

# INTERNATIONAL GROUP ON TERMINOLOGY FRAMEWORKS – COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

## Terminology Frameworks Project Profile

Draft June 2006

### The International Group on Terminology Frameworks – Communication Sciences and Disorders

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*Vision – The field of communication sciences and disorders has appropriate, accessible and consistently used terms for all public and professional purposes which thus allow greater impact clinically, politically, and academically.*

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The *International Group on Terminology Frameworks – Communication Sciences and Disorders*, known as IGOTF-CSD, is a group of professionals from the field of communication sciences and disorders, representing their professional associations on a voluntary basis. Members have a personal interest in terminology and strive within the IGOTF-CSD initiative to improve the appropriateness, accessibility and consistency of both professional and public terms. IGOTF-CSD aims to improve communication within and between our specialist areas, our professional organisations, in the political and legal arena, and with those we serve through improving the terminology that is used in this field. Terminology adequacy and consistency is the basis of the effective exchange of knowledge and the defence of the rights of people with communication disorders.

### Terminology Frameworks Project

IGOTF-CSD is developing a long-term, collaborative project on terminology. The *Terminology Frameworks Project* aims to improve the appropriateness, accessibility and consistency of both professional and public terms in the field of communication sciences and disorders.

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*Mission – We are committed to promoting a new approach to addressing terminology problems that highlights human needs, knowledge and attitudes.*

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This project will not replicate the considerable work already done on terminology. The *Terminology Frameworks Project* will NOT encompass the development of a list of terms with definitions, an organisational or classification system for existing terms, nor a translation of terms across languages or dialects.

In contrast, the *Terminology Frameworks Project* will investigate the principles and scientific methodologies applicable to terminology. Therefore, the *Terminology Frameworks Project* will be *about* terminology; it will develop shared reference frameworks to allow productive debate and decisions about terms in all their applications.

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*Things don't change, people do – Thoreau*

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Creating a terminology framework across the international community for the field of communication sciences and disorders will lead to improvement in how we share, interpret and apply clinical information; will allow other health professionals to understand the nature and scope of practice of our profession; and will support effective promotion of our role and the needs of our clients to the public, the media, and to government. This will lead to enhanced clinical services, and ultimately to a better service to the public.

**This document is under development and is published for comment and feedback.**

**The latest version of this document can be found at:**

**<http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/Content.aspx?p=176>**



*Members of IGOTF-CSD meeting in San Diego, November 2005.*

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**Values – IGOTF members agree to:**

- *Work together across geographical, cultural and organisational boundaries*
  - *Respect and learn from the past*
  - *Respect the mandates of each association*
  - *Share information*
  - *Aim for transparency in discussions and decision making*
  - *Look beyond the immediate scope of our field for information to improve terminology*
  - *Provide information to our respective association's executives, consult within our associations and inform the wider membership.*
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## Background

A forum on terminology was held in Brisbane in 2004 at the 26th World Congress of the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics. At this forum there were presentations by CASLPA (Canada), RCSLT (UK), AFL (Denmark), CPLOL (Europe), and SPA (Australia), with members from IALP (international body), ASHA (USA), NZSTA (New Zealand) and others in attendance.

There was general agreement that terminology created many problems to the field of communication sciences and disorders. Many potential benefits of improving terminology were identified. These included:

- Improved representation of clients at a service, population and political level
- Improved public profile of the profession
- Increased success of advocacy and lobbying
- Improved communication within the workplace
- Improved communication within the profession
- Improved communication with other professions
- Improved profile of the profession at the university level
- Enhanced research foci and professional advancement

Speech Pathology Australia subsequently invited interested parties to form an international collaboration to improve terminology. The first face-to-face meeting of IGOTF was held on 18 November 2005 in San Diego.

## Types of Terminology Projects/Systems

The *Terminology Frameworks Project* differs from other terminology activities in several important ways. The most significant difference is that the *Terminology Frameworks Project* is a meta-terminology project; it is about the characteristics and attributes of terms rather than about the terms *per se*.

