

## Jacinta Evans

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Communications

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## A Word with Dr Linda Worrall - Fellowship Recipient



### 1. For how long have you been a speech pathologist?

Our class should be celebrating its 30th year post graduation this year, so it has been 30 years since I gleefully discarded the brown and white uniform of a speech pathology student at UQ.

### 2. What is your area of specialty and expertise in the field of speech pathology?

Aphasia continues to be my passion, but I have gathered a few other areas of expertise along the way. I have specialised in ageing and even had a brief fling in voice and clinical education but it's aphasia that holds all my attention now. I have used the ICF since I started my PhD in Nottingham in 1984 and it allows me to work broadly across several communication disabilities.

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

The founding of the Australian Aphasia Association ([www.aphasia.org.au](http://www.aphasia.org.au)) has been my pride and joy. A strong consumer voice in aphasia will keep us on our toes as a profession.

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

I became the Queensland Council member after I returned from completing my PhD in the UK in 1987. My time on Council was a great way to get to know how speech pathology worked in Australia and I made some friends that I still have a strong relationship with today. I have also been involved in the Fellowship Committee, the Research and Scientific Affairs Committee and have been involved in the evolution of CBOS from its inception to its use in accreditation of university programs.

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

The relationships that I have developed over the years have been core to my professional development and have provided me with opportunities that I never thought were possible. It has also allowed me to influence the direction of the profession and in turn be influenced by it. I would never consider not being an active member of Speech Pathology Australia.

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

I was personally chuffed to receive the award in 1995 and it has prominence on my office wall and CV.

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