

*speakout*

AUGUST 2015



# Speech Pathology Week 2015

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 Letters may or may not be published in future issues of *Speak Out* magazine at SPA's discretion.

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The official booking form must be received at National Office by **COB Friday 4 September 2015**.

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 Queensland – Leanne Sorbello, Catherine Hicks, Erika Campbell and Rebecca Sexton  
 South Australia – Emma Leeson and Josie Kemp  
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**Highlights in this issue...**



**Talk With Me**  
**Speech Pathology Week 2015**

**PAGE 9: SPWEEK IS UPON US!**  
 Get talking during August...



**PAGES 12–19:** News and photos from the 2015 Annual General Meeting and National Conference (17–20 May, Canberra).

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# From the President



## *#Talkwithme – it's Speech Pathology Week (#SPWeek)!*

**TWITTER**, Facebook and Instagram will be busy with Australian speech pathologists tweeting about how speech pathologists work. Have you 'liked' Speech Pathology Australia yet on Facebook? Have you followed [@SpeechPathAus](#) on Twitter or Instagram? Could you add to the conversation on social media? (and if you're unsure how to navigate social media, ask your children – or your colleagues!) If not, can you add to the conversation in your workplace? On a Branch planned Speech Pathology Week event? I look forward to hearing about the events that are being run around the country designed to encourage the public to talk with us and understand the profession and the people with whom we work.

Thanks to the more than 500 private practitioners who talked with us about Medicare, the chronic disease management items and other Medicare rebates available, through their rapid response to the survey distributed. The data collected has been extremely useful in the development of the submission to the Federal Government about the CDM items, and will be useful as we develop our response to the review of Medicare. More about these submissions later in the year...

Talk with us about the Ethics Package, how we could make it more interactive. If you have completed the package, please help us to improve it. If you have not yet completed it, you'll find the details on how to access the Ethics Package later in this edition.

Talk with your colleagues, particularly those who are just starting out. It is great to see that we have lots of mentors willing to share their time and support early career speech pathologists and those moving into new positions. If you are an early career speech pathologist and haven't yet taken advantage of this opportunity, talk with us and take it up!

Talk with a colleague about CPD. There are some exciting workshop offerings coming up both online and face-to-face, including the National Tour. Talk with a colleague about what you have read in a journal or book. Talk with your workplace about the 2016 National Conference, talk with your family about coming along in May next year to talk with your colleagues, and talk with world leaders in our field.

Talk with your Branch. There are some fantastic projects happening in Branches around the country – talk with them to get involved.

Talk with your Board. The Board will be meeting again this month, and we will discuss Association business – how can the Association best meet its members' needs? Talk with us, if you have great ideas to help us meet our strategic objectives. My Twitter handle is [@SPAPresident](#) and my email is [president@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](mailto:president@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)

Look forward to talking soon!

**GAENOR DIXON**  
*National President*



## Speech pathology in education – an advocacy focus

**MEMBERS WOULD** be forgiven for thinking that all of the advocacy work over the past 12 months was about the Senate Inquiry. In fact, Speech Pathology Australia has been very busy progressing policy and advocacy within the education sector and has made significant progress on a number of fronts.

**RONELLE HUTCHINSON**  
*Manager, Policy and Advocacy*

### Demonstrating NAPLAN outcomes for students with communication impairment

Speech Pathology Australia has recently commissioned Charles Sturt University to research NAPLAN outcomes for students with speech, language and communication problems. The research found that, on average, students with communication problems at school entry didn't do as well as other students on any NAPLAN literacy or numeracy measures. Whilst this won't be 'news' to our members who work with students – this research is the first time that this can be demonstrated with Australian students using the national accepted measures of academic achievement – that is, in the 'language' of policymakers and elected officials in the education sector. Formal publication of the results in peer-reviewed journals is currently pending. Congratulations to the team at Charles Sturt University (Professor Sharynne McLeod, Professor Linda Harrison, and Dr Audrey Wang) for their achievement in this important work.

### Supporting teacher training reforms

Earlier this year, we made a proposal to the federal Minister for Education, the Hon Christopher Pyne, suggesting how speech pathology expertise might support reforms into initial teacher training in Australia. Speech Pathology Australia has met with the Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) – who are charged with implementing the reforms – and have further meetings arranged for later this year. This is an exciting development and will provide the foundation for improved speech pathologist/teacher collaborations for the future.

### Review of the Disability Standards for Education

We have made a submission to the review of the Disability Standards for Education. Our key recommendations included that the Standards be amended to include communication and swallowing disabilities and access to speech pathology services and expertise, that efforts be made to standardise definitions of disability, and that robust processes be established to make schools more accountable for adhering to the Standards. Overall, we argued that the effective implementation of, and adherence to the Disability Standards for Education by education providers, is undermined by the lack of appropriate compliance mechanisms and the inadequate funding arrangements for students with disabilities in Australia. Our submission can be found on our [website](#).

### Meetings with State and Territory Departments of Education

Meetings have been held with senior officials in Departments of Education in the Northern Territory, Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania over the past nine months. These meetings have been productive and opportunities for collaborative work have been identified and are being progressed.

### Senate Inquiry into the education of students with disability

We are in the final stages of preparing our submission to the federal Senate Inquiry into education for students with disabilities. Our focus is on outlining the evidence of educational outcomes for students with communication problems and the longer term implications this has on social, economic, employment and mental health outcomes. We will also detail the current funding and service provision situation in each state and territory for students with communication disability and their access to speech pathology services through schools. We have made recommendations about funding arrangements and what should be done to improve support for students with communication or swallowing disabilities. Our submission will be on our website in late August.

### Literacy Clinical Guideline

A working group is currently preparing a Literacy Clinical Guideline for Speech Pathology Australia. When finalised, this will be an important resource for members to guide their everyday practice. It will also be used to demonstrate the evidence base of speech pathology practice in supporting literacy to cross-professional colleagues in the education sector.

## Welcome Diana Russo, SPA's new Professional Standards Support Officer



**THE ASSOCIATION** is pleased to welcome Diana Russo as Professional Standards Support Officer, working closely with Stacey Baldac, Senior Advisor Professional Standards. Diana brings a wealth of experience to the role as a practising speech pathologist.

Diana's previous roles include Discipline Senior Speech Pathology – Early in Life Mental Health Service, and more recently, as a Project Officer with Principals Australia Institute implementing a national Mental Health and Wellbeing program in primary and secondary schools. Diana is working primarily with university accreditation. We are very excited to welcome Diana to the National Office team.



**RECENTLY THE** Association's Twitter handle received its 5,000th follower. The media team continue to promote the Association's good work on this platform. If you're on Twitter, please "engage" with us and follow, comment (positively) and share the Association's content to a wider audience. You can also follow Gaenor Dixon, President, and Gail Mulcair, CEO, too:

**The Association:** [@SpeechPathAus](#)

**President, Gaenor Dixon:** [@SPAPresident](#)

**CEO, Gail Mulcair:** [@GailMSPA](#)

**LUKE BUESNEL**

*Online Communications Officer*



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Attend an It Takes Two to Talk® Certification Workshop and gain a proven parent coaching framework from The Hanen Centre, an international leader in parent-implemented early language intervention.

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

Melbourne*, VIC .....	Sep 21 – 23, 2015	Perth*, WA .....	Nov 26 - 28, 2015
Brisbane, QLD .....	Nov 25 – 27, 2015	Sydney, NSW .....	TBA

\* indicates nearest major city

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



## 2015 Book of the Year Awards update

**THE BOOKS SHORTLISTED** for the Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards in 2015 were announced on 1 July. The books shortlisted in each category are now with the judging panel in each book category: Birth to 3 years; Three to 5 years; Five to 8 years; Eight to 10 years; and Indigenous Children.

In 2015, the books shortlisted in the Birth to 3 years category were announced on 1 August. To view the full list of shortlisted books, go to [SPA homepage](#) > [Upcoming Events](#) > [Book of the Year](#). *Let's Read* undertakes the task of shortlisting books in this category on behalf of the Association. The Association thanks *Let's Read* for its involvement in 2015.

The Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards are now in their twelfth year. The awards would not be possible without the ongoing support of Australian book publishers. Just as importantly, the awards only remain viable and feasible because

of the time and efforts of Association members who volunteer as 'shortlisters' and judges.

Therefore, a very big thank you must go to our shortlisters: Claire Monsour (Three to 5 years), Alexandra Cole (Five to 8 years), and Loretta Blackall (Eight to 10 years), for their fabulous job in shortlisting more than 70 books nominated in these three categories.

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

The winners in all five categories will be announced on Thursday 15 October. This year, for the first time, the awards ceremony is being held in Brisbane at the State Library of Queensland.

**MICHAEL KERRISK**

*Communications and Marketing Manager*

## Thank you to the 2015 judges...

### Birth to 3 years category

Christine Marschner  
Lauren Haskins  
Audrey Price  
Melissa Hughes  
Samantha Turner  
Heather Sheridan  
Meryl Lai Kong Ling  
Rebecca Star

### Five to 8 years category

Danielle Ryan  
Michelle Weick  
Kate Kinch  
Lyn Goodwin  
Le En Cheryl Ye  
Katherine Sanchez  
Pam Reed  
Anna Gilmour

### Indigenous children category

Kathryn Halyburton  
Jessica Shillinglaw  
Rebecca Reinking  
Megan Mitchell  
Tanya Druce  
Erin Coonan  
Alexandria Jones  
Melissa Gardiner

### Three to 5 years category

Jacqui Collins  
Michelle Petersen  
Kylie McKenna  
Delwyne Stephens  
Monique Thompson  
Samantha White  
Angela Canning  
Lindsay Potgeiter

### Eight to 10 years category

Nisrine El-Chouiefati  
Harmony Turnbull  
Jacqui Hanna  
Christine Beal  
Suzanne Rybak  
Natasha Trajkovski  
Melissa Lovell  
Catherine Collins



Vale

## Ruth M Porteous

21 April 1931 – 19 May 2015

**RUTH PORTEOUS** was a pioneering member of what is today, Speech Pathology Australia.

Ruth was one of the first students to attend the new Australian College of Speech Therapists, founded in 1949. Ruth attended the College's first diploma course in Melbourne in 1950. She was one of only seven students in that first year. And only one of five who would go on to graduate.

