collaborative practice in the literacy domain in partnerships as part of a wider team of professionals.

## Looking back on 2016

**THANKS TO THE** wonderful team of volunteer SPA members in each Branch whose support in 2016 was incalculable in planning and delivering the SPA CPD program. These members are ably led by:

- ACT – Leah Hanley
- NSW - Christine Sheard
- NT – Erin Coonan
- QLD - Jo Wilkinson and Sarah Goodman
- SA - Barbara Lyndon
- TAS – Nicole Hatch
- VIC - Kate Bridgman and Linda Crisci
- WA - Kelly Robinson

### National tour

The Association was very fortunate and privileged to have the 2016 SPA National Tour speaker as Dr Jade Cartwright presenting on *Dementia is our Business: Speech Pathology Services for People Living with Dementia across the Continuum of Care*. Jade presented a one-day workshop in a number of Branches, and finished the National Tour with a 90-minute CPD online event. These workshops were well attended and well received.



Jade's passion, encouragement, generosity and knowledge were acknowledged by workshop participants across the nation. Jade shares her thoughts on the experience of being the National Tour speaker.

Dr Jade Cartwright  
National Tour presenter.

“It was an absolute privilege to present the Speech Pathology Australia 2016 National Tour *Dementia is our Business: Speech Pathology Services for People Living with Dementia Across the Continuum of Care*. For the 353,800 people currently living with dementia in Australia, communication difficulties represent one of the most prominent, intimate, and distressing symptoms, with profound social and emotional consequences. Speech pathology interventions may help to enhance communication and quality of life outcomes for people living with dementia and their families, yet access to services remains limited and highly fragmented.

Focusing on communication, the National Tour workshops aimed to present a strong rationale for the need to expand speech pathology services, to showcase examples of innovation and evidence-based practice, and to outline new policy direction and funding opportunities in the dementia field. Personally, presenting the workshops has provided an amazing opportunity to connect with speech pathologists from around the country with an interest in dementia care and to reflect on a plan for the future. There is no doubt that as a profession there is a strong commitment to action. Feedback from delegates suggests that further education and support for clinicians is required, alongside collaborative efforts to develop the evidence base, drive innovation, and develop care pathways. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to everyone who has attended the National Tour events during the year, your



### SPA CPD program Workshops & Online CPD

To view events open for online registration – both Branch CPD workshops and CPD Live online events - watch out for the monthly Events and Branch e-News, and/or check out the SPA website under the Professional Development tab.

contributions and insights have been greatly appreciated. Thank you also to Speech Pathology Australia for the invitation and opportunity to speak on this topic of national importance. I look forward to seeing how the profile of speech pathology in the dementia field continues to grow into the future, ensuring that communication becomes a priority for all people living with dementia.”

**Sharon Crane**

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

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

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



## National rollout of simulation randomised control trial

**THE EMBEDDING SIMULATION** in Clinical Training in Speech Pathology National Project (see December 2014 and October 2015 issues of *Speak Out*) has been full steam ahead in 2016, with the successful rollout of the project at six sites across Australia.

The overall aim of the project is to determine if students in accredited speech pathology programs achieve a comparable level of competency in placements when an average of 20 percent of the placement time is replaced with simulated learning activities compared to traditional clinical placements. To do this, students undertaking middle-level adult placements at the participating universities were randomised into either a traditional clinical placement (usual current practice), or a simulation and traditional clinical placement known as the “simulation model”, where students are immersed in simulation activities at the university for the first five days of placement before commencing their traditional placements.

Through the simulation model students have the opportunity to develop clinical skills in adult areas of practice including speech, language and swallowing, across a range of simulated environments including acute hospital and rehabilitation (inpatient and outpatient) settings. Under the guidance of a speech pathology facilitator/clinical educator, students are given the opportunity to work alongside their peers to develop assessment and management skills, through peer role play and interaction with simulated patients. Across the five days of the simulation model, students engage in 13 simulation sessions focused on seven clinical cases representative of the populations that students would see in traditional adult placements; these include

stroke, traumatic brain injury, orthogeriatric and progressive neurological conditions. The simulation model also enables students to interact with members of the multidisciplinary team and family members.

The beginning of the year was a particularly busy one for the team with initial rollouts at The University of Sydney, The University of Queensland, The University of Newcastle and The University of Melbourne in January. Not long after this was a clinic at La Trobe University in April, and then Griffith University in August. In 2016, 21 simulation clinics were run, with 133 students participating in this experience so far.

Data is being collected from a range of stakeholders using a variety of measures. COMPASS® is the primary outcome measure being used to measure student competency across the two groups (traditional or simulation model), and student feedback is also being collected through the use of surveys pre and post-placement in both groups. The perceptions of simulation clinic facilitators and clinical educators supervising students following their participation in the simulation clinic are also being sought through post-placement interviews.

Data collection is set to conclude in early 2017, so we look forward to sharing project findings with you soon. If you would like further information about this project, please contact Dr Anne Hill, Project Leader, The University of Queensland at [ae.hill@uq.edu.au](mailto:ae.hill@uq.edu.au).

**Simone Howells**  
*Embedding Simulation in Clinical Training  
in Speech Pathology Project Team*



ABOVE: Students at Griffith University interact with simulated patient assisted by speech pathologist and facilitator, Brooke Duggan.

LEFT: Students at Griffith University review simulated patient case information ahead of seeing their patient.



# How is CBOS used to maintain professional standards?

**SPEECH PATHOLOGY AUSTRALIA** sets, monitors and regulates speech pathology across the continuum from entry-level to advanced practice. The Competency Based Occupation Standards – Entry Level (2011) “describes the minimum skills, knowledge base and professional standards required for entry level practice in speech pathology in Australia”. Competency Based Occupational Standards (CBOS) is a dynamic document and is updated as the profession and evidence base for practice evolves. All practising members of Speech Pathology Australia are required to demonstrate the skills, knowledge and professional standards as outlined by CBOS.

It is anticipated that the process to review and update CBOS will commence as early as 2018.

CBOS is the core document that is utilised in key Association functions including:

## Accreditation of university courses

- Assessment of overseas qualified speech pathologists
- Re-entry program for speech pathologists who have had a career break.
- To maintain entry-level standards the Association has a dedicated team of staff and university academics involved in the accreditation of universities and assessment of overseas trained speech pathologists and speech pathologists returning to the profession.

## University accreditation

Accreditation assures the general public that the speech pathology degree programs in Australia have the appropriate qualities to produce professional speech pathologist practitioners who are eligible for membership of the Association. Graduates from an accredited university will be automatically eligible for practising membership.

Currently 15 universities are delivering 24 entry-level speech pathology programs in Australia. All entry-level degree programs in Australia, whether undergraduate or post-graduate, are assessed to the same standards in the accreditation process.

The accreditation process is sufficiently flexible to allow for the development of diverse and distinctive programs and does not prescribe the input of speech pathology degree programs by way of hours of study or any specified subjects. The Association recognises that the universities involved are responsible for the educational process and accepts that varying program structures, pedagogy and assessment strategies may be used to develop students' skills and to assess students' competency against the Competency Based Occupational Standards 2011.

The accreditation process is supported by a team of university academics trained to be an accreditor. An accreditation panel consisting of university academics and Speech Pathology Australia staff review the university documentation and confirm the information via a series of interviews with students, staff, clinical educators and employing bodies.

A university program may be designated with the following status:

**Qualifying:** New courses seeking accreditation for the first time, but have not yet undergone accreditation evaluation.

**Full:** Full accreditation for a period of five years is awarded when there is evidence that the students achieve the entry-level standards as specified in CBOS, and that the program has the appropriate governance, curricula planning and review processes, resources and staffing profile to maintain standards.

**Provisional:** Provisional accreditation for a period of two years is awarded when a course has achieved accreditation for the first time.

Conditional accreditation is awarded when a course that has previously achieved full accreditation does not subsequently meet accreditation requirements during the five year accreditation term or at the time of re-accreditation.

**Not accredited:** A course that does not meet the requirements of accreditation.

For information on the status of a university please refer to the website: [www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/SPAweb/Resources\\_for\\_the\\_Public/Become\\_a\\_Speech\\_Pathologist](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/SPAweb/Resources_for_the_Public/Become_a_Speech_Pathologist)

## Overseas qualified speech pathologists and re-entry

Overseas trained speech pathologists may apply for membership of the Association under the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) or, if not from a MRA country, submit a complete application.

Overseas trained speech pathologists (not eligible for MRA) are required to submit a complete application and individuals returning to the profession must submit a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate they meet the competencies as outlined by CBOS. Evidence may include but is not limited to: examples from their work as a speech pathologist and evidence of continuing professional development. Each application is assessed by two professional recognition assessors.

