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Speech Pathologists Board of Qld awards 2008 clinical practice grants

The Speech Pathologists Board of Queensland has awarded 2008 funding to three projects under its *Enhancing clinical practice* program.

Board Chair Meredith Kilminster said the program, which commenced in 2006, was designed to help speech pathologists contribute to advancing 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 local practice of speech pathology," Ms Kilminster said.

"The Board is totally funded by fees from Queensland's 1,200 registered speech pathologists so it is satisfying to invest in initiatives that will benefit both the profession of speech pathology and the Queensland community using this health service."

In August 2008, the Board called for applications for annual funding of between \$500 and \$3,000 for activities with the potential to contribute significantly to the practice of speech pathology.

"The programme is flexible and may be used to cover a variety of professional development areas such as conducting a small research project or quality improvement or workplace auditing; participating in advanced training opportunities; attending conferences; and purchasing equipment," Ms Kilminster said.

"The Board is gratified that the projects proposed by 2008 grants recipients arise from the life-changing work that speech pathologists perform in the fields of autism, feeding difficulties and rehabilitation."

Past recipients of Board grants were the Glenleighden School, Fig Tree Pocket in Brisbane to purchase Earobics, a program of training, software and teacher/student guides to help children with literacy difficulties; Disability Services Maroochydore to develop outcome measures for speech language pathologists working in the Child Safety Behaviour Support Teams; and a speech pathologist whose attendance at the Speech Pathology Australia national conference supported her return to the profession to practice in a remote speech pathology clinic in Longreach, western Queensland.

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Speech Pathologists Board of Qld awards 2008 clinical practice grants (2)

The successful recipients of the 2008 round of Speech Pathologists Board of Queensland grants are:

- \$3,000 for the project *Current speech pathology practice for children with autism spectrum disorders in Queensland* awarded to Gail Woodyatt of the Division of Speech Pathology, University of Queensland;
- \$2,600 for the project *Development of an evidence based practice program for working with children with sensory feeding difficulties* awarded to Debra Ann Bramhall of Queensland Health; and
- \$3,000 for the project *Personal environment enhancing rehabilitation program quality improvement* awarded to Paula Addis of Princess Alexandra Hospital.

"The Speech Pathologists Board of Queensland congratulates all recipients of the 2008 round of the research grants program and looks forward to reviewing the project reports at the end of 2009," Ms Kilminster said.

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