After graduating, at the age of 20, Ruth took up her first position at the Royal Hobart Hospital. At the time, Ruth was the sole speech therapist on staff. In fact, she was the only speech therapist on the island!

As Ruth recalled, in a 1999 article for *Speak Out*, her work in Tasmania involved a monthly trip to Launceston where, as she described it, "an energetic out-patient sister could not understand how a speech therapist would require more time to see a patient than a consultant physician, having booked in three solid days of half-hour appointments!"

Unsurprisingly, Ruth also became the Council Member for Tasmania in the new federal organisation representing speech pathologists.

A decade after graduating, Ruth returned as the Director of Training for the Victorian Council of Speech Therapy when it occupied two rooms and a 'little hole' for the secretary in the Victoria Prisoners Aid Society, on Lygon Street in Carlton.

In this role, Ruth was also central to the negotiations that took place when the University of Queensland proposed in the early 1960s to teach a speech therapy course. At that time, examinations and training were undertaken by the Australian College of Speech Therapists.

In an address to the National Conference of Speech Pathology Australia in May 2003, Ruth noted that "it is perhaps hard to believe how when speech therapy began in Australia, we were closer to the 19th century than to the 21st, and so to an older tradition of medicine as Science and Art".

In the history of the speech pathology profession, Ruth Porteous was one of the pathfinders. One of the first Australian-trained speech therapists and someone who helped secure recognition for the occupation, its professional standing within the wider medical community.

Ruth authored two books relating to her work: *How language grows* (1981) and *Understanding children's speech* (1988).

In that same National Conference address delivered in 2003, Ruth closed with a reflection on the Association's past – a reflection in some ways on her time. "Last week I had dinner in Melbourne with colleagues whose friendship I have shared for more than fifty years. They said, 'Say what a great life we have had in speech pathology, how much we have learned from our clients and colleagues, not only about the practice of speech pathology and therapy, but about the human condition... [T]he past is not a foreign place, but the source of all our futures – not past historic, but present continuous."

Ruth Porteous died suddenly but peacefully on 19 May 2015 from Motor Neurone Disease. She was the beloved wife of Sandy, loving mother of Morag and Catriona, loving grandma of Jack and Rosemary, and dear sister of Robert and sister-in-law of Anni.

Ruth Porteous will be sorely missed by all who knew her. The profession will always be in her debt and has been enriched by her passion and dedication.

**GAIL MULCAIR**  
Chief Executive Officer

### Mentoring update

SO FAR THIS YEAR, 40 mentoring partnerships have been established, which is double the number for this time last year. There are currently 59 mentors listed on the Find a Mentor search, so there has never been a better time to seek a mentor. For more information about the mentoring program and to access the Find a Mentor search go to [Information for Members > Mentoring Program](#).

Please keep in touch and remember to let us know if:

- You have entered into a mentoring partnership;
- Any of your contact details have changed;
- You have any concerns about your partnership; and/or
- Your partnership has come to an end.

For all enquiries regarding mentoring contact Meredith Prain at [psa@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](mailto:psa@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)

### Supervision update

It's great to be receiving an increasing number of enquiries regarding supervision and the supervision register. With the growing demand for external supervision, we encourage suitably experienced and qualified speech pathologists to complete the forms to be listed on the Supervision Register. To download these forms please go to [Information for Members > Supervision](#).

For any questions regarding supervision, mentoring or other professional support, please contact Meredith Prain at [psa@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](mailto:psa@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)

**MEREDITH PRAIN**  
Professional Support Advisor



# Voice Remediation

**The complete Estill 5 day course** presented especially for Speech Pathologists, student Speech Pathologists, professional voice users and people with voice disorder, with a focus on the application of Estill principles to voice rehabilitation.

**VENUE** The Menzies Hotel, Sydney CBD

**DATES** 9am-5pm // 28 September–2 October 2015

**COST** Full Fee \$990 // Student \$880

**CONTACT** Beth Atkins 0405 331 988 or [voice.beth.atkins@gmail.com](mailto:voice.beth.atkins@gmail.com)

**PRESENTED BY**  
**HELEN TILLER**  
Certified Course Instructor with Testing Privileges and Service Distinction

**BETH ATKINS**  
Speech Pathologist and Estill Certified Master Teacher

**REGISTRATION CLOSES**  
18 September 2015



# Talk with me during Speech Pathology Week

**COMMUNICATION** is a basic human right.

Each year Speech Pathology Australia hosts Speech Pathology Week to make Australians aware of those in our community who have a communication or swallowing difficulty.

Speech Pathology Week is a public awareness campaign and to give it a truly national focus in 2015, the Association is trialling a nation-wide postcard campaign. A sample of one of the Speech Pathology Week postcards is included with this edition of *Speak Out!*


This nation-wide campaign involves the distribution of around 140,000 postcards, across 1,500 venues in all state and territories. The postcards are on display for the whole month of August.

The postcard's 'call to arms' asks readers to use the hashtags – **#SPweek** and/or **#Talkwithme** – when participating in social media during August.

Readers of the postcards will also be able to find more information about swallowing and communication difficulties by visiting the [Speech Pathology Week webpage](#).

**MICHAEL KERRISK**  
Communications  
and Marketing Manager



 **Speech Pathology Week 2015**

During Speech Pathology Week 2015, *Talk with me* about the more than 1.1 million Australians who have a communication or swallowing difficulty that impacts on their quality of life. *Talk with me* about why communication is a basic human right. And *Talk with me* about the silence that comes with a communication difficulty.

During Speech Pathology Week, 23 – 29 August 2015, *Talk with me* using #SPweek and/or #Talkwithme. Give voice to those who have a communication or swallowing difficulty and help raise awareness of communication and swallowing difficulties in Australia.

Speech pathologists are university trained to assess, advise, treat and advocate for people with a communication or swallowing difficulty.

**23 – 29 August** | [speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/talkwithme](http://speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/talkwithme)

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## Tracheostomy and Speech Pathology Simulation Course (TASP)

Brisbane: Friday 2nd October 2015

TASP is a one-day simulation-based workshop that will provide evidence-based, hands-on training in basic speech pathology management of adult patients with a tracheostomy. The learning environment uses realistic clinical scenarios and simulated human manikins in a small group environment to develop core practical skills for speech pathologists working with this population. It allows for the development of confidence in tracheostomy management for the clinician prior to live patient contact. TASP is designed for speech pathologists who have limited practical experience working with the adult patient with a tracheostomy. The workshop is aimed at the introductory level. 1–2 years of dysphagia experience is preferable.

**Location:** Clinical Skills Development Service, Block 6, Level 5, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Herston

**Date/Time:** Friday 2nd October 2015, 8am – 5pm

**Participants:** Limited to 10 participants per workshop

**Registration:** \$675 (including GST)

**Register online:** <https://www.sdc.qld.edu.au/courses/171>

**Contact:** Brooke Duggan, [brooke.duggan@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:brooke.duggan@health.qld.gov.au)

## Looking for work? Advertising a speech pathologist job?

Remember to check our [Education and Careers](#) section of the website, available from the homepage menu.

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



**Speech  
Pathology  
Australia**

## Consultation Rooms Alexandria, NSW

Ideally located in Alexandria's 'Expo' complex are two large consultation rooms, to be leased separately or together, furnished or unfurnished. These are part of a larger suite of newly refurbished offices used by a private clinical psychology practice. The rooms would suit a speech pathologist or other health professional as there are many referral opportunities in the area with a large GP practice very nearby. Available now for short or long-term rent.

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- High speed internet and printing
- Available 7 days per week with 24/7 secure access
- Regular cleaning

### Benefits:

- Client access to the suite's reception and waiting area
- Close to cafes and major transport links
- Well maintained & modern office complex
- Street parking available

Please direct enquiries to Tal Schlosser, myLife Psychologists:

**Email:** [tal@mylifepsychologists.com.au](mailto:tal@mylifepsychologists.com.au)

**Phone:** 0413 153 274



## Advertise with us

SPA's bi-monthly members' magazine *Speak Out* is distributed to 6,500+ Australian and international speech pathologists.

For more information about advertising opportunities please contact SPA's Publications Officer at [pubs@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](mailto:pubs@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)

We'd like to give the world a voice... join us!



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Saturday, September 19, 2015  
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 20, 2015  
8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### Workshop Location:

Epworth HealthCare  
Richmond, Auditorium  
89 Bridge Road  
Richmond, VIC 3121  
AUSTRALIA

### Registration Fee

*(all fees are processed in US Dollars)*

- \$580 \$464 USD Professionals
- \$300 \$240 USD Students
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- LSVT LOUD Training and Certification Workshop Materials
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- LSVT LOUD Homework Helper DVD
- Subscription to Global Certified Clinician Database
- FREE monthly access to online support and webinars

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To learn more and register go to [www.lsvtglobal.com](http://www.lsvtglobal.com)  
or email [info@lsvtglobal.com](mailto:info@lsvtglobal.com) or call: 520-867-8838

# 2015 Member Awards

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS were extremely proud to present awards in the following categories at the 2015 Annual General Meeting held in Canberra. The Board's appreciation goes to the many people who took the time to research and prepare the nominations that assist the Association in recognising some of our outstanding colleagues.

## Community-based Innovation in Speech Pathology Award

*The Community-based Innovation in Speech Pathology Award is granted by the Association to organisations that develop and implement innovative strategies to reduce the impact of communication and swallowing disorders within the community. The Board was pleased to present the inaugural Community-based Innovation in Speech Pathology Award to Wollongong Catholic Education Office for their voice support program.*

### Wollongong Catholic Education Office

Wollongong Catholic Education Office's voice support program uses evidence-based strategies to prevent voice problems occurring with teachers through induction education, and early intervention strategies to reduce the impact of voice disorders on the teaching workforce, such as access to speech pathology sessions. These strategies have been implemented over an extended period of time.

Ms Christine McCormack was in attendance to accept the award.

## Elinor Wray

*Instituted in 1981 to honour the founder of the speech pathology profession in Australia, the Elinor Wray Award is granted for outstanding contribution to the profession. The contribution of the nominee is clinical or project oriented and encompasses: innovations in diagnostic, assessment or treatment procedures; promotion of speech pathology to the government, the community or other professionals; and research or student training. The Board was pleased to recognise an outstanding recipient of this award in Ms Karyn Johns.*



**Karyn Johns**

Karyn was nominated for her unrelenting drive to raise the profile of speech pathology within the general community, her development of numerous community partnerships and projects that have far reaching goals focussing on health

promotion and improving access to speech pathology services for children and families, and her contribution to student education.

Within her community, Karyn has worked in a partnership with a number of providers across a range of areas to support and enhance early childhood development. The service provides integrated family focussed early intervention and prevention

support to disadvantaged communities. Through this service Karyn developed partnerships with other community services to co-fund different projects and activities as well as developed resources and provided professional development to early childhood centres. Activities in this project included: development of a screener that could be used by educators in child care centres to identify and monitor children at risk of speech and language difficulties, development of a CD of oral language resources for child care centres, and development of a storytime program. This storytime program was so successful that it was integrated into the city library and mobile library service so that in the last two years 564 sessions have been attended by over 11,000 children.

In addition, Karyn has been involved in a project with the local general practices where book packs were assembled for a range of age groups and handed out when they attended GP appointments. She has been a part of the Medicare Local for her area, advocating for speech pathology and early intervention. Karyn is also a member of the Allied Health advisory committee.

Karyn is also the chair of an early years partnership which is an alliance of over 70 diverse organisations and services working together around a commitment to prevention, early identification and intervention initiatives. The Alliance's focus is to ensure good health and wellbeing and positive educational and developmental outcomes for kids 0-8 years (gr8start). At the beginning of 2013 seven partners in this collaboration worked together to develop and implement a pilot project to embed an early identification tool in more than 60 child care centres. To date more than 4,000 children have been screened and more than 1,000 children have been referred to a variety of services that include Child Community Health, GPs, allied health services, family support and parenting programs.

Through this program in collaboration with Griffith University, an eight-week volunteer Masters Student Speech Pathology Clinic has been provided to vulnerable families.

Speech Pathology Australia was delighted to award the Elinor Wray award to Ms Karyn Johns for her outstanding, significant contribution to the Gold Coast Community and the speech pathology profession.

## Fellowship

*Fellowship of Speech Pathology Australia is a public professional honour awarded to a person with considerable experience, responsibility and standing within the speech pathology profession.*

*In 2015 the Association was proud to bestow Fellowship on Dr Janet Beilby.*



### Dr Janet Beilby

Dr Janet Beilby is a clinician, academic, researcher and clinical educator specialising in the field of fluency disorders. Her professional career has spanned 37 years, during which time she has worked with almost 8,000 children and adults in management of their stuttering. Dr Beilby has been a member of Curtin University's School of Psychology and Speech Pathology academic team for 35 years and in this capacity has taught contemporary theoretical background and integrated this classroom learning into practical supervised clinic experiences. Dr Beilby's passion and breadth of knowledge has created an inspiring and exceptional learning environment for more than 1,500 undergraduate and postgraduate students. Dr Beilby further supports new graduates and experienced clinicians alike, working with clients who stutter, by providing mentoring support and delivering professional development.

Dr Beilby is an editorial reviewer for five international professional journals and has been awarded research funds investigating various aspects of stuttering disorders with many prestigious international research collaborations. Dr Beilby continues to educate and advocate for the profession within the broader community, raising awareness for the disorder of stuttering and increasing support for the challenges faced by people who stutter and their families.

Dr Beilby has been a member of the Association since 1977, and has served as President and Treasurer of the Western Australia Branch. Dr Beilby has served as an advisor on stuttering disorders. Dr Beilby has also served as a university accreditor and coordinated Conference modules.

In recent years, Dr Beilby has been an invited speaker at prestigious international stuttering research symposiums including the European Symposium on Fluency Disorders and the Oxford Dysfluency Conference.

In the wider community Dr Beilby's services have been recognised through the Children's Week Award for Recognition of Outstanding Services being awarded to her in 2010.

Dr Janet Beilby is recognised internationally for her work in clinical management of stuttering and her pursuit of excellence in the development of treatment. Speech Pathology Australia is proud to admit her to Fellowship of the Association.

### Life Membership

***Life Membership is the highest public professional honour the Association awards to members and is awarded to speech pathologists who have demonstrated outstanding, significant and sustained service to speech pathology.***

***Professor Sharynne McLeod was nominated for this award due to her outstanding leadership and committed service to Speech Pathology Australia, the profession and clients nationally and internationally.***



### Professor Sharynne McLeod

Professor Sharynne McLeod was editor of *ACQ* for three years before moving into the role of editor of the *International Journal of Speech Language Pathology (IJSLP)*, which she held for eight years. In her time as editor of the *IJSLP* she moved the journal from a lower-middle ranked journal to an A-ranking, internationally focussed journal that has a high rate of citations.

In addition to this, Professor McLeod has been a member of the journal review task group, a member of the Research Task Group, a National Tour Speaker, a member of the Strategic Advisory Group on the International Communication Project and on the organising committee or a module convenor at eight Speech Pathology Australia National Conferences.

At an international level, Professor McLeod has been an invited contributor to the World Health Organisation, International Classification of Functioning Disability and Health – Children and Youth, vice president of the International Clinical Linguistics and Phonetics Association, an invited member on education for speech and language pathology of International Association of Logopaedics and Phoniatics, and invited lecturer at the postgraduate Diploma Course in Speech Language Therapy, at Pham Ngoc Thach University of Medicine, and the chair on the International Expert Panel on Multilingual Children's Speech.

Professor McLeod has published extensively; more than 197 publications. She was awarded an ARC Future Fellowship focussing on large-scale, clinically applied research projects in Australia and internationally. She has collaborated with researchers from around the world to develop the Intelligibility in Context Scale which is produced in 60 languages for use in 100 countries.

Professor McLeod is a recognised world leader in her field, and has provided a significant and sustained contribution to the profession within Australia and throughout the world. The Association were honoured to award Life Membership to Professor Sharynne McLeod.

In accepting this prestigious award Sharynne declared "I am so proud of being an Australian speech pathologist and believe that we play an important role in influencing the lives of people with communication disability, and speech pathologists worldwide. Australian speech pathologists achieve well beyond the resources available within a relatively small association of 6,000 members. We are acknowledged internationally for our innovation, hard work, collegiality, and cooperation. We are able to look at the world's issues without being encumbered by the traditions of larger countries such as the US and US and come up with creative solutions..."

A full copy of Sharynne's acceptance speech is available online at [Information for Members > Member Awards](#).

## JCPSLP Editor's Prize awarded at SPA AGM

**EACH YEAR**, a prize is awarded to an article published in the *Journal of Clinical Practice in Speech-Language Pathology (JCPSLP)* in the preceding 12 months, which is judged by the JCPSLP Editorial Committee to be of highest research merit. This year, the prize was awarded to Dr Kathryn Crowe and Professor Sharynne McLeod for their article titled, "Communication choices: Translating research to practice for professionals working with children with hearing loss".

This article presents a translation summary of the findings from four studies examining the communication choices of

children with hearing loss and their parents. This internationally significant, locally relevant, clinically focussed article provides speech pathologists with valuable insights to support practice and epitomises the practice-research translation values of *JCPSLP*.

The *JCPSLP* Editor, editorial committee, and publication team congratulate Kathryn and Sharynne on their research and the award.

The prize was presented at the AGM on the first night of the SPA National Conference.



JCPSLP editor David Trembath presented the Editor's Prize to winning authors Dr Kathryn Crowe (left) and Professor Sharynne McLeod at the 2015 SPA AGM.

**DAVID TREMBATH**  
Editor, JCPSLP

### CELF<sup>5</sup> METALINGUISTICS

A revision of the Test of Language Competence-Expanded, the CELF-5 Metalinguistics assessment includes four tests of higher-level language skills that are embedded in upper-grade curricula and are critical to classroom success. Use it to measure a student's ability to think about and use language to make inferences, manipulate conversational speech given a context, use words in multiple ways, and use language in a non-literal manner.

#### The CELF-5 Metalinguistics:

- Is ideal for students with subtle language disorders or those on the autism spectrum
- Goes beyond assessment of syntax and semantics to assess student's language strategies and language flexibility
- Includes several tests that assess the student's ability to interpret contextual and situational demands of conversation
- Helps you evaluate delays in semantic, syntactic, and pragmatic competence

Learn more about the CELF-5 Metalinguistics visit [www.pearsonclinical.com.au/metalinguistics](http://www.pearsonclinical.com.au/metalinguistics)

#### Complimentary Webinars

Interested in gaining knowledge around the use of assessments and more? Visit [www.pearsonclinical.com.au/pdtraining](http://www.pearsonclinical.com.au/pdtraining) to view our upcoming webinars, our webinar archive and more.



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15CLIN32

ALWAYS LEARNING

**PEARSON**

17–20 May 2015

National Convention Centre, Canberra, Australia



**THE CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE (CPC)** was delighted to welcome more than 540 attendees to Canberra for Challenge Broaden Revolutionise.

The Conference made for a busy hub of activity in Canberra with delegates having the opportunity to attend keynote, clinical, and research paper presentations across a range of practice areas that challenged and broadened how speech pathologists practice, with concepts aimed to revolutionise the future of speech pathology.

### Masterclasses

Professor Nickola Nelson started the Conference week presenting her masterclass “Methods for using written expression as a context for curriculum-based instruction and intervention” to a large and keen audience. Participants engaged in discussions with many key and pertinent questions raised.

Professor Emeritus John (Jay) Rosenbek followed with an equally large and interested audience with his presentation on “Aphasia management: It’s the method and much more”. The audience was engaged in varied clinical discussions, learning many new practical methodologies to take back to the workplace.

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



### Opening Address

**The Hon Sussan Ley MP**, Minister for Health and Minister for Sport, formally opened the Conference. Minister Ley acknowledged the final report and recommendations from the National Inquiry into the prevalence of different

types of speech, language and communication disorders and speech pathology services in Australia, and the Government’s upcoming response to the report and recommendations. Minister Ley discussed the importance and need for speech pathology services in the community and detailed the funding commitments the Government have made to support access to speech pathology services.

### Keynote and Invited Presenters



**Professor Nickola Nelson’s** keynote presentation “Language XX: What shall it be called? And why does it matter” was an excellent start to the Conference ensuring that the audience was immediately enmeshed with the Conference theme. Professor Nelson outlined the evidence and discussed the issues evident in the naming of language disorders. Professor

Nelson has encouraged speech pathologists worldwide to provide meaningful comprehensive assessment practices and to participate in an international and interdisciplinary forum to develop diagnostic criteria and diagnostic label of language disorders.



**Associate Professor Pamela Snow**, the invited presenter of the 2015 Elizabeth Usher Memorial Lecture titled “Language is literacy is language: Positioning speech language pathology in education, policy, practice, paradigms and polemics”. Pamela’s comprehensive overview of the challenges of the “reading wars” and her insights into the way we can “promote the

translation of evidence into practice” to change the way we work was inspiring with many practical ideas to support the research base presented.



**Professor Emeritus John (Jay) Rosenbek’s** keynote presentation “The tyranny of the randomised clinical trial” discussed broadening continuous improvement in the practice of speech-language pathology. Jay challenged speech pathologists to think beyond the randomised control trial and to consider all influences on quality practice including patient reported

outcomes. Jay set the scene for us all to revolutionise how we assess and measure the critical outcomes of speech pathology interventions.

I would like to extend a very big thank you to the Board of Speech Pathology Australia and National Office staff for their ongoing support and advice during the Conference planning period.

## Posters

There was an impressive array of 47 posters on display during the Conference. These were universally well-received and represented a very diverse range of clinical and research topics. Many poster authors were engaged in deep discussion during the formal poster sessions.

Congratulations to all authors on the high calibre of the work presented. However, a special congratulations goes to the Best Poster Award prize winners – Caroline Baker, Kate Falkenberg, Stephanie Hearnshaw and Lyndal Sheepway.

## Best Student Presentation Award

This year the CPC included this prize and we would like to congratulate Abby Foster for her presentation “Communication’s taking a back seat: A qualitative meta-synthesis examining factors influencing aphasia management in the acute hospital setting”.

## Conference Proceedings

Under the editorship of Dr Kirrie Ballard, the keynote presentations and selected research papers will comprise the Conference Proceedings and be published in the *International Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*.

## Pre-registration



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

## Welcome Reception The National Arboretum and Bonsai Deck

Delegates who had entered the ‘National Gallery of Australia \$200 voucher’ competition went into the draw and the lucky winner was Tania Piper. We hope Tania enjoyed the shopping!

## Annual General Meeting

Congratulations to all the deserving award winners announced at the AGM. It is always a wonderful occasion in which to share the amazing achievements of our colleagues. To those recipients of awards go our most sincere congratulations (refer to page 12 of this issue).

Special thanks also goes to our **Conference sponsors:**



Major Sponsor



Conference Dinner and photo booth



Online Conference Program



The exhibition hall for this year’s Conference was again filled with a range of novel, intriguing and high quality products and services. Thank you to the many exhibitors for their ongoing support of our National Conference – and for the wonderful prizes donated that were drawn at the Conference Dinner. Congratulations to the lucky winners. We would like to also congratulate SimplyThick for winning The Best Exhibition Stand prize, which is one complimentary exhibition stand at the 2016 National Conference in Perth.



This year's Conference culminated in the "Botanical" themed Gala dinner at the National Gallery of Australia. Thank you to everyone for embracing the theme and turning out in botanical attire. Many of those at the dinner took the opportunity to capture their style (with a few embellishments) in the very popular photo booth which was kept very busy the entire night.

To the meticulous Kate Swan who chaired the Scientific Planning Sub Committee (and who spent hours reading all of the 400+ submitted abstracts) and the other fabulous members of the CPC, Eleanor McMillan, Anna Russell and Bethany Wagg, thank you for enthusiasm, commitment, work ethic and fun, as a team we were awesome.

In addition a big 'Thank you' must go to the student volunteers who worked alongside Pam at the Conference registration desk, assisted the session chairs and ensured that delegates found their intended sessions. Without you the Conference would not run as smoothly.

**Challenge Broaden Revolutionise** would not have come to fruition without the dynamic Pamela Richards, National Conference Manager. Pam is what enables the Speech Pathology Australia National Conference to be – she provides leadership, direction, strength, and timelines that enable the Committee to start and successfully complete the Conference planning process. The Conference Committee appreciated Pam's support and enjoyed working with her. The Committee would also like to thank Tayla Hope, an event management student from Victoria University, who worked with Pam leading up to the Conference.

## Delegate feedback Survey

Thank you to the 350 members who took the time to complete and submit their survey. Congratulations to Gail Bennell from Tasmania, who was the lucky winner of the complimentary Conference registration to the 2016 National Conference in Perth, **MAKINGWAVES**.



ALL information, be it good or bad, has been carefully collated and identified and will form the basis for a detailed report to the Board in August. There will also be direct feedback to the 2016 Perth CPC to assist them in their planning processes.

Finally, on behalf of the CPC we would like to thank all delegates who attended **Challenge Broaden Revolutionise** in Canberra in 2015. Delegates produced a vibrant, positive, and engaging atmosphere that made for an enjoyable and memorable event.

**FELICITY MARTIN**  
2015 Conference Convenor

**PAMELA RICHARDS**  
National Conference Manager

## Conference media and publicity

**THE 2015 NATIONAL CONFERENCE** generated a great deal of media interest. Highlights include: all the major television stations' film crews being present for the Health Minister's opening address; a story on National Nine News on the eve of the Conference about speech pathology and communication difficulties; and a 20-minute interview on ABC Canberra morning radio with outgoing President Prof Deborah Theodoros and keynote presenter Prof Emeritus Jay Rosenbek.

With the Conference following hard on the heels of the 2015 Federal Budget, there was sizeable media interest in a joint media release – issued by the Association and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners – on the decision to end the payment of Medicare benefits for *Healthy Kids Checks*. Interest in this story included a front-cover photograph and story in the Fairfax newspapers, including *The Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald*.

Social media activity generated by the Association during the Conference included 1,295 likes on Facebook (reaching 51,338), 20 photographs and 297 likes on Instagram, and 24 tweets and 1,517 social media interactions.



## Precise Thick'N Ready Hydrating, Pre-Thickened Drinks!

These refreshing drinks come in ergonomically designed cups for ease of grip providing "must have" convenience. Flavours are available in the three recognised viscosities – mild (Level 150), moderate (Level 400), and extremely thick (Level 900) – with colour coded labels. There's nothing to prepare, just peel and serve.

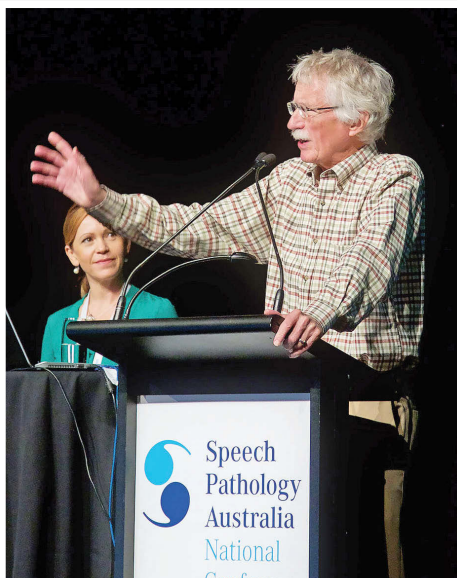


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\* Flavour range includes Diet Raspberry and Diet Lemon (not pictured)

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2015 NATIONAL CONFERENCE PHOTOS





# 15–18 May 2016 Crown Perth, Western Australia



## Launch of MAKING WAVES

**MAKING WAVES** was officially launched in Canberra. Delegates enjoyed the 'Mexican wave' and congratulations to Megan Storm who won the night's accommodation at Crown Metropol Perth. The 2016 Conference Planning Committee (CPC) will look forward to bringing you updates about the National Conference in each issue of *Speak Out*.

## Keynote & Invited Speakers

Once available, the 2016 CPC is looking forward to introducing to you the Keynote Speakers.

## Elizabeth Usher Memorial Lecture

The CPC 2016 put forward their preferred recipient to the Board which has been confirmed. Therefore I am pleased to announce that **Winthrop Professor Andrew Whitehouse** has accepted the invitation to present the Elizabeth Usher Memorial Lecture and receive the Award for 2016.



**PhD, Head, Developmental Disorders Research Group**

Professor Andrew Whitehouse directs the Autism Research

Team at the Telethon Kids Institute (University of Western Australia), and is one of the youngest ever Professors at the University of Western Australia. His research team use a range of methodologies to investigate the early identification and intervention of children with ASD, including molecular genetics, neuroscience, endocrinology and behavioural experiments. Andrew has published more than 100 peer-reviewed journals and attracted over \$35 million in competitive research grants. He currently writes a popular column on child development for *The West Australian* and the news website *The Conversation*, which have attracted over 1 million hits since 2012.

Andrew has published one edited book with his twin brother (Ben), and a popular science book that examined the science behind some of the myths

of pregnancy and child development (*Will Mozart Make My Baby Smart?*). Prior to coming to the Telethon Kids Institute, Andrew was a Fellow at the University of Oxford.

## Call for Papers

The online submission is available at [www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au) > **2016 National Conference**. I would encourage you to 'spread the news' through your many networks, colleagues and friends, wherever they are in the world. Send them this link to the Association's website where they can read more about the National Conference and submission process.

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



While the closing date for submissions is **Wednesday 16 September 2015**, there is no need to wait until the due date to submit your proposal. With the online submission process we are able to allocate proposals to reviewers as they come in. This will assist the Scientific Program Sub Committee in managing the review process and help us develop the Conference program in a timely manner. Early review will also give authors more time to consider any reviewer comments.

### Call for Reviewers

The Scientific Program Sub-Committee (SPSC) is becoming increasingly active as papers, posters and workshops are now being submitted. These submissions need to be reviewed, and the SPSC is encouraged by the response so far. However there are a few 'areas' that need reviewers. If you are working in telepractice/telehealth, private practice and information technology, and would be interested in reviewing papers for the Conference and assisting the SPSC, please email a brief CV and your areas of interest/expertise to Pamela Richards at [conference@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](mailto:conference@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)

no later than **Monday 24 August 2015**. Please note this invitation is **only open to Speech Pathology Australia members**.

### Feedback

The 2015 CPC has shared with us the feedback from this year's Conference survey. Over the next few months we will read through the information and where possible incorporate the suggestions/recommendations. We would like to congratulate **Gail Bennell** from Tasmania who won the complimentary 2016 National Conference Registration.

**MICHELLE QUAIL**

*2016 Conference Convenor*

**PAMELA RICHARDS**

*National Conference Manager*



**Speech  
Pathology  
Australia  
National  
Conference**

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



### 2015 National Tour

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

Registrations for **all** 2015 National Tour workshops are now open – Brisbane, Launceston, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Adelaide.

Please note the revised dates for the Sydney and Melbourne workshops. The co-hosted NSW/ACT workshop is now running on 7 & 8 September, and Melbourne on 10 & 11 September.

The CPDLive event is on Thursday 10 December, 4–5.30pm AEDT, with further information coming soon.

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

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

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

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

### CPD – who's who in 2015

Thanks to Katina Swan who has been a wonderful ACT CPD rep for all her hard work, commitment and time. We wish Katina every success in her new roles.

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

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

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

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

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

CPD Coordinators and National Office staff had a meeting in Melbourne on 16/17 July. We will let you know feedback from this meeting in the next *Speak Out*.

# Professional Self Regulation

Practising and Full-time Postgraduate Student members of Speech Pathology Australia are eligible to participate in PSR and earn Certified Practising Speech Pathologist (CPSP) status.

- With your 2016 membership renewal, the triennium structure ceases and an annual program commences, and you need to achieve a minimum of 20 points per annum, across at least two different activity types.
- As of 2015, new graduate speech pathologists can earn Provisional CPSP in their first year of joining as/ upgrading to Practising membership. The member application form includes an agreement to undertake

a minimal level of clinical supervision, and undertake professional development, as part of the Professional Self Regulation program, to be conferred with Provisional CPSP status.

- As of 2016, CPSP status – full and provisional – will be deemed as the requirement to be considered a Practising member, and therefore eligibility for Medicare and Private Health fund Provider Number registration, as well as other Practising membership entitlements.

Further information is available via the website: [Information for Members > Professional Self Regulation \(PSR\)](#).

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

Registrations now open for the CPD Events listed below.

## CPD Events

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

### ACT

**Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 September 2015**

**Sydney** Co-hosted NSW/ACT CPD event. 2015 National Tour *Kids, communication and context: Providing holistic and evidence-based care to children with speech and language difficulties* by **Associate Professor Jane McCormack**

### NEW SOUTH WALES

**Friday 21 August 2015**

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

**Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 September 2015**

**Sydney** Co-hosted NSW/ACT CPD event. 2015 National Tour *Kids, communication and context: Providing holistic and evidence-based care to children with speech and language difficulties* by **Associate Professor Jane McCormack**

**Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 September 2015**

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

**Tuesday 20 October 2015**

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

### NORTHERN TERRITORY

**Monday 17 August 2015**

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

### QUEENSLAND

**Wednesday 19 August 2015**

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

**Friday 28 August 2015**

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

**Monday 31 August and Tuesday 1 September 2015**

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

**Friday 18 September 2015**

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

**Friday 18 September 2015**

**Hervey Bay** *Play Skills* by **Dr Karen Stagnitti**

**Friday 23 October 2015**

**Brisbane** *Learning Language: Pathways to Developmental Resilience and Vulnerability* by **Dr Patricia Eadie**

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**Friday 18 September 2015**

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

**Thursday 8 and Friday 9 October 2015**

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

### TASMANIA

**Thursday 3 and Friday 4 September 2015**

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

**Thursday 12 and Friday 13 November 2015**

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

## VICTORIA

**Thursday 27 and Friday 28 August 2015**

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

**Thursday 10 and Friday 11 September 2015**

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

**Friday 9 October 2015**

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

**Friday 16 October 2015**

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

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**Thursday 27 August and Friday 28 August 2015**

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

**Friday 4 September 2015**

**Perth** Specific Language Impairment: An Update by **Dr Mary Claessen and Dr Suze Leitão**

**Wednesday 30 September 2015**

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

**Monday 5 and Tuesday 6 October 2015**

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

**Thursday 5 November 2015**

**Perth** Sundowner Using ultrasound for visual feedback in speech and swallow assessment and treatment by **Associate Professor Patricia McCabe**

**Friday 6 November 2015**

**Perth** Treating Childhood Apraxia of Speech by **Associate Professor Patricia McCabe**

## NATIONAL

Online 90-minute events run in conjunction with CPDLive

### Recordings available via CPDLive

The role of speech pathology with clients with mental health disorders by **Mary Woodward and Natalie Albores**  
Live event ran on 28 August 2014

[Viewing available until 28 August 2015](#)

A clinical advantage: the art of accent modification within a speech pathology context by **Tristan Nickless**  
Live event ran on 19 November 2014

[Viewing available until 19 November 2015](#)

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

Live event ran on Friday 12 December 2014

[Viewing available until 12 December 2015](#)

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

Live event ran on Tuesday 24 February 2015

[Viewing available until 24 February 2016](#)

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

Live event ran on Wednesday 25 March 2015

[Viewing available until 25 March 2016](#)

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

Live event ran on Wednesday 15 April 2015

[Viewing available until 15 April 2016](#)

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

Live event ran on Monday 4 May 2015

[Viewing available until 4 May 2016](#)

What's it all about: AAC? by **Cathy Olsson**

Live event ran on Tuesday 11 August 2015

[Viewing available until 11 August 2016](#)

### Upcoming live events via CPDLive

Live event to run on **Tuesday 25 August 2015 (2.30–4pm AEST)** Paediatric feeding difficulties: What is the evidence for treatment? by **Jeanne Marshall**

**Attn QLD Speech Pathologists** – this event is part of the QUEENSLAND LEGACY FUND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME.

Live event to run on **Monday 21 September 2015 (2.30–4pm AEST)** Understanding person-centred and enablement models of care to build opportunity for speech pathology services for older people by **Dr Michelle Bennett**

**Attn QLD Speech Pathologists** – this event is part of the QUEENSLAND LEGACY FUND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME.

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

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

Live event to run on **Thursday 10 December 2015 (4–5.30pm AEDT)** Title TBC – in area related to 2015 National Tour by **Associate Professor Jane McCormack**

**SHARON CRANE**

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





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## Speech pathology practice – no room for fine print (Part 3)

# Communication between the speech pathologist and a third party

**THIS MONTH'S ARTICLE** focuses on the communication that may occur between a speech pathologist and a third party as part of providing a speech pathology service and why gaining valid and informed consent to disclose information to a third party is crucial.

Before discussing the steps to follow to gain consent to disclose information to a third party, it is essential that we understand the key principles that relate to the collection of information within a health care context:

**1. Only collect and record information that is relevant to the care you are providing.**

Think before you collect information and/or record information, "Is this information necessary for me to provide a speech pathology service to the client?" Often clients disclose personal information that isn't relevant to the care you are providing to them. If this occurs do not record that information and definitely do not disclose that information to a third party.

**2. All of the information you collect from a client is confidential information.**

As a health practitioner, speech pathologists have a duty of confidence that we must uphold for each client we work with. This means we have a duty to each client to maintain the confidentiality of **all information** (e.g., personal information including contact details, background information, assessment results and treatment outcomes, etc.) that is created, disclosed or acquired directly or indirectly in the context of the client and health service provider relationship. This duty of confidence applies to **all persons**, including

administrative and support staff, who come into contact with information as part of the service provision.

The general principle is that the duty of confidence prevents the disclosure of the information to individuals and organisations not involved in providing the health service. There are a number of exceptions where otherwise confidential information may be disclosed to third parties. This will be discussed in the section *Disclosure by consent*. It is important to note that the duty of confidence does not end when the professional relationship with the client has ceased. Nor does it end with the death of a client.

## Disclosure by consent

In general, if a cognitively competent adult client expressly consents to the disclosure of information about him/herself to a third party, it will not be a breach of the duty of confidence to disclose the information provided the disclosure is made in accordance with the consent given. In other words,

- Only the person(s) and/or organisation expressly authorised to disclose the information to the third party may do so;
- Only information falling within the scope of the consent may be disclosed;
- The information may only be disclosed to those person(s) or organisation(s) in respect of which consent has been given.

If the client is a minor or cognitively impaired the consent of the client's parent or legal guardian is necessary before information pertaining to the

client can be released to a third party. *See the box on page 27 for more information about these two areas.*

The following steps will help you establish procedures in your clinic for gaining consent to disclose information to a third party.

**Step 1:** Provide information to a client early in the assessment process (or before commencing the assessment) about why you may need to contact a third party and the types of people you may wish to contact. This helps the client to understand that communicating with a third party is not unusual and is often part of the assessment process. Prepare an information sheet that you provide to clients.

**Step 2:** Discuss with the client who you would like to contact and why. Where possible obtain the name of the person, especially if contacting an organisation.

**Step 3:** Discuss with the client the questions you are going to ask or the information you are seeking so that they know what is going to be discussed prior to you contacting the third party. Ask them if there is any information that they do not wish you to disclose to the third party and why.

**Step 4:** Obtain the client's permission to contact the third party. Typically this will involve the completion of a Consent Form but in some cases consent may be provided verbally and then recorded in the client file. It is absolutely essential that you discuss the details contained in the form with the client prior to them completing a consent form.

## Minors and clients with a cognitive impairment

**THE AGE** at which a child may assume responsibility for consenting to whether or not their health information can be disclosed to a third party varies across jurisdictions. If you are working with a teenager and you think they may be mature enough to consent then it is worthwhile finding out the legislation that exists in the state/territory you are working in. For adults with a cognitive impairment considered to impact on their ability to provide informed consent, the client's legal guardian will assume responsibility for providing consent.

**For more information about these circumstances go to SPA's Information Sheet – *Obtaining valid and informed consent.***

**Step 5:** Seek permission again if there has been a significant gap between gaining permission and contacting a third party, or if you need to contact the third party again. Don't assume that because the client has given you permission previously that they are still happy for you to contact the person.

It is also important to remember that just because you have provided information to a client about providing consent, and even if it is in writing, do not assume that they understand the information. That is why it is essential that you discuss information with the client prior to them providing consent for you to disclose information to a third party.

**Also, don't forget** that if you are discussing a client with another health professional, for example, during a supervision session, on an online forum (e.g., SPA's Member Communities) or during a case conference, and the client has not expressly consented to the same, then you must not provide any identifying information. It is of utmost importance that you protect a client's privacy and confidentiality at all times.

For more information about consent, please read SPA's Privacy Guide and refer to SPA's Information Sheet – *Obtaining valid and informed consent.*

**CHRISTINE LYONS**  
Senior Advisor, Professional Practice

## Ethics Education

**THE SPA ETHICS BOARD** has many responsibilities including the promotion of ethical speech pathology practice and the development of ethical professional communities, as well as ensuring members abide by their commitment to the Code of Ethics (2010). These objectives are achieved through provision of support, advice and education to the profession.

A key activity of the board is the development of training and education materials for speech pathologists regarding professional ethics and ethical decision making. The primary resource is the Ethics Education Package, which was launched by the Ethics Board at the AGM in 2014, following a pilot during 2011–2013.

The Ethics Education Package is a comprehensive, self-guided learning tool. It provides information and learning activities for four ethical decision-making frameworks, to assist speech pathologists in development of proactive problem-solving skills for the ethical issues inherent in our work.

The package includes a manual and a workbook with a series of reading materials, resources, activities and case studies, which can be used for individual study or for group discussions within the workplace. Members can earn CPD points towards their Certified Practising Speech Pathologist (CPSP) status and completion of the package is a requirement for new graduates to achieve full CPSP.

**Ethics**

**The Ethics Education Package 2014**

Welcome to the Speech Pathology Australia (SPA) Ethics Education Package. This is a revised and significantly extended version of the original package and was developed by the Ethics Board. It is designed to be used as a self-guided learning package, either individually or in a small group, or as a teaching package, for example with student speech pathologists.

Throughout the sections, you will be provided with material to read and articles you can access. The key articles are taken usually from SPA's Journal of Clinical Practice in Speech-Language Pathology (formerly known as *Acquiring Knowledge in Speech, Language, and Hearing*) and are available on the SPA website. Additional references for suggested further readings are also provided throughout the document.

To receive maximum benefit from this package, the Board has developed a separate workbook that contains activities, reading materials, resources and case studies. You can download the workbook from the email you receive when you log on to the Ethics section on the website. The workbook contains all the activities in the package in a separate document. You can work through this in your own time. You will also have the opportunity to upload the workbook as a record that you have looked at the material in the ethics education package. At this stage, we will only record the names of people who have accessed the material. We will not be looking at any content.

It is envisaged that the package will be developed into an online learning tool that is highly interactive. These self-directed learning activities can be counted in PSR under activity type Independent Study (IS), earning 1 point per hour of e-learning package undertaken.

**Learning Outcomes**

On completion of this education package, you will

- appreciate the elements of ethical decision-making
- identify ethical dilemmas as they present in your practice
- apply strategies to your own ethical decision-making
- demonstrate a pro-active approach to ethical behaviour.

This resource is a member benefit, currently available to members for free via the SPA website. **To request the manual and the workbook go to [Information for Members > Ethics](#)** (you will need to log in using your member details), then complete the required information. Both documents will then be emailed to you.

Future plans include translating this tool into an interactive online teaching package, and in preparation for this next development a survey will be sent to members who have requested the package through the website, to understand which elements are the most useful. If you are one of the 310 members who have requested the package to date, you will receive this survey. Please take 5 minutes to complete it as the information will greatly assist the next step in the advancement of ethics education within the profession.

If you have any questions about the Ethics Education Package please contact me at National Office.

**TRISH JOHNSON**  
Senior Advisor, Ethics and Professional Issues

## Meet your Branch Chair

I'M VERY PRIVILEGED to be the current NSW Branch Chair, leading a strong and active Branch membership. I've been involved with the Branch since 2009, mainly in the Practice, Workplace and Government portfolio; and I feel passionate about contributing to a profession that provides very valuable services to those with swallowing and communication difficulties.

I started working as a speech pathologist in 2003 for the (then) Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care NSW in the Penrith office. As an undergraduate, I had dreams of working in a number of potential settings... maybe in rehabilitation... maybe in community health... I never dreamed that my career would take the direction that it has – and I love it! I feel so privileged to work with people of all ages who have disabilities. I feel honoured to work with the carers and families around those people. I am humbled to be a small part in the lives of my clients.

Throughout my career I've had so many fantastic opportunities and experiences. I've been part of the special interest group Speech Pathologists in Adult Disability (SPAD) since 2006, which was started by an inspirational group of speech pathologists across Sydney in about 2003 (but I'm happy to be corrected on those details!). I have managed to keep this group going and growing over the years with the help of still more fabulous speech pathologists.

In 2008 I became a Key Word Sign Presenter (previously known as Makaton), which opened a whole new world of experiences. Since then I've lost count of the number of teachers, support workers, early childhood workers, allied health professionals and family members (including a truck driver) I have trained to use Key Word Sign to support communication and language development. This workshop is only one day, but to be a part of all those people's lives as they support other people with communication difficulties is just so humbling. In 2013 I became a State Trainer for Key Word Sign NSW and I'm about to train a new group of KWS presenters for the third time – I get very excited thinking about all the lives those new presenters will go on to touch in such positive ways as I hope I have done. I am in awe of the amazing work that the KWS NSW committee have done over the last five years with the support of even more talented speech pathologists and teachers.

A couple of years ago I thought I would try my hand at writing a blog. I called it "The Speechie Who Thought She Could Change the World... (And Still Tries Sometimes)". While to some people that may sound like a pessimistic view of life, I really feel like it embraces my philosophy – we can't all change the world all of the time, but we all try sometimes! As a new graduate speech pathologist I was ready to do so much good in people's lives (and I like to think that I really did!). As time goes on we start to see a bigger picture, with bigger issues to challenge and change. At the AGOSCI conference this year, Jane Farrall gave a session about systemic change for individual success (<http://www.janefarrall.com/aac->

[systemic-change-for-individual-success-2/](http://www.janefarrall.com/aac-systemic-change-for-individual-success-2/)) which really hit the nail on the head! This is what I have been striving to do in my work for the last seven years!

In my current role I have the awesome responsibility for the support and supervision of six senior speech pathologists who, in turn, support and supervise a collective group of 30 speech pathologists across areas in North and Western Sydney, the Nepean, Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains. Together we all work towards the common goal of creating positive changes in the lives of people with disabilities, their families and carers. If you're interested in reading a bit more about how important I believe supervision is, visit this site: <http://praacticalaac.org/praactical/how-i-do-it-with-harmony-turnbull-the-importance-of-support-and-supervision-when-providing-aac-services/>

And those who know me will already know (and will be very surprised if I don't mention it) that I am a supporter and promoter of the importance of professional networking. It drives my involvement in SPA, SPAD and KWS NSW, as well as my presence in Twitter (and even Facebook sometimes!). There's a wealth of knowledge in the brains of speech and language pathologists (#SLPeeps) out there in the world, Twitter is one fantastic way to connect with them and learn from them! Last year I curated the @WeSpeechies handle for a week to discuss the importance of plain language writing in our profession. If you're also keen to learn more about this (either Twitter, plain language or @WeSpeechies) you can take a look at this: [https://storify.com/SP\\_Harmony/wespeechies](https://storify.com/SP_Harmony/wespeechies). You're very welcome to find me in Twitter: @SP\_Harmony

I look forward to meeting more of my amazing colleagues!

**HARMONY TURNBULL**  
NSW Branch Chair

## Student engagement evening at Sydney Uni



IT'S NOT OFTEN that speech pathology students have the time and opportunity to put studying or writing session plans and reports on

hold, but the SPA Student Awards and trivia night presented the perfect occasion. Held on 12 May at the University of Sydney, the night was a chance to hear from Chris Sheard, who inspired us by sharing her experience working with the Trinh Foundation in Vietnam, and to indulge in pizza, wine, laughs and trivia. Students from the University of Sydney and Macquarie University also enjoyed meeting other practising



SPA members to hear about their work, and interacting with fellow students from different universities and year groups.

An entertaining evening was had by all and we look forward to organising similar events in the future. Thank you to Chris, Fiona, Harmony and Dijana for supporting the event and contributing to the fun. We were greatly encouraged to hear from speech pathologists with a shared wealth of knowledge and experience and excitedly anticipate the day we join you as colleagues.

**VICTORIA GARDNER**  
SPA student representative,  
The University of Sydney

## Student awards



ON 12 MAY, I had the pleasure of presenting a student award on behalf of the Association to Elizabeth Gengos from the University of Sydney (pictured). The Association has a number of awards that recognise and celebrate those members who demonstrate significant contribution to the Association and the

profession. Student awards recognise a student at each university for outstanding academic achievements including research throughout their course, and/or excellent clinical achievements throughout the course. Congratulations to the students who received awards!

**HARMONY TURNBULL**  
NSW Branch Chair

## Speech Pathology Australia

### Call for 2017 National Conference Convenor

Speech Pathology Australia is now calling for expressions of interest from New South Wales members interested in the position of Conference Convenor for the 2017 National Conference in Sydney. Expressions of interest should include a covering letter stating relevant experience and a curriculum vitae to support the application. The application should be submitted to Pamela Richards, National Conference Manager – [conference@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](mailto:conference@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au).

**Applications close Thursday 10 September 2015.**

The appointment for the Convenor is decided by the Board. The appointment of the Convenor will take into account relevant experience related to the development and conduct of professional and scientific educational programs, professional leadership, administrative and organisational skills, ability to work well with others and any other significant factors. A Conference Planning Committee will also be established to support the Convenor.



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#### Contact

Robyn Grace

03 9889 4768

[robyn.grace@spaldingaustralia.com.au](mailto:robyn.grace@spaldingaustralia.com.au)

## “Yibina Ayakwa” – Loudly Talk



*Michaela and Joyce doing voice exercises on the beach.*

**I FIRST BECAME** aware of Machado-Joseph Disease (MJD) while flying on a twin-engine plane to Groote Eylandt for a site visit. Groote Eylandt archipelago is situated in the Northern Territory on the western side of the Gulf of Carpentaria, approximately 600km south-east of Darwin. The Warnindilyakwa people are the Traditional Owners of the Groote Eylandt archipelago region and are referred to by their language name, Anindilyakwa. My family moved to Groote Eylandt in January 2014 for my husband's job, and because of my background and interest in rehabilitation, I joined the MJD foundation as a volunteer speech pathologist in April that year.

MJD is an inherited, autosomal dominant disorder, which means each child of a person who carries the gene has a 50% chance of developing the disease. This progressive neurological disorder occurs due to a fault in a chromosome that causes the production of an abnormal protein. This protein causes nerve cells to die prematurely in the cerebellum. The mutation is typically expanded when it is passed to the next generation. This is known as the “anticipation effect” whereby the symptoms will

appear approximately 8–10 years earlier and are more severe with successive generations.

The damage to the cerebellum initially causes muscular weakness and progresses over time to a total lack of voluntary control and very significant permanent physical disability, including dysphagia and dysarthria/anarthria. Progression to dependence occurs over 5 to 10 years and most people are wheelchair-bound and fully dependent for activities of daily living within 10–15 years of the first symptoms emerging. At this time, there is no known cure for MJD.

Previously known as “Groote Eylandt Syndrome”, the effects of MJD have been known to the Aboriginal people of this region for at least four generations. Although it is impossible to predict the number of people who will develop MJD there are currently around 550 people alive today thought to be “at risk” of developing the disease across the Top End.

I started this work, with a resounding interest in clients with MJD and the potential of regular speech therapy to

improve and/or maintain the speech and swallowing function of these patients. Weekly therapy focuses on breath support, voice projection and safe swallowing strategies.

I am fortunate to work within a multidisciplinary team and our therapy is client-centered, holistic and functional. Sessions are often conducted “on country” (fishing at the beach, bush walking) which helps to keep clients engaged and ensures therapy techniques are meaningful. When we are at the beach and the wind is blowing and the waves are crashing, you definitely need to “yibina ayakwa” (loudly talk).

Working with the MJD clients has been both personally and professionally rewarding. It has taught me to acknowledge and respect the connection that indigenous Australians have to their families, their culture, their communities and their country.

You can find out more about MJD and the MJD foundation at <http://mjd.org.au>

**MICHAELA JACKSON**  
Speech Pathologist

## Speech pathology graduate awarded top student



**SPEECH PATHOLOGIST GRADUATE**, Rachel Hull was awarded the prestigious 2014 HESTA Student of the Year Award. This award is granted to a Griffith University student enrolled in a School of Allied Health Sciences Program with the highest ranking grade point average according to overall academic results at the end of the program with outstanding clinical performance and contribution to the community and School of Allied Health Sciences.

*'I graduated from Griffith University's Master of Speech Pathology Program last December and recently received the Allied Health Student of the Year award for 2014. Sponsored by HESTA Superannuation, this industry award is presented each year to a Physiotherapy, Exercise Science, Nutrition and Dietetics, or Speech Pathology student and I was delighted to represent the profession of Speech Pathology in this way. The two-year Masters program at Griffith provided me with diverse theoretical knowledge and a wide variety of clinical experiences, as well as opportunities to promote our profession within the community. All of these experiences prepared me for work as a Speech Pathologist in a private practice, which I love, and winning this award was an unexpected honour. My sincere thanks go to HESTA for acknowledging students in this way and the Griffith University Speech Pathology department for nominating me.'*

RACHEL HULL

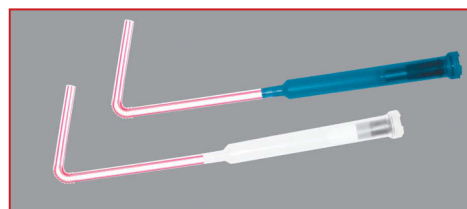


## SAFE STRAW A VOLUME LIMITING DRINKING AID

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"We were relieved he could enjoy his favourite drinks without altering their taste or thickness." - Pamela Bell, Full-time Carer for Merv who has Huntington's disease

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*Clockwise from left: Gail Mulcair, Tim Kittel, Diana Bleby, Gaenor Dixon, Jenny Moody and Hon. Kelly Vincent.*

## SPA goes inside South Australia's parliament

**POLITICIANS ARE PEOPLE**, just like the rest of us, and sometimes opportunities can arise whether its by formally presenting them with a strong strategic agenda, or just by chancing upon them in a more relaxed context.

The South Australian Branch has a well-established relationship with Kelly Vincent, Dignity for Disability MLC. Ironically, the fact that this article is being written on the eve of major advocacy changes being put in place for our court system for victims and perpetrators with language and intellectual needs demonstrates Kelly's work and passion for supporting the disability population.

Thanks to Kelly, a few weeks ago, the SA Branch managed to secure a cross parliamentary lunchtime forum where members of Speech Pathology Australia, both local and national,

talked about the Federal Senate Inquiry and what it meant for South Australia. Arranging this meeting was no small feat, but it all came about as the result of a very oppotune casual encounter.

During 2014, the year of the International Communication Project, 'communication champion' Diana Bleby (Lobbying and Influencing committee member) met with a number of politicians, including Kelly; and a promise, by a different MLC, was made to host a cross parliamentary forum. Diana was asked to wait until after the election but even then, follow up emails led to nothing. Diana then "bumped into" Kelly in the main street of Adelaide on a non-working day and Kelly said, "hey, we need to catch up!" A meeting time was made, the failed cross-parliamentary forum was brought up in this meeting, and Kelly said, "right – I will organise one", and she did.



So National Office, and in particular Ronelle Hutchinson, Manager Policy and Advocacy, followed up with Kelly's people to arrange a date. Once a date was set, Gail Mulcair, CEO, and Gaenor Dixon, National President, made themselves available to fly in. That was fantastic because it demonstrated that this was highly important to the Association.

The whole Branch Lobbying and Influencing portfolio were available to attend the briefing – anything for a free lunch! Unfortunately, the free lunch also meant we had to be prepared to talk about the issues. Ronelle stepped in again and arranged a phone link for all attendees. We discussed which recommendations from the inquiry we should focus on and key local issues we should raise. Magically, Ronelle pulled the discussion together and sent out speaking notes for us all.

And so finally the day arrived. Gaenor Dixon and Gail Mulcair flew into Adelaide that morning. Meeting up with Jenny Moody (SA Lobbying and Advocacy Leader), Diana Bleby and Tim Kittel, all five passed the required security checks and were shown through into Parliament House. A luncheon was set up in one of the annexes of the building, and, using that magical aptitude that only speech pathologists obsessed with protocol and pragmatics possess, proceeded to deliberate and argue for 15 minutes over where each of the five of us should sit. Luckily the seating arrangements had just been signed off on when the invited parliamentarians arrived.

Joining us were Kelly Vincent MLC, Stephen Wade MLC, Andrew McLachlan MLC, Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP, and Candidate Connie Bonaros. Once introductions were made, Gail launched into the presentation by introducing the Senate Inquiry, its history and relevance to Australia. Gaenor followed this with a discussion of the ten recommendations arising from the Inquiry. Jenny then outlined the particular relevance of the recommendations given the South Australian context.

The invited guests asked many questions relating to the Senate Inquiry, and were particularly interested in the work prepared by Jane McCormack and Sarah Verdon, mapping the availability of speech pathology services against the Cognition and General Knowledge AEDI data. Mr van Holst Pellekaan noted that although his seat is within a rural area of relative low need, constituents often approached his office, concerned about the difficulties they experienced in accessing speech pathology services. The conversation also touched on the prevalence of dyslexia, and there was recognition of the impact that communication disorders have on fundamental literacy skill development.

Overall, the event was incredibly well received by those in attendance, and after the presentation Kelly Vincent stayed for a while to talk about her own inquiry into the experiences of students with disabilities in South Australia's education system. Although a short lunch, some relationships were forged between SPA and the attendees.

**DIANA BLEBY, TIM KITTEL and JENNY MOODY**

## Tasmanian speechies promote SPA at careers expo



*Speech pathologists Nicole Hatch, Linda Williams and Catherine Wood at the expo.*

**IN MAY**, three enthusiastic speech pathologists headed to the St Michael's Collegiate Careers Expo in Hobart. Their mission was to promote the profession by encouraging students to consider speech pathology as a possible career pathway. The typical response from students, their parents and teachers contained curiosity and a common question: "What exactly does a speech pathologist do?"

Members of the public may not have encountered speech pathology services previously, and as a result, have limited understanding of the broad range of clinical areas speech pathologists are involved with. The expo provided another avenue to promote the profession. Students and their parents freely asked questions about the range of work environments of speech pathologists, prerequisites for degrees and career pathways. Some even tried a thickened drink sample to understand what people with swallowing difficulties might experience.

All who visited gave this a thumbs up and marvelled at how such innovation could make swallowing safer and more enjoyable for those who need it. At the end of the evening, an interest in the profession amongst school leavers was sparked and a higher level of public awareness raised. Thanks to Vivien Ride, Academic Dean of St Michael's Collegiate Hobart, for her organisation of the event. We look forward to attending further careers expos in the future.

**NICOLE HATCH**  
*Speech Pathologist*

*Tasmanian Branch news continued overleaf*

## Public awareness and member engagement are priorities for Tasmanian SPA members

IN JUNE, a small group of executive members and interested local members met in Campbell Town to discuss the feedback received from the recent informal state-wide survey of Speech Pathology Australia members. It was an insightful and encouraging day, with most people surveyed valuing the work of Speech Pathology Australia. Key themes of the survey included raising public awareness of the profession and member engagement. Ownership and belonging were also important themes. Members requested a larger presence in Tasmania with more opportunities to engage with each other socially. As a result of the survey, member-based projects are currently being planned to focus on the profile of speech pathology in the community and the public's awareness of our role. We plan to make this year's Speech Pathology Week the biggest Tasmania has seen for a while, with many events lasting throughout the month of August.

THE TAS BRANCH EXEC

## SPA Tasmanian Branch photography competition

THE TASMANIAN BRANCH of Speech Pathology Australia has decided to run a competition to raise the profile of our profession and wonderful natural state.

While you're out and about somewhere in Tasmania, take a Speech Pathology Australia logo either on a print-out, pen, hoodie or banner and snap away! We want to saturate social media with images of our great state and our great profession.

Each month between July and December, the staff at National Office will take turns to select their favourite photo and award a \$20 gift voucher of the winner's choice. Too easy!

So get snapping and promote all that we love about Tassie. Here are some examples to whet your appetite!



Go onto Instagram and tag your photograph with [@SpeechPathAus](#) and [#SpeakOutAndAbout](#) to see more and contribute. Don't have Instagram? Email your photos to [slpbranch@gmail.com](mailto:slpbranch@gmail.com)

LINDA WILLIAMS  
Speech Pathologist

## Investigating interventions for swallowing problems in individuals with Parkinson's disease in the community

THE NORTHERN HEALTH SPEECH PATHOLOGY DEPARTMENT in partnership with Parkinson's Victoria has recently commenced recruitment for a randomised control trial investigating the effects of an intensive home practice program using Expiratory Muscle Strength Training (EMST), versus the Effortful Swallow, in a population of people with dysphagia secondary to Parkinson's disease (PD) in the community setting.

This research aims to translate research into practice and will be conducted as a randomised, single blinded, comparison study and will be led by a qualified speech pathologist with the assistance of the Northern Health Speech Pathology Department.

Expiratory Muscle Strength Training (EMST) uses an innovative hand-held treatment device that has been scientifically tested for its ability to improve muscle strength involved in swallowing. Current research has demonstrated that improvements in the muscles involved in expiration can subsequently improve airway protection which is critical for safe swallowing. A traditional rehabilitative approach that has been employed by speech pathologists for treatment of swallow dysfunction for alternate aetiologies (i.e. stroke) is the Effortful swallow. The Effortful swallow is a swallow-specific manoeuvre that positively targets hyoid movement during swallowing.

The results of this study will broaden and extend the clinical research knowledge of dysphagia rehabilitation and Parkinson's disease. *(continued)*



A Northern Health speech pathologist trying out the EMST device.

This research aims to demonstrate whether alternative forms of rehabilitation, such as Expiratory Muscle Strength Training (EMST) and the Effortful Swallow, are beneficial and viable for individuals with Parkinson's disease in the community setting. We aim to contribute to the evidence base for treatment options for dysphagia and to contribute to guidelines on its use at a national and international level. This research will inform practice for speech pathologists managing dysphagia in the community setting to ensure people with Parkinson's disease (PD) are receiving a high quality service in line with a well-established evidence base.

If you have any further questions regarding this research study, please contact:

**Marinda Brooks**

Senior Speech Pathologist  
Northern Health  
03) 9495 3163  
[marinda.brooks@nh.org.au](mailto:marinda.brooks@nh.org.au)

## Venturing into blogging as a speech pathologist



**SPEECH PATHOLOGY** is an incredibly rewarding field, it offers so much variety, and I have been blessed to have the experience of four different roles in my career as a speech pathologist so far. I have loved every single one of them, from working with little ones, to teenagers, to clinical education, and in a consultative role. Despite loving all of my roles, I have constantly yearned for more... bigger projects, new challenges, and a desire to reach a wider audience.

In 2014, I got married and went on an amazing honeymoon for six weeks! For me, as for many people, travel is a time to reflect on life and the future, so that is exactly what I did. Just as I was thinking that there were only so many trashy novels that I felt like reading, an email came through that got my brain thinking about starting a blog. It was an email from a prominent Australian blogger, and I had previously signed up to receive her emails just on a whim. After that I still stayed by the pool, but instead of reading trashy novels, I read e-book after e-book about blogging, social media and the online world. I couldn't stop thinking about the prospect of having children in the not-too-distant future and being able to blog from home.

### So much to do!

I was so inspired, and within three months of returning from my trip I had planned, prepared and was ready to launch my blog! In the lead-up to the launch, I frantically learned about buying a domain name (i.e. website address), finding the best way to design my blog (I didn't want to pay someone else), making sure all the links worked, taking photos, creating beautiful images, and getting all the information onto my website. I also wrote 50 blog posts in advance so that I was prepared and organised and could dedicate my spare time to other aspects of the blog. I had to set myself up across multiple social media platforms – Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube and Google+; I thought I knew a lot about these but I really didn't when I delved into it on a deeper level.

### Vision and inspiration

My vision for the blog is to empower families, carers, teachers and therapists to improve the communication skills of all children throughout the world. I find inspiration for my blog posts from my previous experiences and my family and friends, and post five blog posts per week. I have a pattern to my blog posts, with Monday for a general topic, Tuesday for research, Wednesday for toys and games, Thursday for video tips and Friday for freebies and giveaways. I have big ambitions for the blog including making it a platform for parent courses in speech and language development, and ensuring that it is a community for like-minded people to make a difference in children's lives. I feel that the blog is reaching a wider audience and is meeting a personal need for a bigger project, but yet is helping others.

If you are interested in starting your own blog, let me know – the blogging world is about helping each other, not competing!

**ALEX TRICHILO**  
Speech Pathologist  
Writer at [www.thespeel.com](http://www.thespeel.com)

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**HCF**

Thanks to your SPA member benefits, you have access to Australia's largest not-for-profit health fund HCF's exclusive Corporate Product range.

When you apply for a new policy through Member Advantage you receive:

- Member exclusive savings on the premiums for current HCF Corporate Health Insurance products.
- Heart cover included in all Hospital products, except Basic Hospital.
- Only pay one hospital excess per person per calendar year and no hospital excess for dependent children.
- Free 'Limit Boosts' to top up your annual dental and optical limits.

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[www.memberadvantage.com.au/SPA/health](http://www.memberadvantage.com.au/SPA/health)

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Conditions apply. Call SPA Member Advantage on 1300 853 352 for more information.