Type of system or project	Definition	Purpose of system
<b>Professional vocabulary and/or nomenclature projects</b>	List of terms and definitions	Used as a reference by professionals; interpreting research, etc
<b>Translation projects</b>	Lists of terms from two or more languages, with definitions	Used to compare terms across languages to establish shared meaning of terms for professional purposes
<b>Clinical terminology systems</b>	System of organising terms with codes (and possibly some relationships)	Used in electronic health records, allows case management; service level data gathering; local trend tracking
<b>Classification/Taxonomy systems</b>	System of organising terms with definitions. The structure of the system indicates the relationships between terms	Used for sorting and aggregating groups of people; population level data gathering; insurance and reimbursement; government funding; professional scope representation
<b>Terminology frameworks projects</b>	Investigates the applications and important attributes of terms	Intended to be used for the critical analysis of terms and as a shared reference point for identifying commonalities and differences

## Approaches to Improving Terminology

While the overall aim of *improving terminology* is easy to agree upon, deciding on the best way to tackle this aim is much more difficult. The history of work on terminology is a great teacher for how future work should be tackled. IGOTF-CSD has collated information in *A History of the Terminology of Communication Sciences and Disorders*. It makes suggestions for future projects on terminology including:

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*While it may seem intuitively appealing or logical to address a terminology problem with more or better terminology, this may not be the case. Bain, 2005*

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- Work to improve consistency in terminology must give due recognition to the dynamic nature of terms within a professional schema
- All stakeholders need to be involved in improving consistency in terminology
- An alternative to the 'expert' dictate model of developing 'standard' terms is needed, as this has been found to have little measurable impact on the way professionals use terms
- Other sources of information about terminology should be accessed.

## IGOTF-CSD Aims

IGOTF-CSD aims:

- To share international perspectives on terminology;
- To work to raise awareness of professionals about the importance of improving appropriateness and consistency;
- To investigate and document the scope of issues/needs in terminology including prioritised areas for work, key factors and important stakeholders;
- To extend knowledge about the important characteristics of terms that enable clear communication;
- To develop frameworks for terminology that articulate the essential attributes of terms for various purposes;
- To support the development of frameworks for terminology which will assist in:
  - Decisions about the best and most accessible terms for public relations;
  - Development of appropriate terms for improved workplace communication;
  - The integration of terms from communication sciences and disorders within cross-discipline systems of clinical terminologies and classifications;
  - The crafting of scope of practice statements by the profession which are more accessible to others;
  - Improved intra-professional communication, by allowing clearer debates on diagnostic criteria, effective intervention, etc.;
  - Effective prevalence research by overcoming the current dilemma of inconsistent and variable terms used in such work
  - The development of structurally-sound taxonomies of communication disorders.

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*A term refers to words with a specific meaning in a specific context.*

*Terminology is the broader concept referring to the whole area: from classifications to nomenclatures, language labels to concepts*

*Chute, 2000*

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There is no intention to standardise terms *per se*; instead the framework will be a reference point for all stakeholders internationally regardless of the individual country's geographic location, culture and language.

## Goals (for further consideration)

The goals and staged plan represent a broad agenda for the coming decade in relation to terminology. The goals listed may or may not be within the capacity of IGOTF-CSD due to its limited resources at this stage. It is possible that others may contribute to this project over time. This plan does not present details of strategies and specific actions. Within the scope of the plan it is possible that individual members of IGOTF-CSD, and other individuals outside this group, will select different priorities at various stages.

Goal 1: A high level of professional awareness of the value of appropriate and consistently-used terminology

### Notes/ideas

How to measure change in this?

