



### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The Board members are:

#### Speech pathologists

Meredith Kilminster (Chairperson)  
Elizabeth Ward (Deputy Chairperson)  
Lynette Hodgson  
Julie Marinac  
Sandra McMahon  
Alison Smith

#### Public members

Valerie Cocksedge (public member)  
Max Howard (public member)

The current term of office for Board members is 12 July 2004 to 11 July 2008.

### ENHANCING CLINICAL PRACTICE GRANTS

The Board is committed to regulating and maintaining high standards of practice in speech pathology. To this end, the Board has an ongoing commitment to enhancing the practice of Queensland registrants through an annual grant program. The aim of the program, which commenced in 2006, is to encourage and support speech pathologists to continue to advance the high standard of speech pathology practice in Queensland.

The program is designed to assist speech pathologists to contribute to the advancement of their profession at an individual or wider workforce level. The grants enable registered speech pathologists working in Queensland to conduct research, purchase new equipment or undertake advanced training that will clearly advance the practice of speech pathology in our state.

The program is flexible and may be used to cover a variety of professional development areas. For example, the grant funds may be used to:

- conduct a small research project;
- conduct quality improvement or workplace auditing;
- participate in advanced training opportunities (for example, attend specific programs such as *The Hanen Programme*;
- undertake specialist workshadow opportunities;
- benchmark Queensland practice (funding provided for travel to interstate centres);
- attend professional conferences;
- purchase equipment which will enhance clinical practice; or
- any other valid professional development activity.

Examples of prior successful grant funding can be found on the Board's website at [www.speechpathboard.qld.gov.au](http://www.speechpathboard.qld.gov.au).

Grants of between \$500 and \$3,000 are considered for projects that can be completed within a one year timeframe. It is expected the amount awarded for each grant will be sufficient to fully finance a proposed project or professional development opportunity that will enhance the practice of speech pathology.

Applications close Monday 30th July 2007. Guidelines and the application form are available on the website.

### ENHANCING PRACTICE GRANTS 2007

In 2006, the Board commenced a new initiative to provide annual grant funding intended to contribute to the advancement of the speech pathology profession at an individual or professional level within Queensland.

This funding was designed to enable registered speech pathologists to conduct research, purchase new equipment or undertake advanced training that would clearly advance the practice of speech pathology.

In 2006, the Board received a total of 17 applications. These applications underwent independent evaluation by members of the grant sub-committee, to produce a short list of applications which were considered and decided on by the whole Board.

In 2007, the Board supported five (5) of the 17 applications. The Board extends their congratulations to these applicants:

Applicant	Purpose	Grant request
Michelle Kelman SLP Ed Qld	Establishing network links, and benchmark practices surrounding literacy and language assessment for young people with complex issues leading to disengagement from mainstream schooling (particular focus indigenous students)	\$3000
Gayle Hemsley SLP Ed Qld	Research project: "Does oral language support in a child's first language facilitate language development in English?"	\$3,000
Melinda Bow Private Prac, (5 practitioners) Townsville	Purchase of Sona-Speech II with clear process identified for disseminating benefits of equipment to wider speech pathology services in region	\$2,500
Jennifer Lindsay Ed Qld - Longreach	Attend SPA conference in Sydney 2007 to support rural practice	\$1,800
Kylie Magee Ed Qld	Attend PROMPT workshop and disseminate training to workplace	\$1,500

All applicants must provide reports to the Board regarding their project by the end of 2007. Information relating to the outcomes of these projects will be available for all registrants at the beginning of 2008 via the Board website at [www.speechpathboard.qld.gov.au](http://www.speechpathboard.qld.gov.au).

The Board looks forward to the applications for grant funding in 2008. Closing date for submissions will be Monday 30th July 2007. Grants information and the application form can be accessed via the Board website.

