



Centre of Research  
Excellence in Aphasia  
Recovery and Rehabilitation.



NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in  
**Aphasia Recovery & Rehabilitation**  
Annual Report 2022



Australian Government  
National Health and Medical Research Council





# Centre of Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation

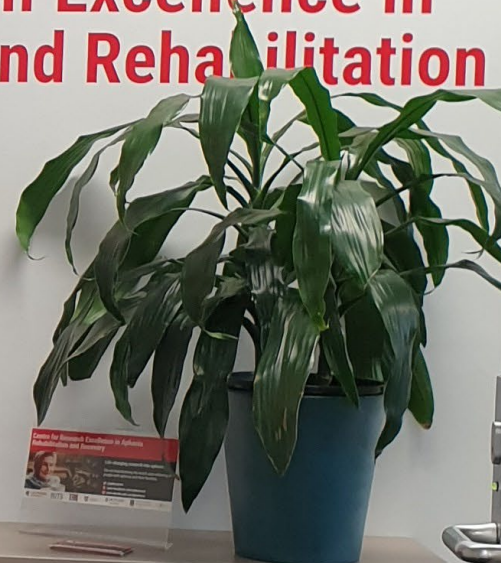


**Life-changing research into aphasia**  
We are transforming the health and wellbeing  
of people with aphasia and their families.

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# Centre of Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation



*"This research centre will allow us to conduct targeted and innovative research that will transform aphasia practice in Australia."*

Professor Miranda Rose  
Director, Aphasia CRE

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## Director's Executive Summary



**Professor Miranda Rose,  
Director, Aphasia CRE,  
La Trobe University.**



**Imagine waking one morning to find you can't communicate. You can't express your needs, your feelings or your thoughts but your intelligence remains.**

This is the daily reality for over 140,000 Australians living with aphasia, a language-based communication disability following stroke and other brain injuries. Our research aims to reduce the language impairment through enhanced recovery and rehabilitation strategies, reduce the communication disability through tailored long-term self-management programs, and improve the communicative accessibility of the environments that people with aphasia interact within. Our research ultimately aims to improve quality of life for people with aphasia by reducing the negative impacts of aphasia on communication, mood, identity, relationships, employment, and social participation. It's an ambitious target but one we are all committed to in the Aphasia CRE.

After the two very tough years of living with the COVID pandemic, for many 2022 was a year that offered hope for reconnection, freedom, and flow. In the Aphasia CRE, we staggered back to work in our offices and once again began to meet people with aphasia and their families, and our clinical partners face-to-face. This was such a huge relief. We also recommenced many research projects that had been forced to pause due to the COVID restrictions. I was so grateful to our staff, students, and research partners who despite these frequent interruptions and barriers to progress, kept positive attitudes and pressed forward with great perseverance. Because of the commitment and strength of these individuals and teams, the Aphasia CRE once again has made enormous progress on our goals to reduce the disability associated with aphasia and to improve the quality of life for people living with aphasia.

Our annual report showcases the achievement of our team. Of particular note the Aphasia CRE was named in The Australian's 2022 Annual Research Awards as one of the top 5 research institutions in the area of Disability and Rehabilitation.

This national metrics-based award highlights the high calibre of the work done in the Centre.

We were proud to host the Aphasia CRE Student Showcase and the 2022 Australasian Symposium of Australia at La Trobe University in November. These events brought together over 200 people living with aphasia, health professionals, students, and researchers focused on improving the lives of people living with aphasia. The networking, exchange of ideas, and community building at these events was so strong and reflected the collaboratively developed vision we hold for a better future for people living with aphasia.

Thank you to our staff, partners, students, and affiliates for all you do and have achieved. Thank you to our community of practice members who engage with us to advise on research directions and to implement our research findings. We hope you enjoy this annual report and look forward to your feedback and engagement.

Sincerely

Professor Miranda Rose



## Governance Update

### Centre of Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation

Management  
Committee

Executive  
Committee

Research Partners  
Advisory Group

### Management Committee 2022

The Aphasia CRE is managed by a Management Committee comprising the 20 Chief and Associate Investigators and our Postdoctoral Research Fellows. It is chaired by the Centre Director.

#### Membership –

- **Chief Investigators** - Professor Miranda Rose (Chairperson & Centre Director), Professor David Copland, Professor Leanne Togher, Professor Ian Kneebone, Professor Julie Bernhardt, Professor Richard Lindley, Professor Leanne Carey, Professor Leonid Churilov, Associate Professor Erin Godecke
- **Associate Investigators** - Professor Emeritus Linda Worrall, Professor Sandy Middleton, Professor Lyndsey Nickels, Professor Dominique Cadilhac, Professor Julius Fridriksson, Associate Professor Emma Power, Professor Cathy Price, Associate Professor Robyn O'Halloran, Prof Natasha Lannin, Kelvin Hill
- **Post Doctoral Research Fellows** - Dr Sonia Brownsett, Dr Marcella Carragher, Dr John Pierce, Dr Ciara Shiggins
- **Centre Manager** - Kelly Maskell (Secretariat)

## Executive Committee 2022

The Executive Committee comprises the five Research Program leads, the Centre Director, the Aphasia Hub Lead, a senior postdoctoral research fellow and the Centre Manager. The Executive Committee monitors and executes the Centre strategic operations and reports to the Management Committee.

**Members** – (Pictured L-R) Professor Miranda Rose (Chairperson), Professor David Copland, Professor Leanne Togher, Professor Ian Kneebone, Associate Professor Erin Godecke, Associate Professor Robyn O’Halloran, Dr Sonia Brownsett & Kelly Maskell (Secretariat)



## Research Partners Advisory Group 2022

The Research Partners Advisory Group provides advice about the involvement of people with aphasia and their supporters, research strategy, and operations. It comprises individuals living with aphasia and family members, the Centre Director, and the Aphasia Inclusion Hub postdoctoral research fellow.

- **Research Partner Members** – Konrad Ermert, Mimi Ermert, Stephanie Ho, Robert Nicholls, Archana Sinh, Gopal Sinh, Tim Adam, Julie Adam, Kim Beesley and Emma Beesley.
- **Aphasia CRE Members** – Professor Miranda Rose (Chairperson & Director) and Kelly Maskell (Secretariat)



Konrad Ermert

Mimi Ermert

Stephanie Ho

Robert Nicholls

Archana & Gopal Sinh



Tim Adam

Julie Adam

Kim and Emma Beesley

Kelly Maskell

Prof. Miranda Rose



## Aphasia CRE Statistics 2022



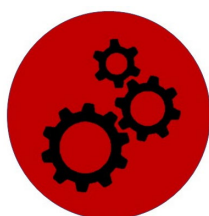
79  
Publications



\$18,230,691  
Funding/Grants



38 Higher Degree  
Research Students



112  
Projects



59 Keynotes &  
Presentations



34 Seminars, Webinars &  
Workshops



1230 Community of  
Practice Members



Visitors from 90  
countries accessed  
website resources



4,000+ Social Media  
Followers

# Program 1: Neurobiological and Psychosocial Predictors of Recovery



“Working towards more reliably predicting recovery of language after damage to the brain.”



**Program Lead** - Professor David Copland

**Postdoctoral Fellow** – Dr Sonia Brownsett

**Investigators** - Professor Leeanne Carey, Professor Dominique Cadilhac, Professor Leonid Churliov, Professor Julius Fridriksson, Professor Cathy Price, Professor Lyndsey Nickels, Associate Professor Erin Godecke, Associate Professor Robyn O'Halloran

**Affiliates** - Professor Katie MacMahon, Associate Professor Anne Whitworth, Dr Sarah Wallace, Dr Kristine Shrubsole, Dr Brooke Ryan, Dr Emily Brogan, Dr Monique Kilkenny, Dr Marie McSween, Dr Aleksii Sihvonen.

**Students** - Kim Garden, Veronika Vadinova, Aoife Reardon, Emma Ward, Sally Zingelman, Marisa Stone

## Program 1 Overview

Over the last year Program 1 has made great progress investigating how a range of neurobiological biomarkers can be used to predict language recovery after brain injury, such as stroke. We have also made significant advances in accessing, linking and verifying population-based data on aphasia outcomes. We have developed and tested a novel imaging protocol to help neurosurgeons minimize the impact of brain surgery on language.

Program 1 has produced 50 publications with another 21 submitted/under review. The theme has been phenomenally successful in obtaining funding with

over \$5 million across 19 grants. We have completed 44 talks and engagement events which have included academics, clinicians, members of the public, politicians and people with aphasia. Two PhD's have been awarded, and 6 PhD students in the program continue to progress well with a number of papers submitted.

Over the next year we will have increased focus on developing funding applications to combine clinically feasible biomarkers, social determinants, patient and stroke specific characteristics, and measures of care, to help us more reliably predict recovery of language after damage to the brain.



## Program 1 Beacon Projects

**Brain Frailty and Aphasia:** This work is nearing completion with two manuscripts submitted and one in preparation. V Vadinova, S Brownsett, K McMahon, D Copland, and A Sihvonen, have used measures of brain health, before stroke, to investigate how this impacts recovery of language. One key finding from this work is that comprehension and production abilities are impacted differently, emphasising the need to consider all aspects of language, and not only overall measures of language. Numerous presentations at conferences have highlighted the work that has been completed in this project.

**Testing individual probabilistic recovery curves from Predicting Language Outcome and Recovery after Stroke (PLORAS) recovery predictions, and their modulation in response to therapy.** A new project that will collate clinical imaging, assessment and therapy data in collaboration with a large QLD hospital is underway. This data will be combined with our current data to use the PLORAS predictions.

**Prognostication in post-stroke aphasia:** Bonnie Cheng has been awarded her PhD titled 'Prognostication in Post-Stroke Aphasia'. Her doctoral research has been disseminated through 4 publications, 7 conference presentations, and in multiple media and public forums (e.g., ABC Radio National, World Science Festival). Dr Cheng has been successful in attaining a Research Analyst position with Corrective Services NSW.

**To determine the influence of structural damage and structural and functional connectivity on language outcome using a patient classification method:** PhD candidates V Vadinova, and K Garden have used pre-existing imaging datasets to look at a range of structural predictors in stroke and aphasia. In addition, predictors of aphasia and quality of life after brain tumour have been investigated by a team at QUT (Al McMahon) along with members of the CRE (Brownsett, Copland). This work has led to the generation of new research outside of the program relating to interventions for people with aphasia after brain tumours. Finally, considerable work has been undertaken in the epilepsy programme of research

with imaging data almost complete and behavioural data collection ongoing. Consumer advisory groups are also being developed in this space.

**Cross validate predictors from aphasia to other allied health rehab studies:** A wonderful collaboration between UQ (Brownsett, Copland), University of Helsinki (Shivonen) and Melbourne (Carey, Walsh) has explored structural predictors of cognition which may be relevant to aphasia recovery with analysis in progress.

**Developing a national minimum dataset:** Fifteen projects are underway in this program of research including co-production and pilot of a minimum dataset, multiple linked data studies and the development of aphasia research reporting standards. A highlight of 2022 was a successful MRFF Cardiovascular Health Mission funding application (\$451,221) which will support the implementation of the minimum dataset. In the past year, nine research students (2 PhD (Zingelman, Stone), 6 Masters, and 1 Honours) contributed to this body of work. Research outcomes were disseminated through 6 publications and 3 international conference presentations (1 invited).