List of associations and groups to consult with once there is a draft of a framework

Information on our websites and in newsletters about activities

Publication of information about the impacts of inconsistent terminology

Publication of historical review of terminology in the field

Scoping document of the issues in terminology that identifies specific problems, key factors and important stakeholders

Recognition for attention to good communication within the profession

Promotion of our activities at conferences

Goal 2: Identification and facilitation of project opportunities in a range of areas of terminology, including broad cross discipline terminology systems

### Notes/ideas

Review previous activities and literature on terminology across the profession

Collection and sharing of information on broad cross- discipline terminology projects and systems in respective countries

Promotion of opportunities to engage with terminology projects relevant to the field

Work to establish recognition of terminology as a specialty area of research and development

Collection and publication of information on other disciplines' perspectives on terminology

Goal 3: A sustainable and effective international collaboration of associations focusing on the terminology of the field of communication sciences and disorders.

### Notes/ideas

Formal processes to document the involvement of associations

Plan review processes and discuss nature of ongoing engagement

Signatory associations consider Terminology Frameworks Project within priorities for resource allocation.

Promotion of activities at conferences

Goal 4: A validated practical framework for terminology in communication sciences and disorders that articulates the important attributes of terms and their definitions

### Notes/ideas

Review previous activities and literature on terminology across the profession to identify important factors for future directions and to take advantage of existing resources.

Determine individual and collective priorities within domains of public, profession-specific, workplace and scope of practice terminology.

Determine areas of greatest concern relating to lack of cohesive understanding related to terminology

Develop framework of purposes for terminology with parameters and attributes explained and explored.

## Staged Plan

*Need to discuss how to approach this section first*

### Gantt chart



## Significant dates 06-07

*Need to make plans for where to be by when; even though may need to adjust over time; no definite details considered yet*

CPLOL, September 2006

ASHA, November 2006

IALP 5-9 August, 2007

Other conferences & years: ASHA, CASLPA, CPLOL, SPAA, RCSLT, IASLT, NZSTA

## Members of IGOTF-CSD, 2006

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*We ... act as though we are  
required to bring about the  
triumph of reason, when all  
that is required is that we  
struggle on its behalf*

*– Pascal*

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<b>Association</b>	<b>Representative</b>
Canadian Assn of Speech-Language Pathologists & Audiologists (CASLPA)	Sharon Fotheringham
Irish Association of Speech and Language Therapists (IASLT)	Irene Walsh
Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT)	Pam Enderby
Comité Permanent de Liaison des Orthophonistes/Logopèdes Europe (CPLOL)	Aileen Patterson
Audiologopaedisk Forening (AFL) & CPLOL	Bent Kjaer
International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics (IALP)	Mara Behlau
American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA)	Lemmieta McNeilly Ray Kent
New Zealand Speech Language Therapy Association (NZSLTA)	Tika Ormond Michael Robb
Philippine Association of Speech Pathologists (PASP)	Johncy Rose Concepcion
Società Italiana di Foniatria e Logopedia (SIFEL)	Antonio Schindler
Speech Pathology Association of Australia (SPAA)	Trish Bradd Regina Walsh

## Title of the profession in selected countries

Austria	Diplomierter/e Logopäde/in
Australia	Speech pathologist
Belgium	Logopède/Logopedist
Brazil	Fonoaudiologia
Canada	Speech-language pathologist; Audiologist
Cyprus	Logopathologos/ Logotherapeftis
Czech Republic	Logoped
Denmark	Talepædagog / Logopæd / Audiologopæd
Estonia	Logopeed
Finland	Puheterapeutti
France	Orthophoniste
Germany	Logopäde/in
Greece	Logopedikos/ Logopathologos / Logotherapeftis
Ireland	Speech and language therapist
Italy	Logopedista (also Phoniaticians as medical specialty)
Luxembourg	Orthophoniste
New Zealand	Speech and language therapist
Netherlands	Logopedist
Philippines	Speech pathologist
Portugal	Terapeuta da fala
Slovenia	Profesor defektolog za osebe z motnjami sluha in govora
Spain	Logopeda
Sweden	Logoped
United Kingdom	Speech and language therapist
United States of America	Speech-language pathologist; Audiologist
Predominately Europe	Phoniatician (as medical specialty)