## ALLIED HEALTH ASSISTANTS

All registrants should be aware of packages in development to train allied health assistants, particularly the modules relating specifically to speech pathology. These training packages are to be offered at Southbank Institute of TAFE and Sunshine Coast Institute of TAFE. The course is *HLT31702 Certificate III in Health Service Assistance (Allied Health Assistance)*.

Speech Pathology Australia has been actively involved in providing feedback on draft versions of these training packages and the following statement from Speech Pathology Australia released in the 2006 November *Speak-Out* is re-printed here for your information.

In particular, members should take note of the scope of practice of speech pathology assistants as outlined in the final sections of this statement. Although delivery of such training has only just begun, in the future, members need to be aware of what speech pathology assistants can and cannot do within their scope of practice. Any deviation from this, or any assumption of the roles that Speech Pathology Australia state are exclusively those of a speech pathologist, will need to be identified immediately to the Board.

### Health training package – HLT06

*Speech Pathology Australia recently contributed to an initiative by the Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council (CSHISC) aimed at identifying and developing specific knowledge, skills and competencies for Vocational Education and Training (VET) students wishing to qualify as assistant health workers.*

*The HTLO2 Health Training Package had been established in 2002 and integrated standards across 66 qualifications, including the allied health professions. The HLT06 was to replace the previous HTLO2 Health Training Package.*

*Speech Pathology Australia provided representation at forums regarding the HTLO2, and attended state-based focus groups run throughout February and April, 2006 to provide feedback regarding Draft 2 of the HLT06. Feedback from these focus groups was incorporated into Speech Pathology Australia's formal submission to the CSHISC in April, 2006. Changes to the training package were made in line with recommendations made by the Association. Draft 3 was released in July and Speech Pathology Australia once again provided feedback.*

*Speech Pathology Australia addressed three modules under Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance that were relevant specifically to speech pathology:*

- *HLTAH410A - Support the development of speech and communication skills*
- *HLTAH411A - Provide support in dysphagia management*
- *HLTAH412A - Assist and support the use of total communication systems*

*The essential issues identified by the Association related to scope of practice, the nature and complexity of knowledge and skills required, and the importance of ensuring all assessment, treatment and indeed overall management of clients remains ultimately the responsibility of speech pathologists.*

*The inherent value of adequately trained health assistants to assist in the provision of timely and appropriate speech pathology services in some clinical settings was acknowledged by the Association. However, Speech Pathology Australia recommended the following remain the exclusive responsibility of a speech pathologist:*

- *informing clients and families about the level, frequency, and duration of services;*
- *representing the speech pathology team in all collaborative, inter-professional, interagency meetings, correspondence and reports (this would not preclude the support worker from attending meetings along with the speech pathologist as a team member, or drafting correspondence and reports for editing, approval and signature by the speech pathologist);*
- *making all clinical decisions, including determining client selection for inclusion/ exclusion in case load, and discharging clients from treatment;*
- *communicating with clients, family members and carers about diagnosis, prognosis and treatment plan, unless it is done so by a support worker with explicit instructions from the speech pathologist;*
- *conducting diagnostic evaluations, assessments, or appraisals, and interpret obtained data in reports;*
- *preparing an individualised treatment plan and make modifications prior to or during implementation; and*
- *signing all formal reports.*

*The Association recommended that health assistants should not:*

- *perform definitive assessment procedures;*
- *change any treatment;*
- *independently alter a plan of care or goals;*
- *independently draft reports; or*
- *discharge clients from treatment.*

*This role delineation is consistent with the draft Parameters of Practice document, to be released soon.*

*The Health Training package has recently been submitted for final endorsement, with plans for full endorsement by December 2006. Speech Pathology Australia will continue to closely monitor developments of the Health Training Package HLT06. Members interested in finding out more about the HTLO6 Health Training Package are referred to the CSHISC website: [www.cshisc.com.au](http://www.cshisc.com.au)*

*\* "Health Training Package – HLT06" The Speech Pathology Association of Australia Limited as printed in *Speak Out* November 2006. Reprinted with permission.*



## SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS UNDERTAKING CLINICAL PLACEMENTS THROUGHOUT QUEENSLAND

In 2006, the Board decided to allocate funding to support speech pathology students undertaking block clinical placements in Queensland in areas distant from their university.