## Developments/highlights

Dr Sonia Brownsett was awarded the UQ School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Early Career Research Excellence Award.

Queensland Aphasia Research Centre (including program 1 members and projects) was awarded the UQ Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences Consumer and Community Involvement Award.

PhD students A Reardon and S Zingelman presented their work at the Aphasia CRE student showcase. V Vadinova presented at the Science of Aphasia Conference.

Dr Sarah Wallace was awarded a UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award.

# Program 2: Treatment Effectiveness Across the Continuum of Care



**“Our program is shaping the future of clinical practice for aphasia treatment”**



**Program Lead** – Associate Professor Erin Godecke & Professor Miranda Rose

**Investigators** – Professor David Copland, Professor Leanne Togher, Professor Dominique Cadilhac, Professor Emerita Linda Worrall, Associate Professor Emma Power, Professor Leonid Churilov, Professor Julie Bernhardt, Professor Natasha Lannin, Professor Lyndsey Nickels, Associate Professor Robyn O’Halloran, Dr Sarah Wallace, Dr Kirstine Shrubsole, Dr Emily Brogan, Dr Caroline Baker, Dr Marcella Carragher, Dr Annie Hill, Dr John Pierce

**Affiliates** – Professor Mike Dickey, Dr Jade Dignam, Dr Kate Hayward, Professor Deborah Hersh, Associate Professor Anne Whitworth, Dr Lucette Lanyon

**Co-Supervisors** – Dr Ali Lakhani, Dr Samantha Siyambalapitiya, Professor Natalie Ciccone

**Students** - Chelsea Larkman, Kathleen Mellahn, Sam Harvey, Kristina Bradley, Siobhan Kavanagh, Sarah D’Souza, Maya Menahemi Falkov, Tran Huu Duc (Vietnam), Dr Ngàn Thanh (Vietnam), Bruna Tessaro

## Program 2 Overview

Program 2 made great significant progress in 2022 in its three main project areas-

1. The Aphasia Rehabilitation Pathway
2. Enhancing Enriched Environments
3. Investigating dose in aphasia recovery.

We have also built capacity in additional areas including -

- impacts of CALD on aphasia service provision and adaptations to service provision

- development of therapy implementation resources for clinicians
- methods for optimising trials in aphasia rehabilitation.

Program 2 has produced 22 publications and obtained funding with over \$2,185,947 across 8 grants. We have completed 15 talks, have had 3 PhD’s awarded while 3 PhD students in the program continue to progress well.

## Program 2 Beacon Projects

**Aphasia Rehabilitation Pathway:** Aim: Provide and implement an up-to-date evidence based clinical pathway for aphasia across the continuum of care. Key update: evidence reviews are underway; clinician views of the pathway have been investigated by a team led by Dr Kirstine Shrubsole; consumer views of the pathway have been investigated by a team led by Dr Sarah Wallace.

**Communication enriched environments:** Aim: Evaluate feasibility, effectiveness and sustainability of a communication enhanced environmental (CEE) implementation package. Key update: A phase IIb study has been funded by the Charlie's Foundation at Osbourne Park Hospital in WA to investigate the feasibility of implementing a CEE intervention in a busy public hospital. This work brings together the body of communication accessibility work led by Associate Professor Robyn O'Halloran aims to deliver a holistic intervention for people with aphasia in hospitals.

**Dose:** Aim: To develop evidence that enables personalized aphasia assessment management concerning dose and intensity of therapy. Key update: We have collaborated with a world leading multidisciplinary team on two publications concerning dose one of which is published. Dr Sam Harvey's PhD has produced 3 dose-related publications related to personalising dose in aphasia and Dr John Pierce has published his PhD study showing the broad equivalence of a distributed dose (30 hours over 5 weeks vs 2 weeks) of CIAT-Plus or M-MAT for people with chronic aphasia after stroke. This work outlines frameworks for use in future dose related studies in aphasia. We have led the formation of an international investigator group from Germany, USA, United Kingdom, and Australia aiming to develop a multisite dose trial and grant application for submission in 2023.

## Developments/highlights

Dr John Pierce was awarded grants from the Stroke Foundation (\$80,000), Speech Pathology Australia (\$20,000) and La Trobe University (\$20,000) to develop and test a telehealth version of Multi-modality Aphasia Therapy (M-MAT Tele). He also received funding from the Telematics Trust (\$50,000) to extend his free online aphasia therapy platform (Aphasia Therapy Online) into the Mandarin, Greek and Vietnamese languages.

PhD students Sam Harvey (dose) presented his dose work at the International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference in Philadelphia, SMART Strokes in Sydney, and Speech Pathology Australia in Melbourne. Professor Rose was an invited keynote speaker (dose and intensity) at the national speech pathology conferences in Sweden and Australia, the

International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference in Philadelphia, and the International Vascular Neurology conference in Slovenia.

Kathleen Mellahn and Chelsea Larkman have progressed their PhD work in issues of cultural and linguistic diversity and aphasia, presenting at SMART Strokes, Speech Pathology Australia and the International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference in Philadelphia.

The MRFF funded UPLIFT project investigating the integrated treatment of upper limb and language after stroke has commenced recruitment and is looking for participants in Townsville, Perth, Brisbane, Adelaide and Melbourne.

# Program 3: Technology for Healthcare Communication and Rehabilitation



“The pandemic showed us the importance of digital health and technology in delivering care. Our teams are producing innovative solutions which promote access and efficiency of rehabilitation for people with communication disability following acquired brain injury.”



**Program Lead** - Professor Leanne Togher

**Investigators** - Associate Professor Emma Power, Professor David Copland, Professor Miranda Rose, Dr Annie Hill, Dr Marcella Carragher, Dr Michelle Attard

**Associates** – Dr Melissa Brunner, Dr Elise Elbourn, Dr Rachael Rietdijk, Dr Jade Dignam, Dr Clare Burns, Dr Nicholas Behn, Dr Jessica Campbell, Dr John Pierce, Dr Atiyeh Vaezipour, Dr Lucette Lanyon

**Students** - Sophie Brassel, Petra Avramovic, Zali Hall, Melissa Miao, Lynn Grayson, Edwina Lamborn, Genevieve Vuong, Leana Nichol, Pauline Cuperus, Nelson J Hernandez, Rajath Shenoy

## Program 3 Overview

### Technology for Healthcare Communication Program progress:

**TeleCHAT:** TeleChat (Comprehensive Aphasia Rehabilitation through Telerehabilitation) led by Dr Annie Hill aims to adapt the in-person CHAT program for delivery via telerehabilitation and evaluate its usability, feasibility, acceptability, and efficacy. To date, five cohorts have completed the program, with a total of 19 people with aphasia (PWA) and 14

support people (SP) participating. The initial results among the first 12 PWA participants show high levels of usability, feasibility, and acceptability. A preliminary analysis of the first 16 participants also indicates statistically significant improvement across measures of aphasia severity, quality of life, communication, and confidence. The next step is to compare the clinical outcomes of TeleCHAT with those of the in-person CHAT program, and to seek a partnership grant for implementation.

**Online communication partner training for student healthcare professionals:** This project, led by Assoc Professor Emma Power, aims to evaluate the effectiveness of an eHealth Communication Partner Training (CPT) program in enabling healthcare professionals communicate effectively with people with aphasia in real-life settings. The study investigated the potential effectiveness of an online CPT package called "Supported Communication for Adults with Aphasia (SCA)"™ (Kagan, 1998), which covers knowledge of aphasia, facilitative strategies for communicating, and attitudes towards communicating with people with aphasia. Results will be published in 2023. Eight university courses have embedded the training into their curriculum.

**M-MAT-Tele:** M-MAT Tele is a telehealth adaptation of the proven face to face therapy, Multi-Modality Aphasia Therapy. This project is funded by La Trobe University and led by Dr John Pierce with Prof Miranda Rose, Dr Annie Hill, A/Prof Dana Wong and Dr Rachelle Pitt. Three people with aphasia and three practising speech pathologists have provided ongoing input during design and development of the software, which is ready for trial. The design of the software has focused on broad compatibility with

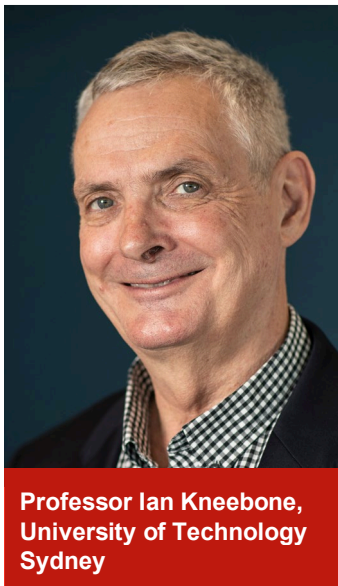
healthcare telehealth systems and preserving the essential components of M-MAT. M-MAT Tele will ultimately be available for free download by speech pathologists. Next steps include testing effectiveness, for people who have had aphasia for 3-12 months and at a low-moderate intensity.

**Communication Connect:** Prof Miranda Rose is leading this 5-year NHMRC funded study which is co-designing solutions to challenges faced by people with communication disability during the post-hospital discharge period of recovery. Communication Connect has three sites across Australia – Bendigo Health, Brisbane (Metro North and Metro South Health) and Sydney (Royal Rehab). The priorities and solutions are being generated by people with communication disability from stroke and traumatic brain injury, their caregivers and family, health professionals from a range of disciplines, and health service managers and technology staff. Solutions will involve a combination of policies, tools, information and novel technology and will be underpinned by an Artificial Intelligence-enabled app. Professor Daminda Alahakoon and his team from La Trobe University's Centre for Data Analytics and Cognition collaborating to support this exciting work.



Health professionals, people with aphasia and their family members participating in a prioritisation workshop for Communication Connect Project phase 1, Bendigo.

# Program 4: Optimising Mental Health and Wellbeing in Aphasia



**“The team looked the pandemic in the eye and forged forward regardless.”**



**Program Lead** - Professor Ian Kneebone

**Investigators** - Professor Miranda Rose, Professor Leanne Togher, Dr Caroline Baker, Dr Michelle Attard, Dr Ciara Shiggins, Dr Brooke Ryan

**Affiliates** - Associate Professor Rene Stowlyk, Associate Professor Dana Wong, Dr Lucie Lanyon, Professor Sabine Corsten (Germany), Professor Katerina Hilari (UK), Dr Sarah Northcott (UK), Dr Shirley Thomas (UK), Dr Catherine Ford (UK), Dr. Fergus Gracey (UK)

**Students** - Kathryn Pettigrove, Rebecca El-Helou, Priscilla Tjokrowijoto, Jas Sekhon, Zoe Butt, Sian Caroll (UK), Almut Plath (Germany)

## Program 4 Aims & Progress

The overall aim of Program 4 is to optimise the mental health and psychological well-being of people with aphasia and their families. The program aims to address this by understanding the process of adjustment and developing, evaluating, and promoting effective interventions and supports.

A selection of Program 4 highlights includes:

- Dr Brooke Ryan was awarded a \$70,000 Seed Grant in the 2022 Stroke Foundation Research Grants round to enact co-design contributing to family-focused interventions for stroke survivors with children.



