

The Association was very privileged to have Associate Professor Leanne Togher as the 2011 National Tour speaker in Speech Pathology Australia's CPD program. Leanne is a speech pathologist who has worked in the area of communication disorders following brain injury for over 20 years. Leanne is a Senior Research Fellow of the National Health and Medical Research Council and a Principal Research Fellow of the University of Sydney.

Leanne's work has led to a new focus on the importance of providing communicative opportunities for people with brain injury, particularly, by training people with brain injury and their communication partners. Leanne is involved in two evidence based practice initiatives. Leanne is a founding committee member of the multidisciplinary PsycBITE (Psychological database for Brain Impairment Treatment Efficacy) database which systematically evaluates the available evidence for psychological interventions for people with acquired brain injuries from age 5 onwards ([www.psycbite.com](http://www.psycbite.com)). Leanne also leads the speechBITE (Speech Pathology database for Best Interventions and Treatment Efficacy) team, based at The University of Sydney, which documents treatment evidence for the Speech Pathology profession and is also freely available via the website: [www.speechbite.com](http://www.speechbite.com).

Leanne is a chief investigator on the Clinical Centre of Research Excellence in Aphasia Rehabilitation; a 5 year NHMRC funded initiative (\$2.5 million), which aims to map the Australian Aphasia Rehabilitation Pathway. Leanne is also a consortium member of AphasiaBank ([www.talkbank.org/AphasiaBank](http://www.talkbank.org/AphasiaBank)), a group of international researchers interested in the assessment of communication disorders, led by Professor Brian MacWhinney, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA and Professor Audrey Holland. A recent 5 year NHMRC grant to examine longitudinal communication recovery after TBI will enable Leanne to contribute to the newly formed TBI Bank.

Leanne has published over 50 journal articles in international peer reviewed journals, 11 book chapters, 7 training manuals and co-edited a book about communication disorders following TBI. She now supervises Masters and PhD students and has been awarded over \$6 million in research funding to date.

Leanne is a member of Speech Pathology Australia, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), and is President Elect of the Australian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment (ASSBI). Leanne is on the Editorial Boards of International Journal of Speech-Language Pathology, Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine, Aphasiology, Brain Impairment and Brain Injury.

We were very fortunate and privileged to have Leanne as the 2011 National Tour speaker presenting workshops on Aphasia and on TBI. The National Tour incorporated two one-day workshops and was well attended with a total of over 250 people attending the workshops held nationally. Feedback from the National Tour workshops was very positive, with comments listed below.

### From participants at the "Novel approaches to the assessment and treatment of communication problems following traumatic brain injury (TBI)" workshop:

- *So impressed by willingness to freely share knowledge with clinicians. So very, very helpful.*
- *Has filled gaps in my knowledge - thanks!*
- *Very generous presenter with lots of useful resources.*
- *Leanne was an excellent presenter who was able to easily share her skills and knowledge. Thank you!*
- *Really great presentation! Loved all the helpful hints to help inform clinical practice!*
- *Fantastic event. I really appreciate the passion of the presenter on the topic.*
- *It was a great presentation that helped probe my thinking in this area.*
- *An excellent speaker - expert in her field - quality!*

### And from the "Recent advances in aphasia rehabilitation" workshop:

- *Great practical resources to use in clinic. Really nice links between research and clinical practice.*
- *Brilliant - thanks!*
- *Very inspiring. Liked the mix of info and practical content. Nice to be interactive with others and presenter.*
- *Very helpful to learn of resources and references to follow up. Thanks Leanne!!!*
- *Fantastic EBP (critically appraising research papers section).*
- *Thank you Leanne. Excellent speaker - well researched; generous in resources cited and offered.*
- *Practical - ideas will be used in therapy.*
- *Very motivating and inspiring - keen to follow up ideas with clients and to check out the websites.*
- *I would recommend to colleagues.*
- *Great presentation! Engaging and good mix of theory and practice. Thanks Leanne!*
- *Enjoyed the focus on practical application of research. Thanks.*
- *Very relevant to the clinician. Great summary of current trends in aphasia rehab.*
- *Great workshop that made info so accessible and applicable.*
- *Very informative and stimulating day. Thank you.*



Assoc Prof Leanne Togher



Associate Professor Leanne Togher and  
Christine Sheard (NSW CPD Leader)  
at the final National Tour Workshop  
Sydney - November 2011

To Associate Professor Leanne Togher - on behalf of all in the CPD portfolio and all who attended the National Tour workshops, please accept our thanks for providing such outstanding workshops that benefitted all speech pathologists fortunate enough to be at your workshops.