An amount of \$15,000 was set aside for the first year with funding allocated to universities in Queensland where speech pathology students were undertaking block clinical placements. At present, bursaries have been allocated to students at The University of Queensland only but, as soon as students at James Cook University begin similar placements, funding will be assigned to both universities on a pro rata basis.

To date, 21 students (both undergraduate and graduate entry masters students) from the Division of Speech Pathology at The University of Queensland have received bursaries under this scheme. Individual funding has ranged from \$150 to approximately \$1000. For The University of Queensland students, student bursaries have been used to support travel and/or accommodation costs directly related to students taking up a rural clinical placement.

"The bursaries have enabled extension of the rural clinical placement program and have provided tangible support to students in taking up rural placements in Queensland. The bursaries funded by the Board are certainly appreciated," reported Dr Bronwyn Davidson, clinical education program coordinator at The University of Queensland.

Each recipient was asked to provide the Board with a short report on completion of the six week clinical placement. Feedback from those reports, and from registrants of the Board, suggested the scheme had great value and warranted continuation on an annual basis.

Areas in which funding impacted include:

- additional placements offered when clinicians were aware accommodation could be funded;
- additional acceptance of placements when student received assistance with travel and/or accommodation costs; and
- additional workplace experiences when students' additional travel costs were funded (such as travel to Palm Island as part of a mainland placement).

The Board hopes to continue this scheme as the bursaries provide an opportunity to extend the exposure of students to rural placements and their range of clinical learning experiences. In turn, this supports a flow-on effect where students who have undertaken rural clinical block placements are more likely to apply for positions in those areas on graduation.

Further details regarding the Rural Clinical Block Placement Bursary Scheme can be sought from Dr. Julie Marinac, Treasurer of the Speech Pathologists Board of Queensland. Board contact details are provided later in this newsletter.

## REGENCY OF PRACTICE

The introduction in April 2008 of recency of practice requirements of Queensland's 38,000 registered health practitioners is on schedule following a second round of consultation on the issue.

The consultation process has been staged deliberately over some years to allow practitioners in the regulated health professions an opportunity to identify and undertake appropriate continuing professional education.

For the same reason, **the requirement will not be introduced before next year's annual registration renewal period for general registrants, from 30 April to 30 June 2008.** This will provide a further 14 months for practitioners to undertake appropriate education to meet requirements.

The Boards are seeking to introduce a requirement that every practitioner who applies for registration or to renew registration must, at the time of application, be able to show that they have practised their profession - while registered - within the last five years.

Practitioners who cannot meet this requirement will be required to remedy this by undertaking activity such as an examination, a return to practice course, continuing professional development and/or accepting conditions on practice before registration will be granted.

By introducing recency of practice requirements, each Board is acting to fulfill its duty under its respective registration Act - to ensure safe and competent practice by registrants and to maintain the public's confidence in the profession.

In February 2005, Queensland's 13 health practitioner registration Boards released a discussion paper on the issue of recency of practice for feedback to help develop a draft policy.

Feedback on the discussion paper was collated and distributed, with the draft policy, for consultation from November 2006 to end January 2007.

The Boards will now review information provided by members of the 18 regulated health professions, professional associations and the community. This second round of feedback will inform the final recency of practice policy which will be referred to Queensland Health to develop into a Regulation.

Information on recency of practice can be viewed at individual Board websites by choosing the relevant Board at [www.healthregboards.qld.gov.au](http://www.healthregboards.qld.gov.au).

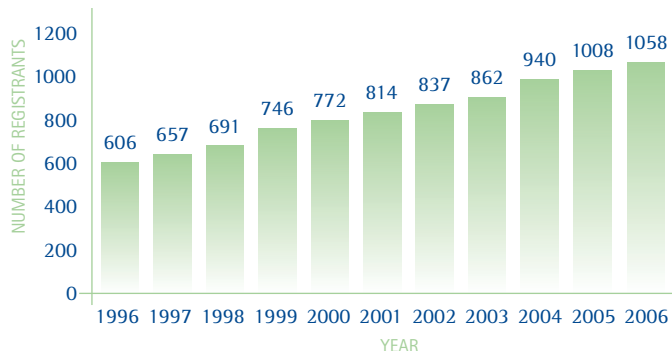
**\*\*Note:** There are 18 health professions regulated in Queensland by 13 registration Boards. They are chiropractors, dental (comprising dentists, dental auxiliaries and dental specialists), dental technicians, dental prosthetists (regulated by the Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists Board), medical, medical radiation technology (comprising medical imaging technology, nuclear medicine technology and radiation therapy), occupational therapists, optometrists, osteopaths, pharmacists, physiotherapists, podiatrists, psychologists and speech pathologists.

## NUMBER OF REGISTERED REGISTRANTS

At 30 June 2006, the register of speech pathologists which the Board maintains contained 1,058 names - a net increase of 50 (approximately 5%) over 30 June 2005. The 1,058 registrants comprised 1,053 general registrants and 5 provisional general registrants.

The following bar chart illustrates the growth since 1996 in the number of registered speech pathologists at 30 June each year.





During 2005-06, 141 new registrations were processed by the Board. These comprised 104 new registrants and 37 former registrants who were restored to the Register.

An analysis of the registration database as at 30 June 2006 provides the following information.

### Gender

2% of registrants were male and 98% of registrants were female.

### Age groupings

Age grouping	% of registrants
Under 25 years	8%
25 – 34 years	45%
35 – 44 years	21%
45 – 54 years	19%
55 years and over	7%
Total	100%

### Geographical distribution

- 79% of registrants gave their addresses on the Register as within south east Queensland (postcodes 4000 to 4399 and 4500 to 4581), comprising 52% within Brisbane and 27% elsewhere in south east Queensland;
- 17% of registrants had Queensland addresses outside south east Queensland; and
- 4% of registrants had addresses outside Queensland.

The geographical statistics are based on an analysis of postcode addresses of the registrants as shown on the Register. In some cases, the Register address differs from the practice address of a registrant. Registrants with addresses outside Queensland have chosen to retain Queensland registration even though, in most cases, they do not practise their profession in Queensland currently.

## RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION

The application for renewal of registration forms are distributed to registrants in late April. These forms must be completed and **RECEIVED BY THE OFFICE BY 30 JUNE 2007**. Failure to renew by 30 June results in:

- a registrant having to apply for restoration to the register;
- restoration to the register incurs an additional fee; and
- the registrant has a “gap” in their registration from 30 June until the date of restoration.

**REMINDER: Registrants must complete the mandatory disclosure on the renewal of registration form stating whether they suffer from any ongoing medical condition, of which they are aware, or know or ought reasonably to know adversely affects their ability to competently and safely practise the profession. If such a condition is notified to the Board, registration is renewed, but the Board may deal with the matter under Part 7 of the *Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Act 1999* which relates to the management of impaired registrants.**

The renewal form will be available on the Board’s website [www.speechpathboard.qld.gov.au](http://www.speechpathboard.qld.gov.au) at the beginning of May each year.

## OFFICE CONTACTS

The Office is located at:  
Level 19, 'Forestry House'  
160 Mary Street  
Brisbane  
GPO Box 2438  
BRISBANE Q 4001

Registration Services Program 07 3225 2517

Board Support and Advisory Program 07 3247 4866

Facsimile 07 3225 2527

Email [speechpathology@healthregboards.qld.gov.au](mailto:speechpathology@healthregboards.qld.gov.au)

