

Fellowship Profile

Our Fellowship Committee is pleased to introduce Suze Leitão one of our esteemed members who has been awarded Fellow of the Association.



Suze Leitão

How long have you been a speech pathologist?

Over 20 years since I qualified in the UK – and at our 20 year reunion, the majority of the 18 of my year who graduated were still working in the field.

What is your area of speciality and expertise in the field of speech pathology?

Language and literacy difficulties, and specific language impairment.

Describe one major contribution you have made to the speech pathology profession.

That's a hard one – I hope that I have contributed in a number of small ways – through professional development events, teaching and research.

What special tasks or activities have you been involved in for the Association or supported by the Association?

Some of them include: chairing the Speech Pathology Australia report for the National Inquiry into the Teaching of Literacy; working on the Education Board which became Re-entry; member of the Ethics board; being a part of the early stages of CBOS; and I was lucky enough to be awarded the Association's clinician grant for research in 2001.

Sum up what you have learned or gained from being an active member of Speech Pathology Australia.

I first became involved when I arrived in Australia as a way to get to know the profession in WA and Australia. It's hard to list what I have learned as there is so much! Key aspects would include: a greater understanding of how the profession works and the challenges we face; seeing the bigger picture; networking across the states; understanding the scope of practice of the profession and how we fit into the international picture; applying our code of ethics to my practice.

What does it mean to you personally and in terms of your career to be a Fellow Member of Speech Pathology Australia?

It's an honour to be recognised for doing what I really consider to be a responsibility of any professional.

Jacinta Evans / National VPC Coordinator