**Stacy Baldac**  
*Senior Advisor Professional Standards*

Unit	Competency
Unit 1: Assessment	1.1 Identify and describe the components of a comprehensive assessment process and explain the role of the assessor in the assessment process.
Unit 2: Diagnosis and intervention	2.1 Identify and describe the components of a comprehensive assessment process and explain the role of the assessor in the assessment process.
Unit 3: Planning and implementation of intervention	3.1 Identify and describe the components of a comprehensive assessment process and explain the role of the assessor in the assessment process.
Unit 4: Evaluation and monitoring of intervention	4.1 Identify and describe the components of a comprehensive assessment process and explain the role of the assessor in the assessment process.
Unit 5: Professional and leadership practice	5.1 Identify and describe the components of a comprehensive assessment process and explain the role of the assessor in the assessment process.
Unit 6: Ongoing learning and reflective practice	6.1 Identify and describe the components of a comprehensive assessment process and explain the role of the assessor in the assessment process.

Area of practice	Examples (include but not limited to)
Language	• Phonological disorders • Morphological disorders • Lexical disorders • Pragmatic disorders
Speech	• Articulation disorders • Fluency disorders • Voice disorders
Swallowing	• Dysphagia: oral, oropharyngeal, esophageal • Dysphagia: functional, structural
Voice	• Voice disorders: functional, structural
Fluency	• Stuttering disorders
Multi-modal communication	• All of the above

**All practising members of Speech Pathology Australia are required to demonstrate the skills, knowledge and professional standards as outlined by CBOS.**



1. Chris Collin, Megan Kitchin, Renée Trembl, Karen Blair, Raewyn Caisley, Kay Crabbe, Alison Lester, and Nick Earls. 2. Kay Crabbe 3. Songwoman Maroochy 4. Alison Lester and school children from West End State School 5. Renée Trembl and Gaenor Dixon 6. Jo Hayes 7. Chris Collin, Megan Kitchin and Gaenor Dixon 8. Chris Collin and 'Funky Chicken' 9. Amanda Smith, Angie Canning (Book of the Year judge) and Vicki Browning on the day Angie donated her books to Labrador Child and Family Centre.

## Book of the Year Awards

# Alison Lester enters the hall of fame

**THE BOOK OF** the Year Awards ceremony in 2016 was a resounding success. The ceremony was again held in Brisbane and hosted and supported by the State Library of Queensland. In a change from previous years, the event was professionally facilitated by Jo Hayes, radio journalist and newsreader from Brisbane Radio Station 4KQ. Ms Hayes is a former speech pathologist.

The ceremony was opened by SPA National President Gaenor Dixon who also presented the awards. SPA CEO Gail Mulcair closed the proceedings.

The highlight of this year's ceremony was the induction of well-known Australian children's book author Alison Lester into the Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Hall of Fame. Ms Lester was inducted as the winner of the Association's Children's Language and Literature Award for 2016.

Ms Lester is a prolific and successful Australian children's author. She is best known for her Australian children's books, including: *Imagine*, *Magic Beach*, *Are We There Yet?*, *Celeste Sails to Spain*, and *Ernie Dances to the Didgeridoo*. She won the Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year in 2013, in the Lower Primary Category, as it was then, for her book *Sophie Scott Goes South*.

Every year it is presented only when an author is nominated and is an outstanding talent. Past winners of the Speech Pathology Australia Children's Language and Literature Award include, Graeme Base, Mem Fox and Colin Thiele.

As announced in the October edition of *Speak Out*, five deserving books were awarded for their contribution to language and literacy development.

### Birth to 3 years

*Once I Heard a Little Wombat* by Renée Tremblé

### Three to 5 years

*Something Wonderful* by Raweyn Caisley (Illustrations by Karen Blair)

### Five to 8 years

*Funky Chicken: Chooks in Space* by Chris Collin (Illustrations by Megan Kitchin)

### Eight to 10 years

*New Boy* by Nick Earls

### Indigenous children

*The Pearl-shell Diver* by Kay Crabbe

Thank you to everyone involved with the Book of the Year Awards in 2016. A special thanks to Kylie Webb (consultant speech pathologist at the State Library of Queensland); Dan Georgeson, Executive Manager, Literacy and Young People's Service at the State Library of Queensland; and to everyone else at the library who made us feel so welcome on the day.

This year's awards ceremony was filmed and can be viewed from the Association's YouTube channel.



Alison Lester's Hall of Fame award sits "pride of place" in her studio at Fish Creek in Victoria.

**Michael Kerrisk**  
*Communication and Marketing Manager*

# FAQ Professional indemnity insurance explained

GUILD INSURANCE HAS BEEN WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SPEECH PATHOLOGY AUSTRALIA (SPA) TO INSURE SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS SINCE 2005. GUILD UNDERSTAND THAT SOMETIMES, CHOOSING AN INSURER CAN BE ALMOST AS CONFUSING AS THE LANGUAGE USED IN THE INSURANCE POLICY ITSELF. TOGETHER WITH SPA, GUILD HAS DEVELOPED THE FOLLOWING FAQ'S TO HELP MEMBERS BETTER UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING THE RIGHT INSURANCE POLICY.

## Why do you need insurance?

Complaints do happen. When it comes to complaints from clients, or their families, it can be easy to think, "It won't happen to me". However, our experience tells us these complaints do occur. Even the most qualified speech pathologist can face a complaint from a client. An allegation of professional negligence, no matter how questionable that allegation may be, still needs to be addressed in a careful, considered manner. This usually involves the assistance of expert legal advice and this is where your insurance policy, and more importantly, your insurance provider plays a leading role.

## Support is provided and legal costs are covered

Remember, even if you are not found to be liable, the legal costs to defend an allegation of professional negligence can climb quite quickly. In addition to awards for damages, a professional indemnity insurance (PII) policy is there to cover all costs incurred, including defence costs. Facing a complaint about your professional service can be unexpected and incredibly stressful. It's an experience that you shouldn't go through alone. In addition to the financial resource a PII affords, there is an entire support network provided by Guild Insurance. The ultimate aim is to defend and support you to allow you to continue running your practice.

## What should you do if someone makes a complaint or demand for compensation?

Contact Guild – 1800 810 213

Your matter will then be assigned to one of our claims managers or solicitors. After discussing the details of your particular situation, they then will work with you to determine the best way of managing the complaint and support you through the process. At the appropriate time, they will also advise you on how to respond to the person making the complaint. There is no excess for these claims and under normal circumstances, your insurance premium shouldn't increase the following year as a result of making a claim.

## Should I contact a lawyer?

No – liability insurance products will have either a panel of law firms, or a preferred provider that the insurer will engage to act on your behalf. The law firm that is engaged by Guild Insurance is Meridian Lawyers who have extensive experience working in the allied health industry and act for the majority of allied health professions. Guild will provide you with access to a lawyer.

## Do I still need PI insurance if I only work part time in private practice?

Yes – whether you are working part time in addition to public sector work or only working part time in private practice you should have your own PI insurance policy. Guild offers a part-time product. For details of the premium go to [www.guild.com.au](http://www.guild.com.au)

## Why do I need to continue PI insurance after I stop working in private practice?

It is not uncommon for a formal claim to be made against a practitioner months, in some cases even years, after the consultation took place. A common misconception among practitioners is that once the private consulting stops, so too can the insurance policy. This is not the case. Due to the time that may have passed between the advice given and the claim being made, practitioners should continue to renew their policy for at least the first 12 months after their private practice ceases.

For those private practitioners coming to the end of their careers, "run-off cover" should be discussed with your insurance provider. Run-off cover is an insurance provision that recognises that a practitioner is no longer consulting, yet still has potential liability exposures for advice given throughout the course of their career. The Guild policy provides run-off cover for retiring practitioners on an ongoing basis without the need to continue to pay an ongoing premium. This is not the case with all insurance policies available in the market and should be something you discuss with your insurer.

## What are the common complaints made by patients?

Some of the more common complaints we see are in relation to consent; the patients (or more commonly, the parents of patients) expectations not being met; and issues arising from the misuse of social media. Some examples include:

### Case example 1

A speech pathologist was treating a primary school aged child whose parents were separated. Both of the parents had consented to the therapy being received. The speech pathologist received consent from only the mother to discuss the child's progress with his school teachers. The father complained that he was being left out of treatment discussions and threatened to withdraw consent for all therapy and was considering formalising a written complaint.

## Case example 2

A speech pathologist had been providing therapy to a child for a number of months. The parents complained, suggesting they weren't seeing any progress with their child and demanded a refund of all fees paid for therapy.

Whilst the claim quantum of these examples are low, they do cause disruption to the operation of the business and for the most part, can easily be avoided. Guild Risk HQ [www.riskhq.com.au](http://www.riskhq.com.au) is a great source of reference for tips on how to avoid complaints in the first place. Managing Social Media, Good Record Keeping and Informed Consent are just some of the risk management articles that can be found by accessing this resource.

## How much insurance should you buy?

Finally, a range of factors should be considered when choosing a limit of liability. Do you lease a premises? What does that lease contract stipulate with respect to holding public liability insurance? Have you signed a contract to provide services to a commercial client? What do the insurance provisions within that contract say? What types of patients do you consult to? Are they high income/high profile? As a benchmark, Guild insured speech pathologists usually settle on a limit of \$10M professional indemnity and \$10M public liability; however, the above points should be considered to ensure that the limit you choose satisfies your particular needs.

## How do I obtain more information?

Go to [www.guild.com.au](http://www.guild.com.au) or phone 1800 810 213.

**Guild Risk HQ**  
**[www.riskhq.com.au](http://www.riskhq.com.au)**  
**is a great source of**  
**reference for tips**  
**on how to avoid**  
**complaints in the**  
**first place.**

Insurance issued by Guild Insurance Ltd, ABN 55 004 538 863, AFSL 233791. Guild Insurance supports your association through the payment of referral fees. This information contains general advice only and does not take into account what you currently have, want and need for your personal circumstances. It is important for you to consider these matters and read the policy and/or the Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) before you make a decision about an insurance product. Subject to underwriting approval. Terms and Conditions apply (including exclusions and limitations). You can get a copy of the PDS by calling 1800 810 213.



## Involve parents with an evidence-based coaching framework

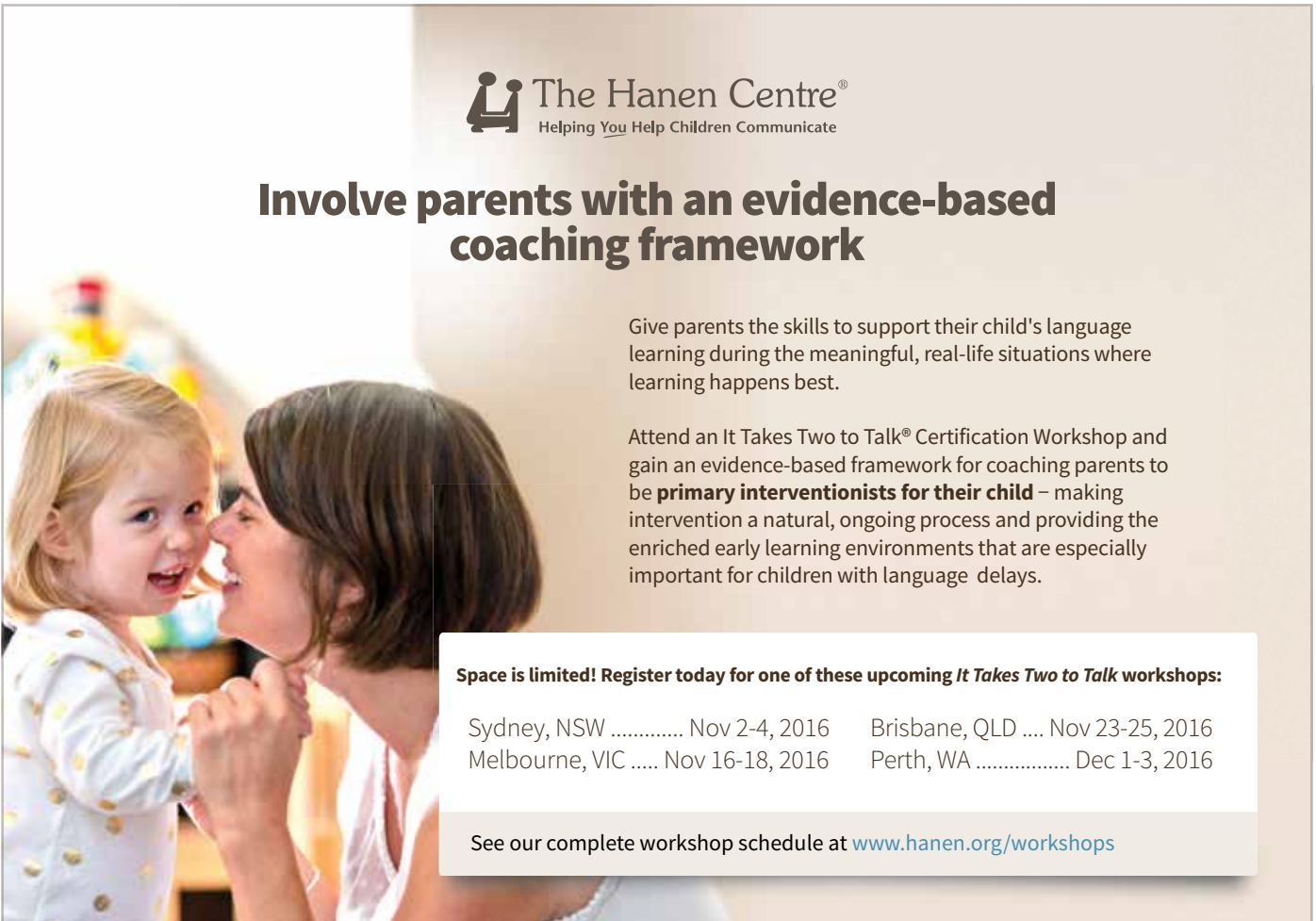
Give parents the skills to support their child's language learning during the meaningful, real-life situations where learning happens best.

Attend an It Takes Two to Talk® Certification Workshop and gain an evidence-based framework for coaching parents to be **primary interventionists for their child** – making intervention a natural, ongoing process and providing the enriched early learning environments that are especially important for children with language delays.

**Space is limited! Register today for one of these upcoming *It Takes Two to Talk* workshops:**

Sydney, NSW .....	Nov 2-4, 2016	Brisbane, QLD ....	Nov 23-25, 2016
Melbourne, VIC .....	Nov 16-18, 2016	Perth, WA .....	Dec 1-3, 2016

See our complete workshop schedule at [www.hanen.org/workshops](http://www.hanen.org/workshops)





# Advertising good practice

IS YOUR ADVERTISING APPROPRIATE FOR A HEALTH SERVICE? TRISH JOHNSON PROVIDES A CHECKLIST TO HELP YOU TO BRING YOUR ADVERTISING IN LINE WITH SPA'S POLICY.

**THE END OF** the year is a great time to be able to spread a positive message, and I would like to say thank you to all members who have worked on ensuring their advertising is compliant with the SPA Code of Ethics Advertising Policy. Members use a wide range of different formats for advertising services, including more common methods: written information to clients, website content, social media, local newspapers, and extending to other formats such as radio and online service finder databases. It's fantastic to see that the majority of members who use advertising have created content that is based on evidence, is not misleading, and represents the speech pathology profession in a professional way.

I am aware that during 2016 many members reviewed the advertising they are responsible for, independently from any contact from SPA, to assist consumers to access appropriate services while maintaining the professionalism of speech pathology. This demonstrates a fantastic commitment to upholding two of the principles our profession is known for – integrity and honesty, which ensure the safety of our clients.

I would also like to thank all members I have contacted during the year to advise them of changes needed to their advertising to ensure compliance with the policy. The vast majority of members I contact willingly make the requested changes, once they have been made aware of the policy and applied it to their advertising. It is also gratifying to be able to report that the requested changes are usually made quickly. I am available to support all members who are wanting to ensure their advertising is compliant with the policy.

The contact I have with members frequently includes reminders that members can apply, as appropriate, to the SPA Publications Officer [pubs@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](mailto:pubs@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au) to receive the official SPA and CPSP logos, to use in advertising and promote the professionalism of their services.

I also provide reminders regarding members' ethical obligations to comply with the SPA policy. The changes I regularly request members to make include:

- Use of appropriate wording. Most commonly to find alternatives to the terms "specialist" or "expert" in advertising. These terms are not allowed in advertising

a speech pathology service because currently there are no recognised areas of specialty in speech pathology in Australia. (please re-read the article in the October 2016 edition of *Speak Out* for information on SPA's current project on credentialing).

- Removal of testimonials from advertising, usually from websites. Testimonials are a third-party personal statement making a recommendation about a speech pathologist, speech pathology service or program, and cannot be included in a member's advertising or website.
- Maintaining the reputation of our profession by avoiding derogatory comparisons with other speech pathologists.

This year there has been much discussion regarding third-party review websites. As previously published, SPA's position is that members are not responsible for removing (or trying to have removed) unsolicited testimonials or reviews/ratings published on a website or in social media over which they do not have control.

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

It is permissible for members to allow the inclusion of their practice details on an independent third-party directory, but members should not solicit testimonials, ratings or reviews on these websites. Any information such as ratings, reviews or testimonials posted by another person on a third-party website should not be shared, copied, or re-tweeted, as this could be considered to be advertising under the member's control.

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

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

Finally, this review of good practice in the area of advertising does lead to the question: When did you last read SPA's advertising policy and review the advertising that you are using to ensure your advertising is appropriate and ethical?

If the coming holiday period is a slow time of year for you it may be a good opportunity to use the checklist below to audit your advertising and make any changes required to bring it in line with the policy.

- ✓ My advertising is accurate and does not misrepresent the profession.
- ✓ I do not guarantee results.
- ✓ When I advertise the benefits or outcomes of a program it is based on evidence.
- ✓ My advertising contains the accurate wording and/or post-nominal for my SPA membership and CPSP status, and for each of my staff.
- ✓ I have used the approved SPA logo (which I obtained, with permission, from SPA), or does not contain the approved SPA logo because not all of my staff are SPA members.
- ✓ I do not use testimonials in any of my advertising.
- ✓ My advertising does not include the terms "expert" or

"specialist" unless I have achieved recognised accreditation (available internationally, there are no recognised formal credentialing programs in Australia).

For any support in the application of SPA's policy to your advertising, please contact me at National Office.

Trish Johnson [tjohnson@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](mailto:tjohnson@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)

To view the SPA advertising policy go to:

[www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au) → About Us

SPA Documents → Policies and Procedures

→ Code of Ethics → Code of Ethics Advertising

**Trish Johnson**

Senior Advisor, Ethics and Professional Issues

## Working together to achieve 'Breast is Best'

Thursday 16 - Friday 17 February 2017

### Presenters:

Cathy Watson Genna (IBCLC)  
Lisa Sandora (CCC-SLP, IBCLC)

This two-day seminar is for speech pathologists, lactation specialists, other allied health, nursing and medical professionals who work with, or have an interest in, infants with breastfeeding difficulties. It aims to improve breastfeeding outcomes for infants and mothers through a collaborative team approach in an advanced clinical practice context.

For further information on registration, please email  
[jane.pettigrew@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jane.pettigrew@health.nsw.gov.au) or  
[noella.phillips@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:noella.phillips@health.nsw.gov.au)

the **children's** hospital at Westmead

 The Sydney children's Hospitals Network

## CHILD LANGUAGE CONFERENCE



Wednesday 19th April

Language Intervention Workshop

Led by Prof Ann Kaiser

Thursday 20th – Friday 21st April

Child Language Conference

Keynote presentations from Prof Ann Kaiser, Prof James Law, A/Prof Tricia Eadie and Dr Cristina McKean

Melbourne | April 2017

[mcri.edu.au/child-language-conference](http://mcri.edu.au/child-language-conference)





# National Conference 28–31 May 2017, ICC Sydney

## Keynote and invited speakers update

### WiFi Working & investing in Future innovations – Sydney.

Set on the world’s largest natural harbour, Sydney is Australia’s iconic face to the world. It is home to the World Heritage-listed Sydney Harbour Bridge and Sydney Opera House, and tops most people’s list of dream destinations. The city consistently ranks high on global measures of liveability, sustainability, and health, safety and security.

Much more than a stunning location, Sydney is as multidimensional as it is multicultural. Home to more than 200 spoken languages and a large population of overseas-born residents, it’s a melting pot of different cultures, backgrounds and influences.

Underpinned by an educated and inquisitive population, robust research institutions and knowledge hubs, and a pro-business environment, Sydney is a place that’s not afraid to “give it a go” and pave a new path to success.

WiFi represents more than just a signal that connects us to the digital world. It represents hard work, innovation and investment in the future. The 2017 CPC invites clinicians, researchers and academics to join them in Sydney.

## Abstract reviews

The Conference Planning Committee (CPC) together with the Scientific Program Chair would like to thank the reviewers for their thorough process. Each submission was independently rated by two reviewers against a strict set of criteria. With 375 submissions, we are confident this will ensure a program of the highest quality, variety and interest for our profession. All authors will be notified by mid December 2016 whether they have been successful or not.

## Program development

The CPC is currently finalising the structure of the 2017 conference program. We will continue with the concurrent sessions of oral and workshop presentations but this year will see

the introduction of ePosters. Plenary sessions will be scheduled for each day. The pre-registration and welcome reception will be on the Sunday evening and the conference dinner will be on the Wednesday evening.

The Speech Pathology Australia AGM will be held on the Monday, with the restaurant night on the Tuesday evening.

The CPC is excited to announce that **Dr Emily Plowman** has accepted the invitation to be a keynote speaker. Emily will present a masterclass on Sunday plus a keynote and seminar.



Dr Emily Plowman completed a Bachelor’s in Speech and Hearing Science with First Class Honours from Curtin University in 2000. She moved to the United States in 2001 and completed a Doctorate in neurorehabilitation under the mentorship of Jay Rosenbek, followed by a four-year post-doctoral fellowship in basic neuroscience with Jeffrey Kleim.

Emily currently serves as an associate professor at the University of Florida in the departments of Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences, Physical Therapy and Neurology. She is the clinical director at the Centre for Respiratory Rehabilitation and Research and the clinical director of speech pathology services at both the University of South Florida and the University of Florida specialised amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) multidisciplinary clinics. Dr Plowman teaches graduate level courses in dysphagia, medical speech-language pathology, introduction to clinical speech-language pathology and research Methods. She also provides courses to clinicians in critical thinking in dysphagia management





## Welcome reception & win a ticket to climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge!

Add this to your  
Christmas “wish list”  
and when you see  
**Event eNews in  
your email inbox,**  
answer the question  
and go in to the draw  
to **win the bridge  
climb** which will be  
drawn during pre-  
registration on **Sunday  
28 May 2017.**

and is an internationally renowned speaker in this area.

Emily is the founding co-director of the Swallowing Systems Core. Her research focus has been on understanding mechanisms of bulbar dysfunction in neuromuscular disease and improving the clinical management of speech, swallowing and breathing in these challenging patient populations through the development of accurate screening tools and she holds current funding from the National Institutes of Health and the ALS Association in this area.

Dr Plowman currently serves on the Northeastern ALS Consortium (NEALS) Bulbar and Ventilation Specialty Committees and has previously served on the board of directors for the Dysphagia Research Society. She is an accomplished clinician and educator who lectures extensively both nationally and internationally and was recognised with the 2013 American Speech and Hearing Association Specialty Board in Swallowing Disorders Award for her research in the treatment of bulbar dysfunction in ALS. She is thrilled to return home for SPA 2017.

Many will remember **Dr Laura Justice** who addressed our conference delegates in 2009 in Adelaide and stimulated our creativity and craftsmanship, leaving us enthused and ready to innovate. Laura now joins us again to describe how she has been working and investing in innovative practices and will challenge delegates to consider one of the big questions for most clinicians – treatment dose! Laura’s investments in early language and literacy have resulted in an impressive career that will stimulate innovation across many other areas of practice. She will examine what “dose” involves, why it’s important and examine the evidence base to inform the crucial decisions clinicians make. Laura will challenge us to look towards the future with innovation and enthusiasm.

**Dr Tricia McCabe**, invited presenter of the 2017 Elizabeth Usher Memorial Lecture, will enthuse delegates with her innovative work on interventions for speech impairments in children and adults. Tricia has been working and investing in the evidence base of our profession and will challenge us all to reflect on our practices – past, present, and the changes we need to make in the future. With a backdrop of the *Speech Pathology 2030: Making Futures Happen* project, this lecture will examine where we have come from and the investments we will need to make in order to realise the innovative futures of our profession.

Please visit our 2017 National Conference website for more detailed profiles of our keynote and invited speakers and their abstracts, together with all other areas relevant to the conference.



## Sponsor and exhibitor update

The CPC would like to thank the current sponsors:



Conference Dinner & Photo booth

Conference Lanyards

We would also like to thank our current exhibitors: Atos Medical, Coviu Global, ELR Software, Guild Insurance, HICAPS, IJSLP/ JCPSLP, Lizzy Online, Nestle Health Science, Pearson Clinical Assessment, Precise, Pro-Ed Australia, Reading Doctor, RoseCup/NutriTaste, Sandpiper Publications, speechBITE, Speech Pathology Australia, SP in Vietnam and Cambodia, Silvereye Learning Resources, The Hanen Centre, Wise Words Australia.

## ROOM FOR LEASE IN KEW - VIC

A great opportunity exists for a dynamic practitioner to join an established, well respected multidisciplinary clinic in the heart of Kew.

Full access to all amenities and full administrative support.

**Room available February 2017**

Contact Gabriel Notarianni

**0403 585 962**

## Consulting rooms for rent at Victoria Park Abbotsford

Eating Disorders Victoria has consulting rooms available for a speech pathologist in private practice. We offer full reception support and amenities, free parking for staff and clients, and easy wheelchair access. Conveniently located opposite Victoria Park train station.

Half day bookings \$80, full day \$140. Contact Client Services Manager Cathy Wyett:

cathy.wyett@eatingdisorders.org.au

or **1300 550 236**



## Accommodation

Discounted rooms have been block booked for delegates at four hotels within close walking distance to the International Convention Centre Sydney. Please visit the conference website and the accommodation link to make your booking.

From either domestic or international terminals, Sydney's Rail link will transfer you from the airport to the city centre and return. Visit this website for further information; [www.airportlink.com.au](http://www.airportlink.com.au)

## Registration brochure & conference registration

We are currently working through the information needed for inclusion into the online registration brochure and conference registration form. The conference flyer will be included in the February 2017 *Speak Out*, which will have an overview of the program format. Early bird registration will commence on Wednesday 8 February 2017, so please ensure you have renewed your membership to avail the cheaper membership rate.

To view all the above information please visit [www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au) and the link to the National Conference 2017.

On behalf of the CPC, we wish you a safe and happy festive season and look forward to bringing you more National Conference news in 2017.

**Harmony Turnbull**

**2017 Conference Convenor**

**Pamela Richards**

**National Conference Manager**



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[www.elr.com.au/events](http://www.elr.com.au/events)

# Supporting stroke survivors toward recovery



MEET SPEECH PATHOLOGIST KELCIE HOWARD WHO LEADS A TEAM TO SUPPORT STROKE SURVIVORS THROUGH THEIR JOURNEY TO RECOVERY.

## TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

I am currently the StrokeConnect Queensland Team Leader, coordinating a stroke support follow-up program. It's a fantastic job where I utilise my clinical and health service knowledge to support the recovery of stroke survivors, while also working collaboratively with clinicians and health service leaders to improve the quality of stroke care in Queensland. On the side, I maintain my clinical skills by covering weekends at St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital.

## WHY DID YOU BECOME A SPEECH PATHOLOGIST?

I have always been fascinated by language and communication; the way words sound and why they mean what they mean. Speech pathology has given me the opportunity to explore these interests in a really unique way in a diverse range of work settings.

I love that there's always more to learn, that we get to use our creativity and that we have the ability to create lifelong impacts for our clients.

## WHAT'S THE BEST PIECE OF PROFESSIONAL ADVICE YOU'VE RECEIVED?

It's important to maintain a strong work-life balance and surround oneself with peers and mentors who want to see you succeed. Being generous with our experiences, knowledge and time is very important for our profession!

## COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS OFTEN BECOME MORE OF AN ISSUE WHEN STROKE SURVIVORS RETURN HOME. CAN YOU ELABORATE?

Communication is a complex, yet invisible skill. I frequently hear from stroke survivors who say they didn't appreciate how great an impact their communication difficulties would have on their lives until they went home. Unlike some other conditions, stroke isn't cured when you walk out of the hospital door. The "real world" brings about a whole new set of challenges for recovery. If you can't express yourself, or you can't make sense of the world around you, it can be very frustrating and isolating.

In my clinical experience, I have also found that survivors who are "walkers" but not "talkers" while in hospital can be at a disadvantage. It can be difficult advocating for our patients to remain in hospital to receive the intensive speech pathology rehab they need if they are physically independent.

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR STROKE SURVIVORS TO GET SUPPORT AS THEY FACE THE LONG JOURNEY TOWARDS RECOVERY?

Recovery from stroke can take a while; for some people, it's a never-ending journey. So it's important for survivors to share their experiences, both good and bad, with a community who understands. Staying motivated through the "plateau" in recovery can be tough and keeping going can seem impossible. Equally, when stroke occurs, spouses and family members

are transformed overnight into carers which can be incredibly stressful, so it's critical they have options for support.

## WHY WAS ENABLEME DEVELOPED AND HOW DID YOU CONTRIBUTE TO IT?

*enableme* began with a really simple idea; to give stroke survivors the ability to drive the next steps in their own recovery after access to inpatient rehab services concludes.

A free online tool, *enableme* gives survivors connection to peers and access to information about stroke from any location, 24/7, to help with those questions that pop into your head at 3am. StrokeLine health professionals, including speech pathologists, answer all questions posted on the site and contribute expert advice.

*enableme* is also aphasia friendly with accessibility features supporting an easy english format and highlighting of text and sections supporting navigation and comprehension. There's also text-to-speech functionality.

I have been involved in the development of *enableme* at various points; first in consulting with our stroke survivor community to plan the website features and functionality, and now in promoting it as a tool for health professionals and StrokeConnect consumers. I think the biggest benefit to survivors in using *enableme* is accessing information and support in a way that suits them. They can be in total control and go at their own pace.

## HOW CAN SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS USE ENABLEME TO HELP THEIR CLIENTS?

The videos and podcasts are excellent teaching and motivational tools. In a recent podcast on aphasia, our team interviewed Dr Miranda Rose and young stroke survivor Claire Hanney, who progressed from not being able to say a single word 12 years ago to now being a public speaker.

The site is a great way to introduce our clients to writing a journal/blog as an outlet for expression and communication in a safe place. Claire has written a great piece called *What's in a Word* where she describes the experience of losing of her vocabulary and the impact that had on her social communication and confidence.

This kind of information is useful for survivors, but it's also incredibly helpful for family members and friends as it helps provide an understanding of what it's like to have aphasia and how to support a loved one.

*enableme* also helps speech pathologists to think beyond the hospital bed and the therapy room, and to consider the real life impacts of stroke for survivors and their families as they continue their long journey towards recovery.

For more information or to join *enableme* visit: [www.enableme.org.au](http://www.enableme.org.au)

## Bridging the gender gap

WHY IS IT THAT MALES MAKE UP A SMALL SEGMENT OF THE “SPEECHIE” POPULATION? **ANDREW WHITEHOUSE** HAS DISCOVERED THAT SPEECH PATHOLOGY HAS IMEASURABLE REWARDS FOR BOTH GENDERS.

“**I’M NEVER QUITE** sure how I first came to speech pathology as a career. From what I remember, I was a bumbling 17-year-old, as opposed to the current, bumbling 35-year-old – who was looking at university options and wanted to do good in the world.

“Mum provided the advice that speech pathology may be one fruitful outlet for those ideals. “You work with people who have difficulties with talking,” she pointed out, “you know, you help them.”

“I wouldn’t say I was sold immediately, but that one message was enough to entice a partially lost and wholly lazy young lad into the profession. I wanted to help people, and I wanted to give this a go.

“Fast forward 15 or so years, and I’m still perplexed why blokes remain outnumbered within speech pathology ranks. While it may be true that more males than females are attracted to engineering, chemistry or finance, it is no less true that many males also have a passion for making a difference to the health and well-being of those who need it.

“Why, then, have males typically eschewed a career in speech pathology?”

“The first stop in answering this question is to acknowledge the low-hanging fruit. Medicine is bathed in societal and institutional prestige, which makes this an especially attractive choice for the male ego. Physiotherapy has a link with sport, and allows those of us who are sport-obsessed to team health care with our other passion.

“While I don’t doubt these to be true, perhaps a deeper truth on this issue rests with that rarest of species: the male speechie. Perhaps it is us who haven’t conveyed what a life-changing and fulfilling career speech pathology can be.

“To those who juggle both nerdy and idealistic sides of their personality – and, let’s face it, that phrase sounds rather like most speechies I know – speech pathology has an exceptional story to tell.

“For those, like me, who work with families who have a child with developmental disability, we are afforded the truly extraordinary privilege of developing a close relationship with remarkable



people during their most vulnerable time. We have been taught highly specialised skills about the ‘what, when and why’ a child’s development can wander off course, and possess a suite of innovative methods to help the brain develop.

“That last point cannot be underestimated. Speech pathologists possess the ability to change the way that the brain functions so that people can reach their full potential. Nerddiness and idealism? Tick and tick!

“To my mind, the paucity of blokes in speech pathology is a reflection of both a lack of awareness within the fraternity of what a speechie does, and also an obsolete typecast of a desirable career pathway for male high achievers. I come to this conclusion simply because I cannot possibly fathom what person, male or female, wouldn’t want to do this job.

“And, therein lies the solution to what is far from an intractable issue. The more that blokes talk about the challenges and delights of working clinically with families, the breath-taking joy at watching behaviour (and thus, the brain) change before your eyes, and the unparalleled satisfaction in reflecting that ‘I contributed to that’, the more that they will be seduced by speech pathology.

“Ultimately, this is challenge to all of us, especially the Davids, the Matthews and, indeed, the Andrews. Whether using a megaphone or whisper, the greatest attraction to our profession will always be the story of what we experience every day.”

You can follow Andrew’s research updates here: [www.facebook.com/TelethonKidsAutismTeam](http://www.facebook.com/TelethonKidsAutismTeam)



## Speech pathology initiatives showcased at Australian Catholic University student conference

**THE FUTURE OF** speech pathology looks bright, as the first cohort of final-year students from Australian Catholic University (ACU) used the School of Allied Health student conference in North Sydney and Melbourne to demonstrate how their four years of work would translate to the workplace.

Speech pathology honours' research project outcomes and oral presentations were among the wide range of student projects showcased at the conference on 11 November. Students presented case study data based on placement at organisations including St Vincent's Hospital (NSW), Monash Health, and Hornsby Kurrungai Health Service as well as at many and varied early intervention agencies, community health centres, and schools.

Nicole Cassar, Director of Sustainability at the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, delivered an inspiring keynote address. Ms Cassar's expertise and experience as an allied health professional was an excellent addition to the conference program as she spoke about her work in building community capacity in culturally safe practices which strengthens inclusion, understanding and health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

School of Allied Health National Head, Professor Christine Imms, congratulated the students on their endeavours, and their lecturers and supervisors for their support.

"The conference program was rich in diversity – including project

reports from both speech pathology and occupational therapy from a range of settings. I am particularly pleased about the growth of our school, and we can celebrate the achievements of our students from all four of our disciplines – speech pathology, occupational therapy, social work and public health – who will graduate this year."

Speech pathology students reflected on the conference. Mia Simson said: "It was fitting and exciting to draw our four years of studies to a close by exhibiting our skills and passions to peers who would soon become our colleagues. Thank you to our wonderful and dedicated teaching staff for their hard work in making the student conference a success."

Tammie Tun said: "The conference was a great way to celebrate our journey throughout the course and a celebration of the journey ahead of us. It provided an opportunity for all graduating speech pathology and occupational therapy students to share a piece of that journey with others."

Many staff from the School of Allied Health, Faculty of Health Sciences and other ACU departments participated to support the students and celebrate their achievements.

For more information, visit [acu.edu.au](http://acu.edu.au).

**School of Allied Health, Faculty of Health Sciences,  
Australian Catholic University**



## Multidisciplinary career path

AFTER A CAREER AS A LAWYER AND A PHARMACIST **JULIA MARTIN** TRAVELLED A NEW PATH INTO SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND DISCOVERED THAT HER NEW ROLE MARRIED HER OLD LIFE WITH HER NEW.



**“I’M ONE OF** those speechies that comes to the profession with what could be described as an ‘unusual background’. After qualifying as both a pharmacist and lawyer, and subsequently working in a number of different organisations including Baker and McKenzie (a top international law firm), I accepted my dream job in an overseas, senior leadership position. Nevertheless, after many years spending time on numerous planes and having lived and visited more cities and countries than I care to remember, I decided to return home and embark on a ‘sea change’. But what should I do?

“My family stepped in with a plan. My parents and sister work together in a practice for children primarily with literacy-based special needs. They joke that it was only a matter of time before I returned to the fold. My father is a psychologist who was one of the founders of SPELD (Specific Learning Difficulties Association), now a national charity. My mother is a special education teacher and my sister is also a psychologist. They suggested I retrain as a speech pathologist so that we could work together in a multidisciplinary context. I did some research and contacted Dr Elisabeth Harrison, the convener of the Masters program at Macquarie University. I asked if I could have a chat with her the next time I was in the country and she obliged. I then made up my mind to undertake her program. I’ve now been practising in Sydney for two years.

“I thought I’d left my old world behind but a new initiative, significant to speech pathologists, has allowed me to marry my past with my future in a way that assists the most vulnerable in our community, being our children.

“I first heard of this initiative while reading *Speak Out*. The article discussed an upcoming pilot program to be trialled in Sydney and Newcastle for allied health care professionals (psychologists, social workers, OTs and speech pathologists) to work as witness intermediaries with children who have been sexually abused, by assisting them to communicate with both the police and the courts. I applied to the Department of Justice and was fortunate to be selected. Wow, my two worlds just collided.

“Witness intermediaries are, in the first instance, requested by police to informally assess the communication skills of the child. Witness intermediaries then discuss the assessment results and make suggestions to police on how best to facilitate communication when they conduct their interviews. The interviews are taped and are later replayed in court.

“Detective Chief Inspector Peter Yeomans, APM, who is attached to the NSW Police Child Abuse Squad, reports that

## Their expertise and professionalism aids in establishing the best evidence of those most vulnerable in our society.

approximately 200 specialist officers investigate around 4,000 alleged cases of sexual and physical abuse against children every year.

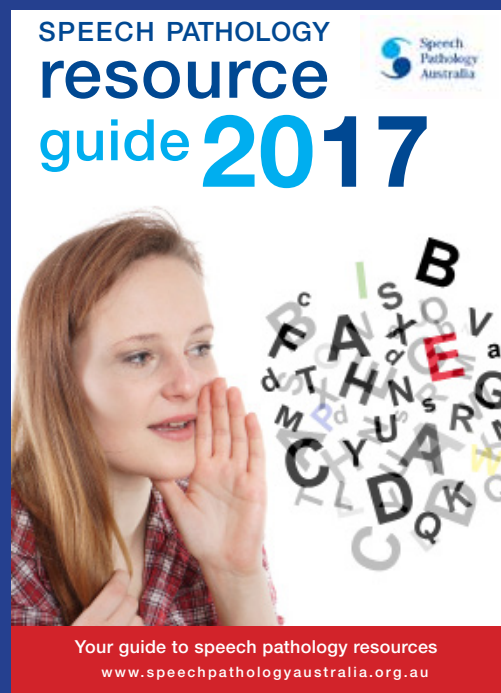
"I had never had any previous professional dealings with police, and knowing that the witness intermediaries' interactive role was new, I was naturally hesitant because I didn't know what to expect. Since becoming involved with the program however, I am unequivocally impressed by the professionalism, sophistication and commitment of the police in the NSW Child Abuse Squad. Indeed, I feel privileged to be able to work alongside them and assist in the performance of their critically important role. I cannot help but feel how lucky the children of NSW are having these police officers vigilantly protecting innocence.

"If a matter goes to trial, the witness intermediary must prepare a lengthy report based on their assessment and attendance at the police interview, which makes recommendations to the court. In my experience, after submitting my report, I was asked to attend court and sit in the witness box to talk the court through my report and recommendations, and answer questions including from the judge and defence counsel.

"The witness intermediary then leaves the court room and goes to a separate area where the victim remains during the process. This room is audio and visually linked to the court room. The victim is asked questions through the audio-visual link. The witness intermediary's role is to intervene in proceedings by requesting the judge to provide directions that allow the implementation of a previously agreed communication strategy.

"So how are we doing? DCI Peter Yeomans reports that the witness intermediary role, 'has been a major success, assisting NSW Police from the Child Abuse Squad to conduct formal interviews of those children who have been victims of sexual assault. Their expertise and professionalism aids in establishing the best evidence of those most vulnerable in our society. This assistance continues through the court process which not only supports in gaining best evidence from the young witness, but provides consistency for the child which adds to their overall welfare and well-being.'

"This is truly a marriage of my old and new worlds and thanks to my fellow witness intermediaries, I'm sure it will be a long and happy association."



## BOOKINGS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE 2017 ANNUAL SPEECH PATHOLOGY RESOURCE GUIDE!

The resource guide is the ultimate guide to resources, services, tools and products for the speech pathology profession.

Members can enter a free submission and take advantage of discounted display advertising.

### How to book...

For more information visit the publications page of the SPA website or contact the publications officer at [pubs@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](mailto:pubs@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au) to receive the advertising kit and booking form.



# Supervision standards

**THE ASSOCIATION HAS** recently added some points to the Supervision Standards to address queries from members regarding how many supervisees one supervisor should be supporting at one time, both individually and in group supervision.

The point below has been added:

*1.5c In order to ensure supervisors have capacity to manage the dynamics of multiple different supervisory relationships appropriately, supervisors will not provide weekly supervision to more than 3 supervisees. This number may be increased if supervision frequency is less than weekly.*

A number of points have also been added to the section on group supervision to ensure all supervisees within a group supervision arrangement receive adequate support, and that new graduates receive 1:1 supervision in combination with group supervision, where group supervision is being offered.

The Supervision Standards can be found here: [www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/spaweb/Document\\_Management/Restricted/Supervision.aspx](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/spaweb/Document_Management/Restricted/Supervision.aspx)

We have also received queries regarding supervision training. Staff from Speech Pathology Australia have been involved in a working party from the Australian Health Professions Australia to review and broaden access to existing options for training in supervision in each state. Training is available in each state; however, it is recognised that while the principles of supervision remain relevant, the emphasis of most state-based training is on those working in the health sector.

For more information about supervision and resources available to support supervision processes please contact Meredith Prain [psa@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](mailto:psa@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)

## Mentoring

It's that time of the year to start planning for 2017, thinking about career goals and planning how these might be achieved. Being involved as either a mentee or a mentor in a mentoring partnership is a great way to work directly on career goals. Goals

which can be addressed and achieved through involvement in mentoring partnerships for both mentees and mentors include: development of leadership skills, reduced professional isolation, broader professional networks, increased knowledge of speech pathology specific resources, and an opportunity to reflect on and enhance your practice.

To register as a mentor, take the readiness quiz; then if you are ready, register to be listed on the Find a Mentor search here: [www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/SPAweb/Members/Mentoring/SPAweb/Members/Mentoring/Mentoring.aspx?hkey=8c0b9e93-e6c5-4cc4-87c0-9ed8d8851b7d](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/SPAweb/Members/Mentoring/SPAweb/Members/Mentoring/Mentoring.aspx?hkey=8c0b9e93-e6c5-4cc4-87c0-9ed8d8851b7d)

Mentees, you also need to take a readiness quiz, found at the above link; then if you are ready, it is your responsibility to find a suitable mentor for yourself. You know your goals, learning style and needs, and communication preferences better than anyone else so you are best positioned to find a mentor who will best suit your needs. There are a variety of places you can look for a mentor – the Find a Mentor search on the mentoring page (see link above), Special interest groups or other speech pathology networks, former clinical educators or work supervisors, or SPA Facebook Member Communities.

Once you have found a mentor, be sure to register your partnership by emailing [psa@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](mailto:psa@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)

## Mentoring webinar

Speech Pathology Australia will be running a webinar on mentoring on Tuesday 7 February, so aim to establish your mentoring partnership before then, so you and your mentee / mentor can kick start your partnership by attending the webinar together. The webinar will be relevant for members at all stages of the process – pre-matching, recently matched, or long-term mentees or mentors. Keep an eye on the National e-news and Events e-news for calls for registrations.

For more information about supervision, mentoring or other professional support options, contact Meredith Prain [psa@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](mailto:psa@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)

**MEREDITH PRAIN**  
Professional Support Advisor



# BRANCH NEWS

## In appreciation of Rukmani Rusch

Rukmani (Ruki) Rusch is an experienced speech language pathologist from Far North Queensland. Ruki has been an integral member of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Stroke Team based at the Cairns Hospital. She has a caring and kind nature and has received tremendous reviews as a clinical educator for speech pathology students.

Recently Ruki together with Naomi Wenitong produced a rap for Stroke Week (12–18 September) to promote stroke awareness in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The rap provides vital stroke awareness messages in a fun and catchy format. Specifically, the rap includes: lifestyle advice, the key signs of a stroke and the importance of seeking medical advice immediately.

If you haven't had a listen already, you can do so via this link [www.soundcloud.com/strokefdn/stroke-rap](http://www.soundcloud.com/strokefdn/stroke-rap)



**Rachael Di Bella**  
SPA Far North Queensland Representative

**QUEENSLAND**



**QLD 1648**  
**members**

*as at October 2016*



## Griffith University Welcome to the profession

Griffith University students in their final year of the Master of Speech Pathology were welcomed to the profession with a wine and cheese afternoon on Friday, 28 October. Simone Howells presented on behalf of the Queensland Branch about SPA and the benefits of SPA membership. Practising speech pathologists from Queensland Health, Department of Education and private practice attended, together with academic staff. Thanks to everyone who came, it was a great afternoon!

**Sharni Bellato and Georgina Klokman**  
Griffith University, SPA Student Representatives



WA



**WA 865  
members**

*as at October 2016*

## SPEECH PATHOLOGY IN THE PILBARA AN INNOVATIVE CURTIN UNIVERSITY— MARTU INITIATIVE

The innovative Jiji Program (Martu word for “little children”) began in the Pilbara in the remote Aboriginal communities of Punmu and Jigalong in May 2016. Curtin University and leaders of the Martu Community embarked on this partnership together. Each site hosted an intrepid speech pathology and occupational therapy supervisor, as well as four adventurous final-year speech pathology and occupational therapy students.

Three blocks of five-week residential placements occurred between May and October, and an inter-professional team model was set up. The program was based upon a similar successful model at Challis Primary School in Perth, using student-led service delivery, and where pre- and post-intervention outcomes indicated significant child health, academic and social improvements. The principles of community based rehabilitation were also woven into our ways of working.

The program, initially funded for two years, aims to:

- improve Martu children’s health and education access,
- build the capacity of parents and teachers,
- engage the communities in their own health care, by working with families and their kids together,
- help build potential future recruitment of health professionals to remote areas,
- collaborate with and support existing allied health service providers in the region.

We spent time getting to know the community, and heard about what help families wanted for their kids. We worked with kids and their families at their homes, in the community and on country. We also worked at the community schools and provided in-class support and professional development to the teaching staff. Preliminary results were exciting and highly promising.

The final-year students rose to the challenges of desert life and experienced immense personal and professional growth over the course of their placement in the Martu community. Students reflected on, to name a few, the development in their understanding of Martu culture, the complexities and barriers that Aboriginal people can face in accessing a westernised health care system, and their heightened awareness of culturally safe service provision.

As supervisors it was a privilege to be a part of the evolution of this project and live in community, form special relationships with community members, watch clients progress, and to witness the transformation in the students as they prepare to head out into the workforce.

**Victoria Bishop**  
Speech Pathologist  
**Annie Carruthers**  
Speech Pathologist



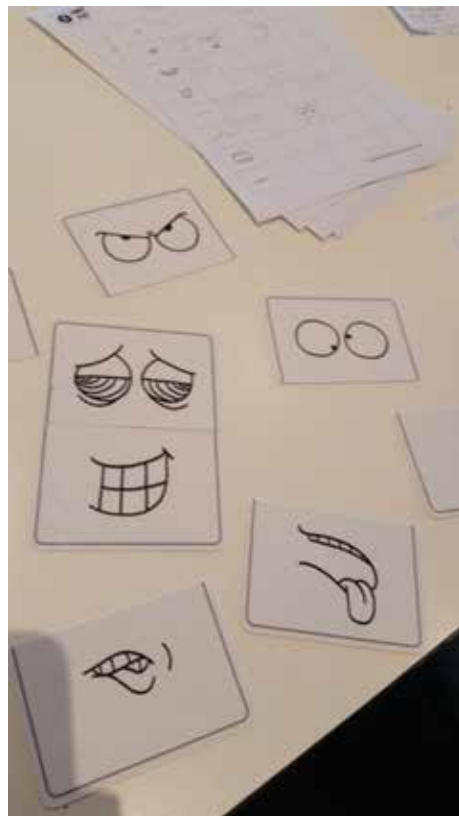
# CARTOONING WORKSHOP FOR TASSIE

**ON SATURDAY 16** July a cartooning workshop was held in Campbell Town, presented by cartoonist extraordinaire, Bradfield Dumpleton. Bradfield delivered a comprehensive workshop, including the drawing of faces, facial expressions and body language, and drawing comic strips demonstrating scenarios and interactions between characters. There was also lots of discussion and experimentation going on as our “speechie brains” were exploding with applications of these ideas. These ideas were being related to all areas of speech pathology across the lifespan. We even had the opportunity for some requests as a bit of fun to finish the day as Bradfield demonstrated how to draw some farm animals for us – which is an essential skill, particularly when working in the area of paediatric speech pathology!

A show of hands initially revealed that most of us believed that we could not draw. After a few hours of working with Bradfield, we were proved wrong! It was incredible to see how even simple stick figures can convey so much meaning and how these skills can be applied not just to our work but to life in general.

It was great to see so many Tassie speechies from all over the state meeting together and enjoying this amazing workshop! Many thanks to Bradfield for facilitating this great event. It was such a fun way to have a “visual” conversation, and yet another way that speech pathology can fit into your life!

**Rachael Zeeman**  
Tas Branch Publications Executive



## TASMANIA



**TAS 111**  
**members**  
*as at October 2016*

## NORTHERN TERRITORY

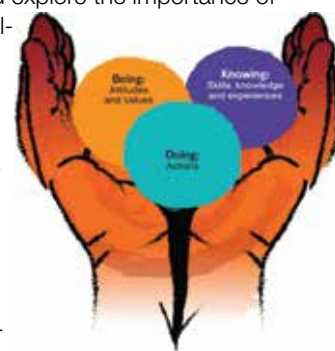


**NT 47**  
**members**  
as at October 2016

## INTRODUCING THE INDIGENOUS ALLIED HEALTH AUSTRALIA'S CULTURAL RESPONSIVENESS FRAMEWORK

**IN MAY, NORTHERN** Territory SPA members along with other Darwin-based allied health professionals attended a webinar presentation at Royal Darwin Hospital delivered by Kylie Stothers from Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA). This collaborative session between IAHA and Speech Pathology Paediatric Indigenous Network (SPPIN) was convened to introduce participants to IAHA's Cultural Responsiveness Framework. The framework aims to support all Australian's working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, families and communities to acquire the relevant skills and knowledge to develop capabilities that are essential for successful partnerships in action. The IAHA framework is a strengths-based, action orientated approach to building cultural safety. It is based on the principles of knowing, being and doing – "What we need to KNOW, BE and DO in order to be culturally responsive" (see figure 1).

The session was designed to "walk" providers through the framework, and explore the importance of being culturally responsive, in order to positively impact the health and well-being of Australia's first peoples. Further, this framework seeks to change the language in the Aboriginal health space from deficit-based to solution-focused language. As service providers we may want to consider our drive to "fix" people, and reframe our services as working with individual and community strengths to maximise participation of our clients and their families. The framework is comprised of six key capabilities (see figure 2) and this webinar introduced the capabilities of self-awareness, and inclusive engagement.



Overall we learned we can all strengthen our level of cultural responsiveness and we encourage you to take a look at the framework for yourself.

Some take-away tips for working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients:

- Don't worry about silence. After you pose a question, wait, allow the family time (maybe even two minutes) to process what you are saying. As a health professional working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people be prepared for silence and if this is something that you are not comfortable with, your responsibility is to work on this, learn from it and practise it.
- Remember some families are communicating with you in their second or third language. Allow for time for clarification and think about Aboriginal interpreters to ensure clear communication and understanding.
- Families might feel more comfortable sitting side by side with you. If possible allow for a more fluid room set up where family members can move chairs or sit where they feel most comfortable.

Other things you can do:

1. Download the Cultural Framework from IAHA at [www.iaha.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/2015-IAHA-Cultural-Responsiveness-Framework-WEB.pdf](http://www.iaha.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/2015-IAHA-Cultural-Responsiveness-Framework-WEB.pdf)
2. Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) is a national not-for-profit, member based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health organisation. Established in 2009, from a network of committed allied health professionals and registered in 2013, IAHA has 837 members, only 67 of them in the NT! Join IAHA through their website. You do not have to be an Indigenous allied health provider yourself and membership is free! Go to [www.iaha.com.au](http://www.iaha.com.au)
3. Join Speech Pathology Paediatric Indigenous Network (SPPIN) through their Facebook page.
4. Check out Racism Stops With Me: <https://itstopswithme.humanrights.gov.au/> and join the campaign.

For more information please contact IAHA directly on (02) 62851010, email [admin@iaha.com.au](mailto:admin@iaha.com.au) or visit [www.iaha.com.au](http://www.iaha.com.au)

**Bea Staley Charles Darwin University**  
**Kylie Stothers Indigenous Allied Health Australia**

**Speech Pathology Australia is partners with IAHA to conduct cultural responsiveness education sessions with our members across the country. More information from SPA will follow shortly.**



fig.2



Elaina Kefalianos, Kate Bridgman, Trish Johnson and Julia Greco after completing the Leadership Victoria Health Sector Leadership program.

## IT'S BEEN A BIG YEAR!

**SITTING TO WRITE** the AGM slides gave me the opportunity to reflect on what a big year the Victorian Branch has had in 2016.

The **member engagement team** has been busy coordinating social and representation events for the year, including a wine and cheese night at Milk the Cow in Carlton for Swallowing Awareness Day on 11 May, the trivia night at Bridie O'Reilly's for Speech Pathology Week and organising volunteers for the three-day Pregnancy, Babies and Children's Expo in August. Alice Crook was also awarded an Early Career Award at National Conference for her services to Vic Branch.

The **advocacy portfolio** has been working to create links with the advocacy groups of the other state Branches, as well as working with national office to contribute into submissions to the State Disability Plan (2017–2022), and the Victorian Parliamentary review into Medical Treatment (decision-making) and Advanced Care Planning. Amanda Simionato and Robyn Stephen represented the Branch on the SPA working party to prepare a response to the state government review into services for people with autism. We are grateful to Ronelle and Sandy for their expertise in making these submissions and the opportunity to support Victorian members to contribute to the submissions.

The **student portfolio** has been working to coordinate links between the Victorian university student cohorts. This networking has meant that there have been some huge student events in 2016, including the sold-out *Creating Futures* event during SP week, and fundraising events across the uni campuses, including the MS 24-hour

swimathon and the Melbourne Marathon festival.

Once again, we were given the opportunity to participate in the **Leadership Victoria Health Sector Leadership program**, and I congratulate Elaine Kefalianos, Julia Greco, Trish Johnson and Kate Bridgman on completing the program.

In my first year as Branch Chair, I have had the opportunity to attend the Victorian State Budget Launch, the PTV-V/Line launch of the Communication Access Symbol, host Branch SP2030 events, present the SPA student awards at LTU; and in the last month have had the opportunity to present to graduating students at Charles Sturt University, Australian Catholic University, the University of Melbourne, and La Trobe University (both Bendigo and Melbourne). I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Victorian Branch Executive and National Office staff for supporting me in my transition to Branch Chair in 2016.

The Branch year has been finalised with the AGM and, with the ongoing roll out of NDIS in the state, a timely presentation from Trish Johnson and Tristan Nickless titled *Ethically Speaking: A Case Study in Professional Ethical Practice* discussing relevant ethical dilemmas faced by practising speech pathologists. Thank you both for sharing your knowledge with the membership.

On behalf of the Victorian Branch Executive, we wish you all a happy and safe festive season. We look forward to continuing to work with the Victorian membership in 2017.

**Jane-Elise Cherry**  
Victorian Branch Chair

## VICTORIA



**VIC 1911**  
**members**

as at October 2016



At the launch of the PTV-V/Line communication access symbol are, FROM BACK Jane-Elise Cherry, Chris Lyons, Alan Fedda (Acting CEO PTV), Gary Liddle (Acting CEO, V/Line) AT FRONT Zane McKenzie and Lisa Ho.

## VICTORIA

## CREATING FUTURE SPEECHIES

### Research in speech pathology: a student perspective

**STARTING OUR SECOND** year of the University of Melbourne's Master of Speech Pathology, we were excited at the prospect of completing a research project. Having learned about the importance of evidence-based practice, the opportunity to contribute to the literature was compelling. We would be investigating communication development in children under the supervision of Katherine Sanchez and Angela Morgan at the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute.

As our project concludes, we can reflect on our experience of being novice researchers. We valued being able to direct our project and problem solve its mechanics. It was satisfying to delve deeply into a topic, apply our knowledge of statistics, hone our skills in scientific writing and author an original piece of research. Understanding the process better, we now feel more confident asking questions of researchers.

We noted the relationship between research and clinical practice. As students, it was sometimes difficult to interpret results and consider clinical implications without much clinical experience ourselves. We feel that research is something we may return to after gaining clinical experience. At the same time, the months spent analysing data

attuned us to the intricacies of child language, which is directly applicable to clinical practice.

#### Tips for student researchers:

- Organisation is key! Establish effective systems (e.g. reference management software, summary notes) from the beginning to facilitate finding information.
- Keep a research journal handy to jot down ideas; "eureka moments" often happen away from the computer.
- Before you begin, develop a timeline with mini-deadlines for each project component and review it regularly. This allows you to break down large tasks into smaller goals, and see your progress.
- Create agendas and minutes for meetings with your supervisor. This strengthens communication.
- To maximise the clarity of your writing, accept offers of feedback from readers who are both familiar and unfamiliar with the topic.

**Linda Leem bruggen and Stephanie Mills**



## VIC 1911 members

as at October 2016



Linda Leem bruggen and Stephanie Mills

# STUDENTS RUN FOR APHASIA

**IN THE FIRST** year of the Master of Speech Pathology, students at the University of Melbourne attend a supported communication workshop at St Vincent's Hospital. During this workshop we learned about the prevalence of aphasia and met people living with the condition. Many of us have been shocked to learn that up to 38 percent of stroke survivors experience some form of impairment and yet aphasia does not feature in the vocabulary of the average Australian. This left us with a burning question. How can we make our society accessible to people with aphasia if nobody knows what it is? In 2016 we set out to change that.

Our goal was to raise awareness and funds for the Australian Aphasia Association by challenging ourselves to participate in the Medibank Melbourne Marathon Festival. On 16 October fifteen students completed various events at the festival to show our dedication to improving the lives of people with aphasia.

In total we raised \$5077.60, over five times our

original goal of \$1000. More importantly, we have introduced the concept of aphasia in to our wider social networks and have hopefully sparked a change in perception of those with communication difficulties.

We'd like to thank everyone that donated to our efforts and we hope to continue this initiative in the years to come.

Full Marathon 42.2km: Madeleine Gwynne, Michael Prewer and Kathleen Mellahn

Half Marathon 21.2km: Madeleine Hodgson, Stephanie Mills, Sarah Draper, Helen Worley, Amanda Truong, Georgina Johnson, Melissa Aar and Stephanie Vassallo

10 km run: Ayesha Al Barwani and Clare Chapman

3km walk: Shabana Alavi and Charlotte Ponchard

**Kathleen Mellahn**  
Victorian Branch Student Member

## VICTORIA



**VIC 1911**  
**members**

*as at October 2016*



# Your SPA membership offers great **opportunities to save**



**Your SPA Member Advantage** benefits program offers an extensive range of quality lifestyle and financial benefits.

Members can take advantage of value for money savings on benefits all year round.

Popular services include:

- Dining
- Movie tickets
- Accommodation
- Gift cards
- Magazine subscriptions
- Online shopping
- Electronics & IT
- Package tours
- Car hire
- Lifestyle experiences & Gifts