Dr Brooke Ryan, recipient of a Stroke Foundation Research Grant 2022

- Professor Ian Kneebone provided an invited address on ‘Research in stepped psychological care’ for the inaugural All-Island Stroke Conference. The conference was a co-operative venture between the Irish Heart Foundation and Northern Ireland Multidisciplinary Association of Stroke Teams.
- Associate Investigator, Emeritus Professor Linda Worrall (UQ) initiated the formation of an international community of practice: Aphasia Psychological Care network (APC network). Facilitators for 2023 will be Dr Sarah Northcott (UK) & Molly Manning (Eire)
- UTS PhD candidate Rebecca El-Helou won a Research-Intensive Visit (2022) scholarship (\$15000) to support a 2 month visit to City, University of London where she focussed on Virtual Reality: Opportunity to support mental health and well-being in people with aphasia. Rebecca’s visit was supervised by Professor Katerina Hilari.
- UTS Master of Clinical Psychology Student Zoe Butt, supervised by Professors Kneebone, Dr Brooke Ryan and A/Professor Emma Power, successfully completed a project titled “Emotional reactions of speech pathologists to working in post-stroke aphasia rehabilitation”.

- Jasvinder Sekhon completed and passed her PhD in Speech Pathology: “Enabling Speech-Language Pathologists to Feel Confident and Competent in Counselling for Supporting Psychological Wellbeing in People Affected by Post-Stroke Aphasia” at La Trobe University. Jas’ supervisors were Professors’ Rose and Oatley (La Trobe) and Kneebone (UTS).
- “In June, Emeritus Professor Linda Worrall presented a Keynote address “The why and how of integrating mental health care into aphasia services” at the International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference, Philadelphia, USA.”

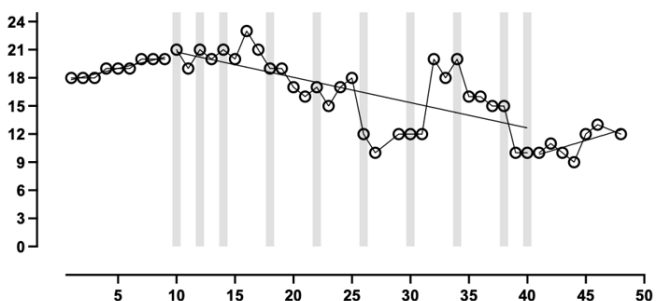


Rebecca El-Helou (centre right) with colleagues at City, University of London November 2022.

## Program 4 Beacon Projects

### In 2022 the OMHW Beacon stepped up!

- ADaPT (Aphasia, Depression and Psychological Treatment) completed participant recruitment and initial findings were reported at the 2022 Australian Psychological Society (APS) College of Clinical Neuropsychologists Conference at Manly NSW in November.



Single case outcome: ADaPT – CBT for people with aphasia.

- Community Aphasia Groups (CAG) project completed a systematic review of characteristics and impacts of community aphasia group facilitation and moved forward to stage 2 of their project, training Speech Pathologist to train group facilitators.
- Dr Lucette Lanyon was awarded a Stroke Foundation Seed Grant (\$80,000) to pilot the implementation of a Hub-and-Spoke Community Aphasia Group program with Grampians Health Victoria.



- Aphasia PRISM (PRevention Intervention and Support in Mental health) a roll out of stepped psychological care for people with aphasia extended its brief to rural locations by negotiating agreements with health services in Bendigo and Echuca (Vic).

# Program 5: Aphasia Inclusion Hub



**Associate Professor Robyn O'Halloran**  
La Trobe University

**“Creating sustainable, accessible and inclusive systems for people with aphasia.”**



**Advisory Group Members** – Associate Professor Robyn O'Halloran, Professor Julie Bernhardt, Professor Miranda Rose, Professor Richard Lindley, Professor Sandy Middleton, Professor Deborah Hersh, Associate Professor Emma Power, Dr Ciara Shiggins, Dr Gordon McGurk, Dr Brooke Ryan, Dr Marcella Carragher, Dr Lucette Lanyon

**Students** – Edwina Lamborn, Amanda Elston, Claire Bennington

**Volunteer** – Farhana Dewan

## Program 5 Overview

**Program 5 continues to build the research evidence to create sustainable, accessible, and inclusive systems for people with aphasia. Our current work is focussed on creating inclusive stroke research and healthcare systems and policy.**

## Program 5 Aims & Progress

**Research Officer:** PhD student Edwina Lamborn joined us as our Research Officer in July 2022.

**Planning Day:** With Edwina's support, we held an Aphasia Inclusion Planning Day in October to bring together the range of research activities being undertaken to promote inclusion within the CRE.

### The inclusion of people with aphasia in research trials:

People with aphasia are frequently excluded from stroke research. The Aphasia CRE is working to reverse the exclusion of people with aphasia from stroke research, and to support stroke researchers to do so by developing training, resources, and materials.

In 2022, Dr Ciara Shiggins led a team in writing a position paper on the exclusion of people with aphasia from stroke research, the implications of this exclusion, and strategies to support inclusion. Published in Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, this paper includes a Supplementary File of currently available resources and materials to support inclusion, as well as examples of aphasia accessible research materials.



*What's the evidence for the exclusion of people with aphasia in research trials?* Dr Shiggins led a systematic search and review of stroke randomised controlled trials across disciplines to investigate the extent and nature of inclusion of people with aphasia. This review is currently under review. The findings of this review will provide critical insights into current research practices and the need for resources and supports to enable stroke researchers to include people with aphasia in research.

*How can we best support stroke researchers to include people with aphasia in research?* To better understand the barriers and facilitators to including people with aphasia in stroke research, the team has interviewed 20 stroke researchers across disciplines. Interview data has been analysed and a manuscript is in preparation.

Dr Shiggins presented the findings from her program of research at the International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference in Philadelphia in June 2022, the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Stroke Society of Australasia in Christchurch New Zealand (August 2022) and the Queensland Metro North Collaborative for Allied Health Research, Learning and Innovation (November 2022).

#### **Developing inclusive and collaborative research with people with lived experience of stroke:**

Dr Ciara Shiggins contributed to a multi-disciplinary team, including stroke survivors, to develop training modules for the Australian Stroke Foundation to support stroke survivors, including people with aphasia and stroke researchers to work together in genuine research partnerships. This project was supported by the Stroke CRE and the Stroke Foundation. Free training modules for stroke researchers are on the Stroke Foundation InformMe webpage at <https://informme.org.au/learning-modules/working-effectively-with-people-with-lived-experience-to-design-conduct-and-promote-stroke-research>. Freely available resources for stroke survivors are on the EnableMe webpage (<https://enableme.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/Research/story.html>). These modules were presented at the Stroke Society of Australasia (August 2022), a Collaboration of Aphasia Trialists meeting (July 2022) and the UK Stroke Forum (December 2022).

Dr Shiggins also participated in a panel discussion on the topic of inclusion and diversity in stroke research at the Stroke Society of Australasia conference and in a workshop on the topic of Consumer and Community Involvement at the UK Stroke Forum (December 2022) in collaboration with the UK Stroke Association.

Dr Shiggins is guest co-editor in an online Special Issue of Aphasiology on the topic with Chris Coath (person with lived experience), Dr. Ruth Mc Menamin and Associate Professor Jytte Isaksen. These papers continue to develop the research evidence base for Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) in the area of stroke and aphasia.

#### **Developing inclusive healthcare systems:**





*Identifying the supports that facilitate successful patient-provider communication:* Dr Robyn O'Halloran and Dr Abby Foster, Dr Caroline Baker and Emerging Researcher Fellow Roz Shand from Monash Health collaborated on a study to identify the communication supports that enable successful healthcare communication for people with communication difficulty, including people with aphasia. Roz presented her findings at the Speech Pathology Australia National Conference in 2022. A manuscript is currently under review. We are delighted that Roz will be continuing her research into inclusive healthcare environments as a PhD student in the CRE Aphasia Inclusion Hub in 2023.





*Improving patient experience and safety for patients with communication challenge:* Senior Speech Pathologist Lauren Fletcher, Mr Duncan Palmer and Mr Ben De Zoete from Epworth Hospital in collaboration with Professor Miranda Rose, Dr Marcella Carragher, and Dr Robyn O'Halloran were awarded a \$50,000 grant to trial healthcare communication technology to support healthcare communication in inpatient rehabilitation.








#### **Embedding accessible communication in post-stroke care:**

Dr Robyn O'Halloran and New Zealand researchers Associate Professor Clare McCann, Dr Felicity Bright, Dr Karen Brewer, Ms Gwen Kerrison, Professor Nicola Kayes, Dr Meghan Grawburg, and Dr Bobbie Jo Wilson have been awarded a \$1.5 million grant over 3 years in the 2022 Health Delivery Research Investment Fund round to embed accessible communication in post-stroke care in New Zealand. Through co-designed research with Māori and non-Māori people with lived experience of stroke we aim to re-imagine culturally responsive and communicatively accessible stroke care.


# Aphasia CRE Beacon Projects Summary




KEY	Completed	
	In Progress	
	To be started	
	Suspended	

1.1 NEUROBIOLOGICAL PREDICTORS OF APHASIA RECOVERY AND TREATMENT RESPONSE		
<b>Brain frailty and aphasia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Almost complete.</li> <li>• All analysis finished.</li> <li>• 2 manuscripts under review, 1 in preparation.</li> <li>• Conferences. Science of Aphasia 2022; Australasian Brain and Psychological Sciences Meeting. Brisbane, Australia 2022.</li> <li>• MDT capacity building: radiologists, MR specialists, SLPs, Neurologists.</li> </ul>	
<b>Testing individual probabilistic recovery curves from PLORAS recovery predictions, and their modulation in response to therapy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using PLORAS algorithm on local data.</li> <li>• Collaborating with AI Price re: regions to be used, to allow direct comparisons with UK data.</li> <li>• COVID-related impact on imaging projects (PAPAR, AMP) and access, collation of local and national data, ethics, funding resources.</li> <li>• Development of standalone PLORAS software.</li> <li>• Gold Coast Hospital collaboration in progress (clinical scans, CAT outcomes).</li> <li>• AVERT dose protocol ready for submission (clinical scans).</li> </ul>	
<b>Determine the influence of structural damage and structural and functional connectivity on language outcome using a patient classification method</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structural, resting state, task-based fMRI, diffusion imaging and ASL imaging data- all processed and either under analysis or manuscripts prep.</li> <li>• Kim Garden and Veronika Vladinova completed mid-candidature.</li> <li>• Presented to QLD Health Minister Hon. UQ Vice Chancellor, philanthropic donors supporting QARC, and the QARC Consumer Advisory Group.</li> <li>• Presentations to SoA, ASA, ABPS and local clinical forums.</li> <li>• International collaboration and capacity building: Finland, UCL.</li> <li>• 3 manuscripts submitted, 3 in press.</li> </ul>	
<b>MEASuRES: Minimum Dataset (Developing a national minimum dataset for aphasia to be embedded in AuSCR)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 projects underway within beacon 5.</li> <li>• Co-production of minimum dataset (sys review, best practice study, consensus process).</li> <li>• Pilot of minimum dataset.</li> <li>• Establishing minimal important change values for ROMA COS</li> <li>• Linked data studies: AuSCR, AROC, Stroke Foundation, PRECISE, Stroke123.</li> <li>• ROMA COS ongoing development: ROMA-2, ROMA implementation.</li> <li>• DESCRIBE reporting standards.</li> <li>• 4 publications, 7 manuscripts in preparation.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations: SSA, QARC launch Health Minister Hon, UQ Vice Chancellor, philanthropic donors supporting QARC, and the QARC Consumer Advisory Group, German Aphasia Society, Aphasia camp, CRE Aphasia, Clinical Aphasiology Conference, IALP, Smart Strokes.</li> <li>• Awards: UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award 2022.</li> <li>• New positions: 1 new postdoc position 0.7 for 2 years available.</li> </ul>	
<b>Prognostication in aphasia practice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project complete.</li> <li>• PhD awarded (Bonnie Cheng).</li> <li>• 4 papers published on prognostication from perspectives of clinicians, PWA, family.</li> <li>• 7 presentations.</li> <li>• Public dissemination (ABC Radio National, podcast, World Science Festival).</li> <li>• Next steps: co-designed tool and workshops.</li> </ul>	
<b>Prospective imaging and social determinants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeking funding for prospective study of neurobiological and psychosocial predictors.</li> <li>• Gold Coast University Hospital collaboration (retrospective and prospective, clinical scans).</li> <li>• Scoping review social determinants of health and aphasia. outcomes (O'Halloran, Wallace et al.) - paper submitted.</li> </ul>	
<b>Cross validate predictors from aphasia to other allied health rehab studies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• START trial data on cognition, mood, and stroke recovery (Carey et al). Trilogy of papers planned: connectometry applied to look at recovery of language, cognition and mood (first paper in preparation).</li> </ul>	
<b>1.2 ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL MINIMUM DATASET ON APHASIA OUTCOMES</b>		
<b>Development of minimum dataset</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 NHMRC fellowship.</li> <li>• 2 publications.</li> <li>• 1 BSpPath Honours research student completion.</li> <li>• 2 MSALT (Vietnam) research student completions.</li> <li>• 5 publications in preparation.</li> <li>• 1 conference presentation.</li> </ul>	
<b>Implementation of minimum dataset</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PhD student commenced.</li> <li>• 1 major grant submitted.</li> </ul>	
<b>Minimal important change and economic evaluation in aphasia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PhD student commenced.</li> <li>• 1 major grant submitted.</li> </ul>	
<b>2.1 CLINICAL PATHWAY</b>		
<b>Provide and implement an up-to-date evidence based clinical pathway for aphasia across the continuum of care.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1a Scoping review 1: Management of communication disability in the first 90 days after stroke: a scoping review - completed (Caroline Baker - lead).</li> <li>• 2.1 a Scoping review 2: Cultural and linguistic adaptation of aphasia rehabilitation - in process (Chelsea Larkman - lead).</li> </ul>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1 a Scoping review 3: The nature and experiences of the acute and sub-acute aphasia rehabilitation pathway for CALD people with aphasia, their families and clinicians - in progress (Kathleen Mellahn - Lead).</li> <li>• 2.1b Project 4: Co-construction of evidence-based pathway consensus on best practice recommendations for aphasia from the perspective of people with aphasia and their significant others (Two arms: Australian arm Manuscript 1st draft complete and international arm) (Sarah Wallace-Lead)</li> <li>• 2.1c Updating the evidence in the AARP: (Lead: John Pierce) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 82 statements in the AARP</li> <li>○ Rapid reviews of evidence with draft adjustments to statements have gone out for discussion / consultation / consensus.</li> <li>○ Full review and editing of statements related to treatment intensity / dose and aphasia chronicity (Statements 5.1-5.4)</li> <li>○ Working to support Stroke Foundation Clinical Guidelines</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Clinic ready resources for pathway rollout: (Lead: Miranda Rose)</li> <li>• Prototype now complete and the report submitted to the Tavistock Trust.</li> <li>• New \$60K funding achieved to add 20 therapies and produce professional instructional videos</li> <li>• This is a CATs WG4 project, linked to the AARP</li> <li>• Aphasia friendly version of pathway (Lead: Sarah Wallace)</li> <li>• Determining plan for 2023-24 with potential to be included in plug-in project with Sarah Wallace</li> <li>• Implementation Plan (Lead: TBC)</li> <li>• Determining implementation plan as part of WG2 2023-24 planning</li> </ul>	
<b>2.2 COMMUNICATION ENRICHED ENVIRONMENTS</b>		
<p><b>Evaluate feasibility, effectiveness and sustainability of a communication enhanced environmental (CEE) implementation package.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate CEE model (Lead: Sarah D’Souza) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Main results of implementing CEE model</li> <li>○ Patients’ experiences of CEE</li> <li>○ Staff and Volunteer perceptions of CEE</li> <li>○ Staff, Volunteer and Patients’ perceptions of barriers and facilitators to communication</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Provide CEE Package – Completed</li> <li>• Phase IIb Pilot study (Lead: Sarah D’Souza)</li> <li>• D’Souza S, Godecke E, O’Halloran R, Churilov L, Lannin N, Hayward K, Lynch E, Rose M, Bernhardt J, Simcock B. Enhancing the Hospital Environment for aphasia Care and Recovery (EnhanCeR): A Bayesian Optimal Phase IIa basket clinical trial of aphasia intervention. Charlies Foundation for Research Edith Cowan University Research Explorers Grant funding program. 2023-2024</li> <li>• Scoping Review (Lead: Sarah D’Souza)</li> <li>• Project underway 2022-2023</li> </ul>	

2.3 DOSE		
<p><b>To develop evidence that enables personalized aphasia assessment management concerning dose and intensity of therapy.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project: COMPARE RCT (n=216) completed and main results published Journal Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry (Lead: Miranda Rose)</li> <li>• Project COMPARE Sub-study - An investigation of CIAT Plus and M-MAT delivered in distributed dose (Lead: John Pierce) Paper submitted to Topics in Stroke Rehabilitation</li> <li>• Project: Personalizing the dose of cued picture naming treatment for the rehabilitation of post-stroke aphasia (Lead: Sam Harvey)</li> <li>• Project: Economic modelling (Lead: Dominique Cadilhac/ Joosup Kim)</li> <li>• Brogan E, Kim J, Grimley RS, Wallace SJ, Baker C, Thayabaranathan T, Andrew NE, Kilkenny MF, Godecke E, Rose ML, Cadilhac DA. The excess costs of hospitalization for acute stroke in people with communication impairment: a Stroke123 data linkage sub-study. (Submitted APMR)</li> <li>• Economic Evaluation of The Very Early Rehabilitation in SpEech (VERSE) intervention. Kim J, Sookram G, Godecke E, Brogan E, Armstrong B, Ellery F, Rai T, Rose M, Ciccone N, Middleton S, Holland A, Hankey GJ, Bernhardt J, Cadilhac DA</li> <li>• COMPARE economic evaluation in prep</li> <li>• Project: Influencing Guideline development (Lead: Erin Godecke)</li> <li>• Project: Meta-analysis – 2023-2034 – pending commencement</li> </ul>	
3.1 TELECHAT		
<p><b>To deliver a comprehensive high-dose aphasia therapy via telerehabilitation.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publication relating to task analysis for translation of aphasia rehabilitation for telerehabilitation delivery has been submitted.</li> <li>• Five cohorts have completed TeleCHAT n=19, cohort six is underway with the final cohort due to begin in July 2023. Total n = 25 by end of 2023.</li> <li>• Paper on feasibility of TeleCHAT to be submitted to special issue of Aphasiology in 2023.</li> <li>• Usability paper to be submitted by end of 2023.</li> <li>• PhD student, Genevieve Vuong, will submit thesis by April 2024.</li> </ul>	
3.2 ONLINE COMMUNICATION PARTNER TRAINING		
<p><b>To test the impact of an online training package on student outcomes and to conduct a systematic review of communication partner training for student healthcare professionals.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A publication relating to the trial of an online communication partner training program for student health professionals has been submitted for publication.</li> <li>• Publication for the systematic review of communication partner training for student health professionals is in progress.</li> </ul>	

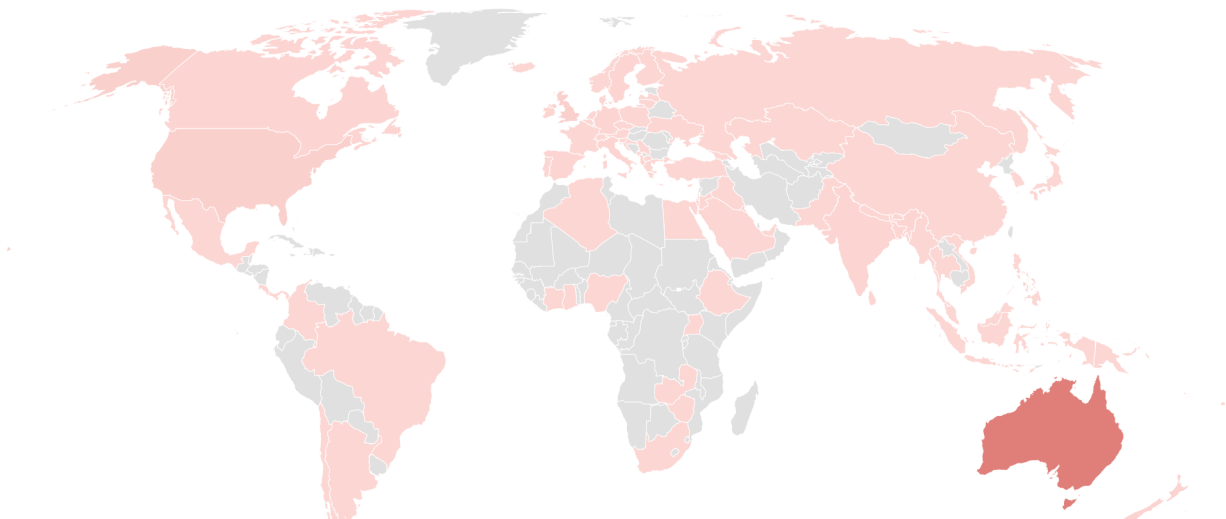


3.3 HEALTHCARE COMMUNICATION APP		
<b>To develop and test a mobile application for enhancing healthcare communication for people with Aphasia.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trialled at Bendigo Health in 2021</li> <li>• Recruitment to commence at Eastern Health in Feb 2023.</li> <li>• Partnership with Epworth to commence in Feb 2023 to adapt the current Aphasia App to their existing Point of Care System plus pilot testing.</li> </ul>	
4.1 ADAPT: CBT FOR PEOPLE WITH APHASIA		
<b>Evaluate the feasibility and acceptability of using cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT) as a treatment for depression in people with aphasia.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enrolment completed.</li> <li>• Majority of intervention stage completed.</li> <li>• Follow-ups ongoing.</li> </ul>	
4.2 COMMUNITY APHASIA GROUP HUB AND SPOKE PILOT		
<b>Increase social connectedness, quality of life, and participation of people with aphasia and their close others through peer-led Community Aphasia Groups.</b>	<p>Phase 1: Pilot</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ethics approval obtained.</li> <li>• Data collection completed.</li> <li>• Quantitative results analysis complete.</li> <li>• Preliminary qualitative analyses complete.</li> <li>• Team now working on main results paper.</li> </ul>	
	<p>Phase 2: Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systematic scoping review of CAG facilitation published.</li> <li>• Second manuscript regarding CAG definitions in progress.</li> <li>• Ethics approved for acceptability study.</li> <li>• Facilitation education package in development – moving towards data collection for pilot.</li> </ul>	
	<p>Phase 3: Implementation Study with Grampians Health, Victoria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding achieved from Stroke Foundation and La Trobe University</li> <li>• Ethics application in process</li> </ul>	
4.3 PRISM: STEPPED PSYCHOLOGICAL CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH APHASIA		
<b>Evaluate the feasibility and acceptability of using stepped psychological care with people with aphasia.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing enrolment and staff training.</li> <li>• Bendigo &amp; Echuca, Vic engaged.</li> </ul>	
5.1 APHASIA INCLUSION HUB		
<b>Inclusion of people with aphasia in stroke research trials irrespective of disciplines.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Position paper has been submitted for publication.</li> <li>• Systematic review manuscript is in final stages of preparation.</li> <li>• Qualitative interview study data has been analysed and a manuscript is in preparation.</li> </ul>	

# Website Impact

The Aphasia CRE website, continues to attract visitors as a source of information for Aphasia. The website is a hub for information on the Centre and together with the Aphasia CRE Social Media platforms Twitter, Facebook and the two new News Blog and You Tube Chanel, our local and international community reach continues to increase.

## 2022 Aphasia CRE Website Visitors



The Aphasia CRE is impacting healthcare and research worldwide, we have increased our reach by an additional 15 countries in 2022 with website visitors from 90 countries around the world:

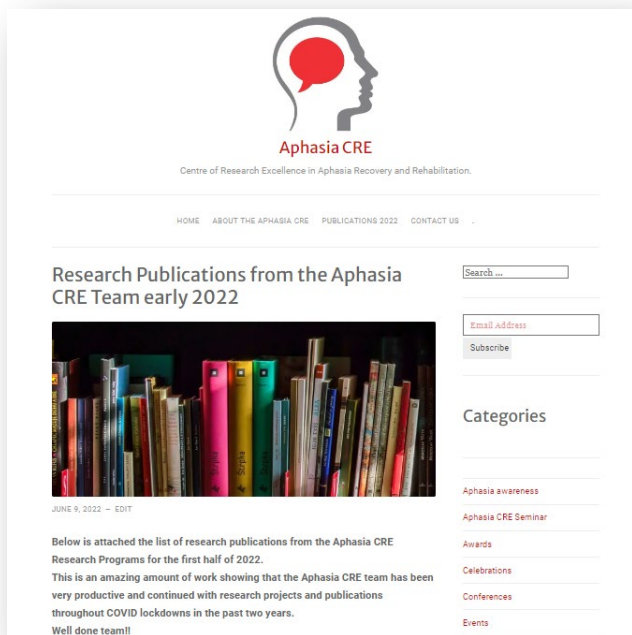
- Australia
- United States
- United Kingdom
- New Zealand
- Ireland
- India
- Germany
- Canada
- Spain
- Singapore
- Sweden
- Italy
- Finland
- Japan
- Denmark
- Belgium
- Philippines
- Israel
- Hong Kong SAR China
- Brazil
- France
- Netherlands
- Sri Lanka
- Pakistan
- South Africa
- Turkey
- Portugal
- China
- United Arab Emirates
- Cote D Ivoire
- Norway
- Indonesia
- Thailand
- Nigeria
- Saudi Arabia
- Malaysia
- Taiwan region
- South Korea
- Iceland
- Russian Federation
- Colombia
- Switzerland
- Papua New Guinea
- Panama
- Argentina
- Viet Nam
- Czech Republic
- Greece
- Austria
- Uganda
- Poland
- Latvia
- Zimbabwe
- Chile
- Bangladesh
- Kuwait
- Georgia
- Ghana
- Croatia
- Algeria
- Serbia
- Malta
- Nepal
- Ethiopia
- Egypt
- Kazakhstan
- Slovakia (Slovak Republic)
- Mexico
- Cyprus
- Costa Rica
- Slovenia
- Montenegro
- Bahrain
- Vanuatu
- Fiji
- Macedonia
- Albania
- Iraq
- Lithuania
- Bhutan
- Vanuatu
- Kazakhstan
- Jordan
- Ukraine
- Lithuania
- Myanmar
- Bonaire/Sint Eustatius/Saba
- Bhutan
- Ethiopia
- Zambia

# Social Media Impact



Aphasia CRE engagement from social media continued to increase throughout 2022. Twitter followers increased by 10% to 2317 followers and our Facebook followers increased by an impressive 30% to 699. In addition, we have two new social media platforms added in 2022, mid-year we introduced a WordPress Blog for news dissemination to our community of practice, but we already have 74 direct subscribers to this platform. At the end of 2022 our YouTube channel was launched, within the first two weeks we gained 40 new subscribers. This is an impressive reach via social media with a direct audience over 4000 subscribers\*.

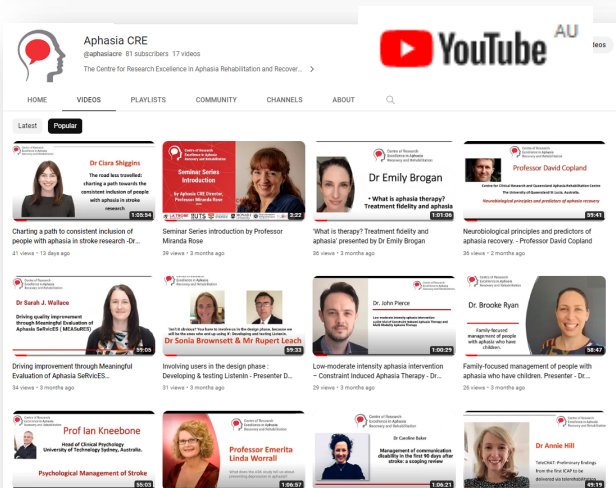
We would like to thank our postdoctoral fellows and higher degree research (HDR) students who share the role of curating our social media on twitter, and our Centre Manager for managing the WordPress News Blog, YouTube and Facebook, together these platforms are sharing our research with colleagues and people with aphasia worldwide.



## WordPress News Blog

In 2022 we introduced our Community of Practice to news updates via a direct email feed from a Wordpress News Blog page. Linked to the Aphasia CRE website, this platform has enabled us to have an active history of communications to our members and subscribers. It instantly distributes information by email to COP members and the growing number of subscribers. The Wordpress blog also feeds directly to Facebook and Twitter.

The overall audience reach for the blog is 1156 COP members/ Direct subscribers to Blog and it also distributes to 2915 Social Media Followers on twitter and Facebook, a total direct audience of 4071 from each blog post. Many organisations also forward our communications onto their own members too.



## YouTube

The Aphasia CRE YouTube Channel was launched at the end of 2022 as a means of storing and sharing our Seminar Recordings and other videos with our community. Direct subscriber numbers are steadily growing and these videos are gaining a new audience. Subscribe to the YouTube channel here - [www.youtube.com/@aphasiacre](http://www.youtube.com/@aphasiacre)



## Twitter

Twitter engagements throughout the year focussed on several events, including the Bruce Willis aphasia diagnosis where the Aphasia CRE disseminated information about aphasia to media and general public; Rotary Australia aphasia awareness video

created with Aphasia Vic and the Aphasia CRE; Aphasia CRE seminars; Aphasiology Symposium of Australasia events. In Dec 2022 we had a total of 2317 Twitter Followers.

**Top Tweet** earned 8,774 impressions

It's sad to hear that Bruce Willis has been diagnosed with **#aphasia** . Here is some information from the **@aphasiacre** that may support answering questions that have arisen from this news  
[pic.twitter.com/QZPynk8yki](https://pic.twitter.com/QZPynk8yki)

Like is an **rethink**, publicly funded Australian centre leading cutting-edge research to improve the lives of people with aphasia.

**Key points**

1. **Aphasia** is a communication disorder caused by damage or changes to the language networks of the brain. It can affect **all forms of language** including speaking, reading, writing, and understanding spoken language. More than 140,000 Australians live with aphasia.
2. Aphasia can have substantial impacts on a person because communication and language are central to most aspects of life including relationships and work.
3. Different types of aphasia can arise from different brain conditions including **stroke, brain tumour, traumatic brain injury**, or certain types of **dementia**.
4. Depending on the cause, some types of aphasia improve over time while others worsen.
5. Aphasia itself does not impact a person's **intelligence** – people with aphasia **know what they want to say** and can make decisions for themselves.
6. Aphasia treatment focuses on relearning skills or learning strategies for managing aphasia so

4 85 142

**Top Tweet** earned 1,939 impressions

We are pleased to share this video created by Rotary Australia and Aphasia Victoria who are teaming up to raise awareness about aphasia!  
[aphasiacre.wpcomstaging.com/2022/08/25/rot...](https://aphasiacre.wpcomstaging.com/2022/08/25/rot...) [pic.twitter.com/iozMEGyZQG](https://pic.twitter.com/iozMEGyZQG)




9 20

## Facebook

Our subscribers in 2022 have increased by 30% and reach was up by 290% on 2021, aided by a boost from this year's most engaging post being the Aphasia CRE Media pack of information following on from the Bruce Willis announcement with over 10k people viewing this post. The next most popular post concerned Dr John Pierce receiving the Telematics Award Grant to assist in the translation of his free Aphasia Therapy Online resource for people with aphasia.

**Aphasia CRE**  
 Published by Jetpack · 31 October 2022 ·

Our congratulations to Aphasia CRE's Dr John Pierce, John has worked tirelessly over many years to develop a free resource for people with aphasia. After John developed this online resource, he sought volunteers to translate this resource into other languages. Being awarded a Telematics Grant will greatly assist the translation of this valuable resource into the top three Victorian languages. See the story here - See the free Aphasia Therapy Online resource for People with aphasia here! Congratulations Dr Pierce!



APHASIACRE.WPCOMSTAGING.COM

**Dr John Pierce wins Telematics grant for aphasia therapy website**  
 Our congratulations to Aphasia CRE's Dr John Pierce, John has worked tirelessly ...



# THE PULSE



Issue 3 | 28 February 2022



Media impacts were reported in the media and District Health newsletters in regional Victoria. Tracy Sheldrick with Professor Miranda Rose and Dr John Pierce – front page of Pulse Newsletter.

## IMPROVING LIFE WITH TECHNOLOGY

In a world first, Bendigo Health has been named as one of three sites for a new International study designed to research how technology can be used to improve the lives of people with aphasia.

The project has been made possible thanks to Communication Connect and a NHMRC Grant of \$1.8 million.

Bendigo Health Manager of Speech Pathology and Audiology Tracy Sheldrick said the research project would be conducted over five years.

In the first phase researchers will meet with health professionals and people with communication difficulties to understand what they want and need from technology. The next phase will focus on solutions, determining what is needed and developing or collating it into a usable package. The third and final phase will be working with 100 people with aphasia to trial what's been developed.

"It's large scale for three hospitals to do that, and we're the only regional and only Victorian site to take

part," Tracy said. "The team of researchers on this is phenomenal; it's a game changer for aphasia.

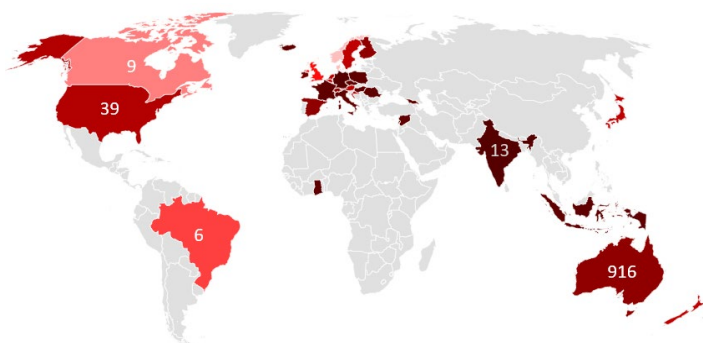
"Aphasia is most common after stroke. Your left hemisphere is your language hemisphere and when it's damaged you can develop problems with understanding or using language, and making sounds for speech. You get these terrible illnesses or injuries and you can't communicate with people. When you're isolated you're more at risk of anxiety or depression."

Also being undertaken is The Aphasia Prism Study funded by A Stroke Seed Grant, with Dr Caroline Baker and connected with Monash and the Aphasia Centre of Research Excellence.

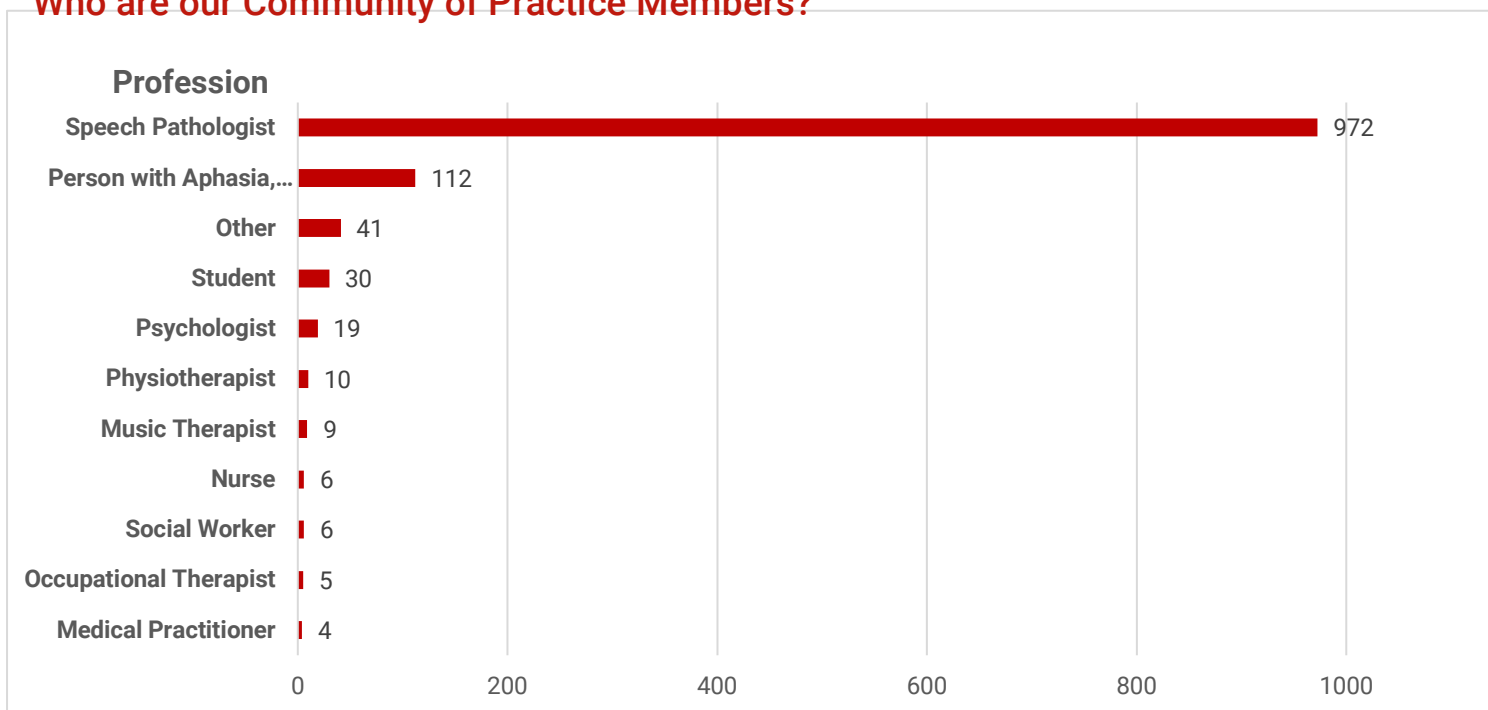
"This study is looking at mood interventions for people with aphasia," Tracy said. "Anxiety and depression is prevalent after a stroke, and increase with communication disorders. We're partnering with Echuca and it will be a smaller study with 30 participants and their families."

# Community of Practice

In 2022 our Community of Practice (COP) increased by 16% to 1230 members that span the globe. They include professionals from many healthcare disciplines and people with aphasia and their families and friends. COP members receive invitations to seminars and events, they engage in our social media platforms, participate in our research projects, and help guide our research directions.



## Who are our Community of Practice Members?



## Where do our Community of Practice members come from?

- Åland Islands
- Argentina
- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Brazil
- Canada
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Dominica
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Hong Kong (China)
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Lebanon
- The Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Philippines
- Poland
- Singapore
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Syrian Arab Republic
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States Of America



## Queensland Aphasia Research Centre (QARC)

The last 12 months have seen QARC achieve considerable recognition for its work. Some examples include a recent University of Queensland award for Consumer and Community Involvement, recognising our work partnering with people living with aphasia to improve outcomes.

We have had further success in a number of grants including two large national Medical Research Future Fund grants led by Dr Sarah Wallace looking at measuring outcomes in aphasia and how to improve communication about the care people receive in aged-care facilities.

External grant success for the centre has highlighted the benefits of philanthropic funding and our stakeholder engagement strategy (led by Dr Ciara Shiggins and Kate O'Brien) in supporting the development of a strong network of consumers and building co-design capacity that has in turn provided a foundation for successful competitive project funding.

Our flagships have continued to gain momentum and are on track to make a significant impact on the field, providing better ways to assess and manage aphasia and provide much needed support.

Our partners, the STARS hospital have confirmed funding for the CHAT program until the end of 2023 which will position us well for future implementation of this service.

Finally, the last few months have been incredibly challenging for the team with the loss of Dr Jessica Campbell, a much-loved member of QARC who led the development of the Aphasia Tech Hub and had recently gained national recognition in receiving the first Lady Marigold Southey Grant for aphasia from the Stroke Foundation. Jess was a pioneer in developing new ways to support people with aphasia through technology and we are determined to honour and continue her important work.

# New Aphasia CRE Resources

Aphasia CRE Website Resources page - [www.latrobe.edu.au/aphasiacre](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/aphasiacre)

## COMPARE Resources

### COMPARE Manuals – Read about the trial

You can purchase the COMPARE naming battery and picture card therapy resources online [here](#)

- **Therapy Cards – Purchase here**

The COMPARE therapy cards consist of 480 coloured photographs of pairs of nouns (144 x 2) and pairs of verbs (96 x 2). The coloured photographs are displayed on 2-sided playing card sized cards. One side contains the photo, and the reverse side is coloured identifying it's set. Coloured dividers separate the subgroups and list in writing the items within that set. The nouns and verbs are sub-divided into three levels of difficulty: "easy", "moderate" and "hard". The level of difficulty is determined by word frequency, syllable length, and syllable complexity. All picture therapy cards have a corresponding card with the written word on it. The written word cards are presented on coloured cards in a separate box, arranged identically to the picture cards for easy access and storage.



- **Assessment Cards – Purchase here**

The COMPARE naming battery contains 180 object (110 noun) and action (70 verb) coloured photographs. It can be used to assess the severity of an individual's word retrieval impairment and identify stimuli suitable for inclusion in intervention. The coloured photographs are displayed on 2-sided playing card sized cards. One side contains the photo and the reverse side the item number. The items in the naming battery are arranged according to level of difficulty from easier to harder items based on word frequency, syllable number and syllable complexity. Each item is presented one at a time for naming. Participants have a maximum of 10 seconds to respond to each **item**. No cues are given. Responses are scored as correct/incorrect, and errors can be further recorded on the scoresheet as: (1) no response; (2) semantic error; (3) phonologic error; or (4) other error.



## Healthcare Communication Support Resources

Repository developed by the Aphasia CRE for healthcare professionals working with people with aphasia. It provides resources that can be used to support conversations with people with aphasia or given to people with aphasia or family members to support them during this time. The aim of the repository is to disseminate resources widely and to reduce production time and resource duplication.

**Resources for health professionals** are available to assist you in working with people with aphasia, download a [PDF](#) or [Excel file](#)

- Resources have been collected from aphasia professionals internationally, government sources and international health sites and we would like to thank all involved for their contributions.
- This repository includes resources in both English and other languages.
- The resource list is updated regularly.

## Funding & Grants 2022

The initial NHMRC grant in 2018 of \$2.5m was a capacity building grant for 5 years to establish the Centre of Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation (Aphasia CRE). As a capacity building grant, it is expected that the team and work of the Aphasia CRE continues to seek out funding and generate income to ensure the ongoing sustainability of the Aphasia CRE. Grants and income help the universities involved to provide working capital for ramping up the business, programs, and projects. It also supplements post-doctoral research fellow and research staff salaries during the establishment period.

**Grant income across the Aphasia CRE team has been impressive for 2022, with a total of \$18,230,691 awarded.**

<b>Funding Body:</b>	Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Rapid Applied Research Translation Grants		
<b>Project:</b>	Building Australia's First Young Stroke Service.		
<b>Team:</b>	Bernhardt, J., Thijs, V., Crotty, M., Lannin, N., Gray, K., Wong, D., Power, E., Borschmann, K., Hayward, K.S., Withiel, T., Brodtmann, A., Bladin, C. & Murphy, L.	\$9,932,108	2022-2025
<b>Funding Body:</b>	MRFF 2021 Dementia Ageing and Aged Care Mission		
<b>Project:</b>	Unspoken, Unheard, Unmet: Improving Access to Preventative Health Care through Better Conversations about Care.		
<b>Team:</b>	Wallace SJ, Hickson L, Palmer V, Fetherstonhaugh D, Copland A, Angwin T, Shrubsole K, Wood J, Scarinci N, Siyambalapitiya S, Khan A, Worthy P, Argus G & Arjunan A.	\$2,014,394	2022
<b>Funding Body:</b>	2022 New Zealand Health Research Council Grant		
<b>Project:</b>	Embedding accessible communication in post-stroke care.		
<b>Team:</b>	McCann C., Bright F., Brewer, K., Grawburg M., Kerrison G., O'Halloran R., Wilson B., Kayes N.	\$1,327,995	2022
<b>Funding Body:</b>	Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)		
<b>Project:</b>	New models of rehabilitation to improve work and health outcomes after stroke		
<b>Team:</b>	Lannin NA, Radford K, Crotty M, Farrin A, Holland AE, Wong D, Jolliffe L, Cloud G, Godecke E, D'Souza S, O'Keefe S, Ponsford J, Cox N, Adey-Wakeling Z, Palit M, Faux S, Unsworth C & Cadillhac DA.	\$1,000,000	2021-2023

<b>Funding Body:</b>	Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)		
<b>Project:</b>	REACHING FOR YOUR WORDS: A Phase IIa umbrella trial of integrated UPPER limb & Language Impairment and Functional Training (UPLIFT) after stroke.		
<b>Team:</b>	Hayward KS, Churilov L, Godecke E, Russell T, Bernhardt J, Barker RN, Thijs V, Campbell BCV, Brownsett S, Donnan G, Copland D, Brodtmann A, Balabanski A, Hill A, Dalton E, Brauer S, Wong A, Chapman P, Brogan E & Kleinig T.	\$933,000	2021-2023
<b>Funding Body:</b>	Investigator Grant Emerging Leadership Level 1 Grant		
<b>Project:</b>	Driving quality improvement through Meaningful Evaluation of Aphasia SeRvicES (MEASuRES)	\$639,750	2022
<b>Team:</b>	Wallace, S.J.		
<b>Funding Body:</b>	ARC Discovery Project		
<b>Project:</b>	How the brain produces speech: Neuronal oscillations to neuromodulation.	\$526,690	2022
<b>Team:</b>	DeZubicaray G., McMahon K., Brownsett S. et al.		
<b>Funding Body:</b>	MRFF 2021 Cardiovascular Health Mission		
<b>Project:</b>	The Right Treatment for the Right Person at the Right Time. Driving High-Value Aphasia Care through Meaningful Health System Monitoring.	\$451,221	2021-2024
<b>Team:</b>	Wallace SJ, Copland D, Kilkenny M, Godecke E, Unsworth C, Shrubsole K, O'Halloran R, Olaiya M, Hill A & Hersh D.		
<b>Funding Body:</b>	Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) 2021 Cardiovascular Health Mission		
<b>Project:</b>	Measuring, Monitoring, and Motivating Adherence to Self-Managed Aphasia Treatment.	\$288,521	2021
<b>Team:</b>	Wallace SJ, Copland D, Wiles J, Angwin A, Palmer V, Worthy P, Hill A, Timmer B, Gullo M, Campbell J.		
<b>Funding Body:</b>	Finnish Cultural Foundation		
<b>Project:</b>	Predicting and promoting Aphasia Recovery.	\$125,000	2022
<b>Team:</b>	Sihvonen A.		
<b>Funding Body:</b>	The University of Sydney Provost's CAPEX funding		
<b>Project:</b>	To support digital health initiatives in student education, including use of convers-ABI-lity in student placements in 2023, and purchase of virtual reality equipment.	\$110,176	2022
<b>Team:</b>	Togher L & Rietdijk R.		
<b>Funding Body:</b>	La Trobe University Internal Research Large Collaborative Grant		
<b>Project:</b>	Living well at home for adults with acquired neurological disability.	\$99,647	2022
<b>Team:</b>	Carey, L., Nilsson, M., Alahakoon, D., Hillier, S., Rose, M., Moschonis, G., Cadilhac, D., McKinstry, C., Pollack, M. Wong, D.		
<b>Funding Body:</b>	UQ Foundation Research Excellence Awards		
<b>Project:</b>	Plug-In and Power-Up: Boosting Health Self-Efficacy through Communication-Accessible Online Environments	\$95,082	2022
<b>Team:</b>	Wallace, S.J.		



## Funding & Grants 2022 continued.

<b>Funding Body:</b>	Stroke Foundation Early and Mid Career Researcher Seed Grant.		
<b>Project:</b>	Phase II Hub-and-Spoke Community Aphasia Group program.		
<b>Team:</b>	Lanyon, L., Wong, D., Shiggins, C., Pierce, J., Rademaker, B., Ermert, M., Ermert, K., Pettigrove, K., Rose, M.	\$80,000	2022
<b>Funding Body:</b>	Stroke Foundation SEED Research Grant		
<b>Project:</b>	M-MAT Tele: Maximising aphasia recovery through a group telehealth intervention		
<b>Team:</b>	Pierce JE, Copland D, Godecke E, Foster A, Churilov L, Nicholls R, Tulloch G, Barry S, & Rose M.	\$79,952	2022
<b>Funding Body:</b>	Stroke Foundation EMCR Seed Grant		
<b>Project:</b>	Surviving and Thriving After Stroke (STARS): Family-focused interventions for stroke survivors with children.		
<b>Team:</b>	Ryan B, Pitt R, Power E, Wong D, Treyvaud., Shrubsole K, Cobham V & Kneebone I.	\$69,650	2022
<b>Funding Body:</b>	Tavistock Trust for Aphasia		
<b>Project:</b>	Development of the Aphasia Therapy Finder, CATS WG4 project, intersects with the AARP update project. - Phase 2		
<b>Team:</b>	Rose M, Harvey S, Mohr B, Wallace S, Hoover L, Monnelly K, Dignam J, Visch-Brink E, Kirmess M & Dipper L.	\$60,000	2022
<b>Funding Body:</b>	Charlies Foundation for Research Edith Cowan University Research Explorers Grant funding program.		
<b>Project:</b>	Enhancing the Hospital Environment in Aphasia Care and Recovery (EnhanCeR): A Bayesian Optimal Phase IIa basket clinical trial of aphasia intervention.		
<b>Team:</b>	D'Souza S, Godecke E, O'Halloran R, Churilov L, Lannin N, Hayward K, Lynch E, Rose M, Bernhardt J & Simcock B.	\$59,995	2022
<b>Funding Body:</b>	Telematics Trust		
<b>Project:</b>	Aphasia Therapy Online - Mandarin, Vietnamese, Greek		
<b>Team:</b>	Pierce J.	\$50,000	2022
<b>Funding Body:</b>	2023 Epworth Innovation Grant		
<b>Project:</b>	Improving patient experience and safety through the Point of Care system for patients with communication challenge.		
<b>Team:</b>	Fletcher, L., Carragher, M., O'Halloran, R., De Zoete, B., Palmer, D., O'Connell, J., Rose, M.	\$50,000	2022
<b>Funding Body:</b>	RBWH Foundation		
<b>Project:</b>	Improving reliability and validity of presurgical language mapping.		
<b>Team:</b>	McMahon K, Brownsett S, Gillinder, Copland D, de Silva, Burfein, Berry	\$46,831	2022
<b>Funding Body:</b>	RBWH Project Grant		
<b>Project:</b>	Virtual reality telehealth model for communication rehabilitation: A feasibility study		
<b>Team:</b>	Burns C, Vaezipour A, Currant M, Heaton S, Fraser C, Hill A, Russell T, Storie J (Consumer).	\$42,147	2022



<b>Funding Body:</b>	Mater Foundation.		
<b>Project:</b>	Language in Epilepsy Assessment Program	\$33,438	2022
<b>Team:</b>	Gillinder L, Brownsett S, McMahon K, Reorden A, Copland D, Papacostas J.		
<b>Funding Body:</b>	Tavistock Trust for Aphasia		
<b>Project:</b>	Develop the Aphasia Therapy Finder - Prototype	\$30,000	2022
<b>Team:</b>	Rose M Harvey S, Mohr B, Wallace S, Hoover L, Monnelly K, Dignam J, Visch-Brink E, Kirmess M & Dipper L.		
<b>Funding Body:</b>	Speech Pathology Emerging Research grant		
<b>Project:</b>	Enabling clinical implementation of evidence-based aphasia intervention: M-MAT Tele	\$18,000	2022
<b>Team:</b>	Pierce J.		
<b>Funding Body:</b>	Southern Cross University Research Support Grants		
<b>Project:</b>	Improving implementation of the latest evidence into clinical practice: Clinicians' perspectives of the Australian Aphasia Rehabilitation Pathway.	\$15,000	2022
<b>Team:</b>	Shrubsole K, Rose M, Power E & Aggar C.		
<b>Funding Body:</b>	University of Technology Sydney Research Intensive Visit 2022 Scholarship - Visit to: City University London		
<b>Project:</b>	Reducing Emotional Distress after Stroke	\$14,700	2022
<b>Team:</b>	El-Helou R		
<b>Funding Body:</b>	QARC seed funding award.		
<b>Project:</b>	ImplemenTech: Partnering with health services to increase the use of evidence-based aphasia treatment technology	\$10,000	2022
<b>Team:</b>	Campbell, Brownsett. S		
<b>Funding Body:</b>	QARC seed funding award.		
<b>Project:</b>	Determining the effectiveness of using non-invasive neural stimulation to improve word learning in older adults.	\$9,994	2022
<b>Team:</b>	Browsett, Garden, Sale, Ward, Copland		
<b>Funding Body:</b>	Senior Research Fellowship from Indian Council of Medical Research.		
<b>Project:</b>	"Efficacy of a smartphone-based program for training naming skills in people with aphasia: A single-case experimental design series"	\$17400	2022-2024
<b>Team:</b>	Rajath Shenoy, Dr. Gopee Krishnan, Dr. Lyndsey Nickels.		

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**Total Funding / Grants for 2022**

**\$18,230,691**



## Speaking Engagements

The Aphasia CRE Team has had an amazing year of community engagement in conferences events, forums and interviews, podcasts, and webinars throughout Australia and worldwide.

We have been fortunate to include many guest speakers to present at our seminar events and we are incredibly grateful to all our speakers for negotiating interstate and international time differences it has enabled an extensive worldwide audience to engage in these valuable and informative seminars.

We would like to thank out 2022 Seminar team Dr John Pierce, Dr Marcella Carragher and our Centre Manager, Kelly Maskell for coordinating the delivery of these seminars. Most of our seminars have been recorded and we welcome you to view them online via our new [YouTube channel @AphasiaCRE](#)

### 2022 Aphasia CRE Seminars (Watch these on [Aphasia CRE YouTube](#)):

<a href="#">Seminar #29</a>	<b>What does the ASK study tell us about preventing depression in aphasia?</b>	Prof. Emerita Linda Worrall
<a href="#">Seminar #30</a>	<b>Isn't it obvious? You have to involve us in the design phase, because we will be the ones who end up using it': Developing and testing ListenIn.</b>	Dr Sonia Brownsett
<a href="#">Seminar #31</a>	<b>Everyday Communication in Aphasia Rehabilitation</b>	Dr Willemijn Doedens
<a href="#">Seminar #32</a>	<b>Accessible healthcare for people with aphasia through trained staff.</b>	Dr Jytte Isaksen
<a href="#">Seminar #33</a>	<b>Driving quality improvement through Meaningful Evaluation of Aphasia SeRvicES (MEASuRES).</b>	Dr Sarah J Wallace
<a href="#">Seminar #34</a>	<b>TeleCHAT: Preliminary findings from the first ICAP to be delivered via telerehabilitation.</b>	Dr Annie Hill
<a href="#">Seminar #35</a>	<b>ADaPT: Aphasia, Depression, and Psychological Treatment: modified cognitive behavioural therapy to treat depression in stroke survivors with aphasia.</b>	A/Prof Rene Stolwyk & Sonia Thomas

## Invited Keynotes and Presentations:

Hill A.	<b>Keynote Speaker: The growth of telerehabilitation for aphasia, maximising accessibility for people with aphasia and uptake by clinicians. TeleCHAT update and future directions for technology-enabled aphasia services.</b>	Aphasiology Symposium of Australasia, Melbourne, Australia
Kneebone I.	<b>Invited Speaker: Research in stepped psychological care. All-Island Stroke Conference.</b>	Irish Heart Foundation and Northern Ireland Multidisciplinary Association of Stroke Teams. Online.
Kneebone I.	<b>Invited Speaker: Psychosocial impacts of stroke: A clinical psychology perspective.</b>	NSW Scientific Meeting: Advancing Orthoptic Practice, Orthoptics Australia, Sydney, Australia.
Power E.	<b>Keynote Speaker: Co-design and consumer involvement in health service provision in acquired brain injury. What is it, and how do we make it more than a buzz word in the real world?"</b>	Third International Cognitive-Communication Disorders Conference (ICCDC), California, US.
Rose M.	<b>Invited Elizabeth Usher Award Keynote Speaker: Beyond our practice borders: Using a biopsychosocial framework to improve long term outcomes for people living with aphasia. Speech Pathology Australia National Conference.</b>	Speech Pathology Australia National Conference. Australia.
Rose M.	<b>Invited Keynote: Aphasia Therapy Works: Moving towards improved prescription.</b>	5th International Symposium of Vascular Neurology, Ljubljana Slovenia & online
Rose M.	<b>Invited Speaker: Improving outcomes from aphasia rehabilitation: Moving towards evidence-based, person-centred, technology-supported, wholistic aphasia care.</b>	National Conference on Speech and Language Pathology, Sweden, 2022.
Rose M.	<b>Invited Speaker: The impact of dose and intensity on outcomes from aphasia therapy in the chronic phase: latest evidence.</b>	The International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference (IARC) Philadelphia, USA.
Rose, M.	<b>Invited Panel Facilitator: Under the pump: Making a difference in aphasia management.</b>	Aphasiology Symposium of Australasia, Melbourne, Australia.
Ryan, B.	<b>Invited Speaker: Centre for Research Excellence in Aphasia: Mental health and wellbeing.</b>	Western Australia Aphasia - Words of Wellness Forum, Perth, Australia.
Shiggins C.	<b>Invited Speaker: Patient and Public Involvement in aphasia research.</b>	Collaboration of Aphasia Trialists, Societal Reintegration and Participation meeting. Online.
Shiggins C.	<b>Invited Speaker: Consumer and Community Involvement: considerations for including people with aphasia.</b>	Stroke Society of Australasia Conference, Christchurch, New Zealand.
Shiggins C.	<b>Invited Panellist: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Symposium.</b>	Stroke Society of Australasia Conference, Christchurch, New Zealand.
Wong, D.	<b>Invited Speaker: Can CBT be effectively adapted for people with cognitive impairment after acquired brain injury? Invited plenary address.</b>	Australian Association for Cognitive and Behaviour Therapy (AACBT) Conference. Melbourne, Australia.
Worrall, L.	<b>Invited Keynote: The why and how of integrating mental health care into aphasia services.</b>	The International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference (IARC) Philadelphia, USA.



## Conference Presentations:

Baker C.	<b>Optimising mental health and well-being for people with aphasia after stroke: Aphasia Prevention Intervention and Support in Mental health via tele-rehabilitation (Aphasia PRISM).</b> Baker, C., Rose, M., Ryan, B., Cadilhac, D., Thomas, S. & Kneebone, I.	Echuca Regional Health Stroke Grand Round. Echuca, Victoria, Australia.
Baker C.	<b>Clinical competencies to facilitate psychological interventions for people with aphasia.</b> Baker, C., Ryan, B., Wallace, S., Wong, D., Thomas, S., Rose, M., Kneebone, I. & Jones, E.	Aphasiology Symposium of Australasia, Melbourne, Australia
Brownsett S & Copland D.	<b>Language in the brain: Beyond Broca's and Wernicke's areas.</b>	Mater Clinical research engagement event. Brisbane.
El-Helou R.	<b>Improving the identification and treatment of mood disorders in stroke survivors including those with aphasia.</b> El-Helou R, Ryan B, Rogers J, Marsden D, Baillie A, Winkler A, Kneebone I.	City University of London, Aphasia Symposium.
El-Helou R.	<b>Development of the. Co-designed Kalmer relaxation intervention.</b> El-Helou, R., Ryan, B., Kneebone, I.	University of Technology Sydney, Graduate School of Health - Stroke Seminar, Sydney, Australia (online).
Harvey S.	<b>Dose-response relationships in post-stroke aphasia: preliminary evidence from a pilot study [Presentation].</b> Harvey, S., Carragher, M., Dickey, M. W. & Rose, M. L. (August, 2022).	SMART Strokes Conference, Sydney, Australia.
Harvey S.	<b>How much? A novel method to investigate the impact of personalising the amount of aphasia treatment to optimise recovery after stroke.</b> Harvey S, Carragher M, Dickey M, & Rose M.*	Speech Pathology Australia National Conference, Melbourne, 2022
Hood C.	<b>Cortical changes in survivors of childhood medulloblastoma.</b>	Australasian Brain and Psychological Sciences Meeting. Brisbane, Australia
Kneebone I.	<b>Are psychological interventions effective in the management of post-stroke pain? A systematic review.</b> Kneebone I, Munday I, Van Zanden B, Thomas S & Newton-John T.	Organisation for Psychological Research into Stroke - OPSYRIS OZ Virtual Event, Australia
Lanyon L.	<b>Exploring the acceptability and feasibility of a peer-led hub-and-spoke model of community aphasia group delivery. Perspectives of stake holders.</b> Lanyon, L., Attard, M., Wilcox, C., Carragher, M., Shiggins, C., Pierce, J., Wong, S., Fenner, P., Rose, M.	Speech Pathology Australia National Conference, Melbourne, Australia.
Larkman C.	<b>Co-designing a framework for the adaptation of aphasia therapy for diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.</b> Larkman, C., Lanyon, L., & Rose, M. L.	SMART Strokes Conference, Sydney, Australia.
Larkman C.	<b>Aphasia therapy when speech pathologists and patients do not speak the same language: a scoping review.</b> Larkman, C, Mellahn, K, Han, W., Rose M.	Sydney Local Health District Allied Health Research Forum, Sydney, Australia.

Larkman C.	<b>Aphasia rehabilitation when speech pathologists and clients do not share a language.</b> Larkman C, Lanyon L, & Rose M.	Speech Pathology Australia National Conference, Melbourne, 2022.
Mellahn K.	<b>The nature of inpatient rehabilitation for people with aphasia from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. A scoping review.</b> Mellahn K, Larkman C, Siyambalapatiya S, Lakhani A, Rose M.	Speech Pathology Australia National Conference, Melbourne, 2022.
Pettigrove K.	<b>Community aphasia groups: definition, classification, and facilitation.</b> Pettigrove K, Lanyon L, Attard M, Rose M.	International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference, Philadelphia 2022.
Pettigrove K.	<b>Facilitating community aphasia groups- a scoping review of the literature.</b> Pettigrove, K., Lanyon, L., Attard, M., Rose, M.	Speech Pathology Australia National Conference, Melbourne, Australia.
Pierce JE.	<b>"The Big Black Hole" - Experiences of Communication Disability after Stroke from Patient, Caregiver and Clinician Perspectives.</b> Pierce, JE, Alahakoon D, Attard M, Cadilhac D, Churilov L, Copland D, Hernandez N, Hill A, Hill K, Kneebone I, Lanyon L, Togher L, Lindley R, Power E, Rietdijk R, Ryan B, Sheldrick, T, Shiggins C, Usherwood T, Wong D, Worrall L & Rose M.	SMART Strokes Conference, Sydney, Australia.
Pierce JE.	<b>How Fatiguing is High Intensity Treatment for People with Aphasia? An Analysis of 140 Participants from the COMPARE Trial.</b> Pierce, J. E., Harvey, S., Cadilhac, D., Carragher, M., Copland, C., Foster, A., Godecke, E., Kim, Joosup., Hurley, M., Nickels, L., Meinzer, M., Rai, T., Togher, L., Rose, M.	Australasian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment Conference, Perth, Australia. 2022
Reardon A.	<b>Language and Epilepsy in action programme</b>	PAH Neurology Research meetings
Rose M.	<b>Factors associated with treatment response in the COMPARE randomized controlled trial of intervention for chronic post-stroke aphasia.</b> Rose M, Kim J, Copland D, Nickels L, Togher L, Godecke E, Rai T, Meinzer M, Cadilhac D, Hurley M, Wilcox C, Steel G, Pierce J & Carragher M.	SMART STROKES Conference, Sydney, Australia. 2022
Rose M.	<b>Variability in treatment response, and self-reported fatigue in participants from the COMPARE randomized controlled trial of intervention for chronic post-stroke aphasia.</b> Rose M, Kim J, Copland D, Nickels L, Togher L, Godecke E, Rai T, Meinzer M, Cadilhac D, Hurley M, Wilcox C, Steel G, Pierce J & Carragher M.	Stroke Society of Australasia Conference, Christchurch, New Zealand. 2022.
Ryan B.	<b>Reducing the impact of aphasia in stroke patients and their caregivers a year post onset via a brief early intervention. A cluster randomised control trial of the aphasia Action Success Knowledge (ASK) program.</b> Ryan B, Kneebone, I, Rose M, Togher L, Power E, Hoffman T, Khan A, Simmons-Mackie N, Carragher M & Worrall L.	International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference, Philadelphia 2022.
Shiggins C.	<b>Towards the consistent inclusion of people with aphasia in stroke research: where we are, what we know and where we are going.</b> Shiggins C, Ryan B, Dewan F, Elston A, Bernhardt J, O'Halloran R, Power E, Rose M.	International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference, Philadelphia 2022.
Shiggins C.	<b>Development of an 'Aphasia Accessible Participant in Research Experience Survey' through co-production.</b> Team: Ciara Shiggins, Donna Coe, Louise Gilbert, Aphasia Research Collaboration and Kath Mares.	Aphasiology Symposium of Australasia, Melbourne, Australia



## Conference Presentations continued.

Shiggins C.	<b>Towards the Consistent inclusion of people with aphasia in stroke research: what we know, where we are and where we are going?</b> Team: Shiggins C, Ryan B, Dewan F, Elston A, Bernhardt J, O'Halloran R, Power E, Lindley R, Mc Gurk G, and Rose M.	International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference, Philadelphia, United States.
Shiggins C.	<b>Inclusion of people with aphasia in stroke trials: a systematic search and review.</b> Shiggins C, Ryan B, Dewan F, Elston A, Bernhardt J, O'Halloran R, Power E, Lindley R, Mc Gurk G, and Rose M.	Stroke Society of Australasia Conference. Christchurch. New Zealand.
Stolwyk R. Thomas S. Tjokrowijoto P.	<b>ADaPT (aphasia, depression, and psychological treatment): