

2007 Member Awards

Council was extremely proud to present Awards in each category at the 2007 Annual General Meeting in Sydney. These Awards are a valuable way of recognising the considerable contributions our members and others make to the profession and to the Association. Council's appreciation goes to the many people who have taken the time to research and prepare the paperwork required to complete the nominations to assist the Association in recognising some of our outstanding colleagues.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

The Recognition of Service Award recognises dedicated and significantly productive service to the Association, usually through Portfolio, Task Group, Council, or Branch work. This Award was granted to three outstanding contributors for 2007:

Jonathan Rafols

Jonathan has commenced his 10th year of consistent contribution to the Association, at both state and national levels. He has contributed through a number of roles, including WA Branch Treasurer / Secretary, Branch President, with at one period also being WA Councillor, Vice President, Locum Register Leader, Mentoring Leader and Professional Standards Leader. His role as WA Councillor included positions as National Vice President Communications and as National CPD Coordinator. He remains a proactive and committed contributor to all aspects of the Branch's operations and works hard to involve members of the Association outside of the Executive in the Branch's activities. He provided considerable effort, supervision and guidance in the generation of a WA Facilities List, providing a great resource of contact details for Speech Pathology services in WA for all WA members, and which is constantly praised by the membership. The foresight, planning and individual effort by Jonathan has seen the WA Branch through periods of difficulty and success, including survival during periods of minimal participation of members through to enjoyment of thriving involvement of both the Branch Executive and the WA member community. Jonathan frequently speaks to undergraduate speech pathology students about the benefits of membership and was instrumental in the recruitment of past and present WA Branch Presidents, ensuring continuing leadership of the WA Branch.



Christine Sheard

Christine has had an impressive career-long commitment to our clients, the profession and the Association. In 1971-72 she was NSW Branch President. During this time, Christine was responsible for the negotiations with the NSW government which changed the speech pathology course from a diploma to a degree, allowing greater acknowledgement and credence to our profession. Chris has been involved in a number of other roles in NSW Branch, as Portfolio Leader (1993-94), member of the 1990 Conference Planning Committee, and Conference Module Coordinator (1998-99). She has continued to be an active member of the NSW Branch Continuing Professional Development Portfolio Committee since 1983. Other important roles include national examiner in aphasia and dysarthria (1986-1991); coordinator of re-entry courses (1986); and has continued as a dysphagia examiner of re-entry and overseas qualification applicants since 1998. Over the past 20 years, Christine has been integral to the inclusion of quality standards in teaching dysphagia to future members of the profession. At a community level Christine established and has convened the Gladesville Stroke Recovery Group since 1992. She continues as an academic leader including mentoring and supervising many new researchers, and has also for many years, promoted the profession to thousands of high school students through out-of-hours attendance at careers nights and career planning expos. This Award is a long overdue recognition of Christine's sustained and tremendous involvement.



Speech Pathology Australia



Giving people a say in life

Alison Stevens

Alison is recognised for her service to the Association at a state and national level over the past 10 years. She has held a variety of positions on the NSW Executive, including as President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Marketing and PR Portfolio Leader. From May 2002 to August 2004, Alison became the NSW Councillor, as National Coordinator of the Practice, Workplace and Government Portfolio. In this position, she supported and managed three project officers working on a variety of areas within the Portfolio; and also worked very closely with the Professional Standards Portfolio in the proposal and background paper for what is now the Parameters of Practice document. Alison led a number of government lobbying initiatives including the Medicare Plus program in 2004, securing speech pathology inclusion, and a pre-election campaign encouraging Branch leaders to contact Ministers in marginal and key seats in preparation for the 2004 federal election. She was a Director on the Board of the Health Professions Council of Australia, the peak body for Allied Health associations. Alison continued significant contribution and enthusiasm in taking on an additional term on Council as Vice President Operations from August 2004 until her retirement from Council in May 2006. As a member of the Council Management Group, she maintained active mentoring of other Councillors, led the redistribution of PWG Portfolio Councillor responsibilities and workloads, and kept Council in check with Policies and Budget reviews. Alison has also contributed at a high level in her own professional work, being involved in the national Allied Health Benchmarking Consortium, the NSW Allied Health Alliance, and a founding member of the NSW Speech Pathology Evidence-Based Practice Network. No longer working as a speech pathologist or in allied health, she maintains her contact and involvement as an Alumnus member of Speech Pathology Australia.



COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION AWARD

This Award is granted to an agency outside of speech pathology which has made a significant and valuable contribution to the profession, its clients and promotion of speech pathology.

In 2007, we are pleased to recognise:

Makaton Australia

Makaton Australia is recognised for its facilitation of the fundamental right of our clients to communicate. Makaton Australia is a non-profit organisation which facilitates the use of key word signing for people who are unable to speak or whose speech is hard to understand. The system and vocabulary are used by parents and by speech pathologists across the country. Makaton Australia is run by volunteers

and has provided a high standard of support and services for over 10 years. The volunteers show significant dedication and determination in giving a voice to people who otherwise would have limited or no communication opportunities, by providing direct training to parents and carers of children with severe communication disorders through workshops, signing practice groups, problem-solving support, counselling, and innovative resources, such as the Auslan Makaton Sign CD-ROM. The impact of Makaton Australia's work is demonstrated by the many early childhood intervention services who use the system to facilitate communication in people with disability and complex communication needs, but also by early childhood educators to enhance and maximise communication comprehension in some typically developing children. Moreover, Makaton Australia provides considerable support and training to hundreds of speech pathologists, as well as speech pathology students, providing encouragement and training in basic sign.



ELINOR WRAY AWARD

The Elinor Wray Award is granted to a speech pathologist who has made an outstanding contribution to the profession of speech pathology. The contributions are clinical or project-oriented and encompass innovations in diagnostic, assessment or treatment procedures, promotion of speech pathology, research and/or student training. For 2007, this Award was presented to:

Trish Robustellini

Trish is recognised for her leadership and tremendous efforts and own time spent in the development of the Speech Pathology Work Value claim for re-classifications of Specified Callings in WA, in her role as the Health Services Union representative for speech pathology. Trish maintained incredible enthusiasm and leadership throughout the two-year long process. She gave many hours to negotiations with the Union. Early in the process, the speech pathology document was upheld as an example claim to other disciplines, many of which followed the lead established by Trish. The compilation of the document involved considerable efforts from a number of clinicians to provide evidence in each of our clinical areas, and was initially assisted by a Speech Pathology Australia Project Officer. Because of the duration of the process, Trish largely completed the document herself to



suit the HSU requirements. The result was a significant improvement in the classification and pay structure for speech pathologists in WA. The Work Value document was ratified by the Council of Speech Pathology Australia and has been translated into a national document, available on the Association website, to provide members nationally with an important foundation from which to prepare their own work value claims. For a number of years prior to Trish's significant leadership in this work, Trish has led an active role in the profession and Association since her graduation in 1990, being directly involved in the WA Branch Executive and completing a number of submissions to government, for speech pathology and across Allied Health, including representation on the WA Taskforce on Workforce Issues, in 2002.

TRANSFERS TO FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship is an esteemed member category for Ordinary Members of Speech Pathology Australia who have considerable experience, responsibility and standing within the profession. It is a public professional honour. Transfer to Fellowship has been awarded to four of our senior members of the profession:

Michelle Lincoln

Michelle is awarded transfer to Fellowship for her outstanding record of service, through her research and teaching pursuits to both the profession and the Association. She has been an active member of the Association for 20 years and is a nationally recognised leader in the fields of speech pathology academia, clinical education and stuttering. Michelle has directly served the Association as an editorial consultant and reviewer for its Journal *'Advances in Speech-Language Pathology'*, a Module Coordinator and Paper reviewer for National Conferences for many years. She was a Scientific Program Committee member in 2006-7 for the Conference in Sydney. Michelle has acted as an Industry Partner to speech pathology in obtaining two Australian Research Council – Linkages Grants which have enabled the progression of the Association's objectives. These have enabled the development of the COMPASS™ tool which allows standardised assessment of students' clinical competencies; and for projects designed to improve retention in the profession in Australia. Michelle has obtained over 20 research grants in her positions at the University of Sydney. Her speciality areas are stuttering, clinical education and health workforce issues, her work being recognised both nationally and internationally through a number of awards and publications. Her success in clinical education is also duly awarded from the Carrick Institute of Higher Education and the University of Sydney. Michelle has provided leadership in innovative



clinical education, including establishing international clinical education partnerships, including the University of Sydney Inter-professional Learning Project and the NSW Consortium of Speech Pathology Programs. She is currently a leader of the profession in implementation of Evidence-Based Practice of clinical education. Michelle is an outstanding mentor to speech pathology students, new graduates and academics, being unfailingly positive and encouraging, allowing people to fulfil their potential and facilitating their development to ensure they do.

Sharynne McLeod

Sharynne is transferred to Fellowship in recognition of her distinguished career within speech pathology, her research contributions, and her considerable leadership and service within Speech Pathology Australia. She has served on numerous Association committees for many years, including the Speech Pathology Australia Journal review task group (1996), the Speech Pathology Australia Research Starter Kit Task Group (2001), co-editor of the Speech Pathology Australia National Conference Proceedings (1999), editor of *'ACquiring Knowledge in Speech Language and Hearing'* (2000-2002), Executive Board member for the Association's Journal *'Advances in Speech-Language Pathology'*, and now editor of that Journal, since 2005. In these roles, and especially the latter, she not only performs the role proficiently, but she continually suggests ways of improving the Association's resources and products. Sharynne is currently employed as Associate Professor in Speech and Language Acquisition in the School of Teacher Education at Charles Sturt University, Bathurst, NSW. She has made considerable contributions to teacher education curricula that increase the knowledge of teachers about children with communication impairments. She has a distinguished professional academic record at a number of Universities, having achieved many research grants and excellence in teaching awards. Sharynne also has esteemed national and international recognition in her clinical area of specialisation in phonological development and speech acquisition. Her contributions in advancing the discipline is further demonstrated by an extensive list of books, journals, conference proceedings, book chapters, invited journal articles, peer reviewed journal articles, non-referred articles, conference presentations (including invited presentations), peer-reviewed papers, coordination of Conference Modules, and software reviews. She has had significant involvement over many years in education of Honors, Masters and Doctoral speech pathology and education students. Sharynne continues to be an excellent advocate for the profession and for the progression of our publications.



Catherine Naismith

Fellowship is granted to Cathy for her loyal and committed service to the profession and to the Association, through active and extensive involvement in Speech Pathology Australia and over 20 years of experience as a clinician, manager, and leader within the public and private health sector in acute, rehabilitation, community and aged care services. Cathy's personal qualities, including her interpersonal skills and corporate citizenship, reflect her good standing as a member of the profession. She engages young professionals in her love of clinical practice and in broader speech pathology pursuits, leading by example, and creating opportunities for others. Coaching and mentoring are also landmarks of Cathy's abilities and she has been a sought-after mentor through the Association's Mentoring program, and she has also sought mentors for herself as she has changed role and positions. Cathy regularly teaches at La Trobe University to fourth year students in professional issues and a range of clinical topics. Cathy's extended and sustained commitment to the Victorian Branch has been pivotal in ensuring an ongoing viable Executive. Cathy received a Speech Pathology Australia Recognition of Service Award in 1999 in recognition of her sustained involvement in the Association, and she has continued to maintain her involvement and enthusiasm since that time. Cathy has been an active member taking on formal roles in a number of special interest groups. She is welcomed as a regular presenter at professional conferences in Speech Pathology, Allied Health, Rehabilitation, and the National Stroke Foundation. She has made substantial contributions in the development of Outcome Measurement, Case-mix Classifications, computerised data collection, and key performance indicators, all further evidence of her leadership and advocacy for the profession in an Allied Health context.



Committees and Planning Days and acted as the Speech Pathology Australia Rural Liaison person for several periods since 1998. She was an active member of the 2001 Melbourne Conference Planning Committee. She has been invited onto many high-level committees in her workplaces, where she demonstrates leadership in policy development and management. Chris has made considerable impact on the profession through her involvement on Council from May 2002 to May 2005 as National Professional Standards Coordinator and as Vice President Communications. Amongst the significant achievements for the Association are leadership in progressing the proposals for the Parameters of Practice project, along with the Practice, Workplace and Government Portfolio Coordinator; implementing positive changes in the procedures for the Portfolio, including initiating the re-scoping of the Association's Position Papers; and provided sustained support to the Senior Advisor Professional Standards in university accreditation processes. Chris negotiated and progressed the Association History project, and was a strong advocate for the implementation of the Senior Advisor Professional Issues position at National Office. Chris has continued her involvement in the Association's activities as an invited non-Fellow member of the Fellowship Committee (with note that she was not aware of, nor involved in her nomination or recommendation for transfer to Fellowship). Chris has demonstrated considerable leadership in her clinical area of adult/aged care acute and rehabilitation health settings, in regional and metropolitan Victoria. She was responsible for one of the first videofluoroscopy facilities in regional Victoria in the early 1990s, a significant advance in dysphagia assessment and therapy planning. Chris has been the founding member of a number of multi-disciplinary teams in Dysphagia Management, and in Brain Trauma Rehabilitation which have led the way to innovative management of clients. She has willingly shared her knowledge and experience as a mentor in the Association's Mentoring Program and was an accomplished and respected educator of students, providing placements for more than 10 years.

Christine Stone

Chris is awarded transfer to Fellowship for her excellent achievements, innovations, leadership and sustained contributions to the Association, most recently in her roles on Council. She is well-recognised and highly respected across Victoria through her clinical practice and management experiences and contributions. Chris operates with an outstanding sense of ethics and is encouraging and motivating for all who work with and for her. Chris has represented Speech Pathology Australia on various rural



The Speech Pathology Association of Australia Limited

2nd floor, 11-19 Bank Place
Melbourne Vic 3000

Phone: 03 9642 4899 Fax: 03 9642 4922

Email: office@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au
Website: www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au

ABN 17 008 393 440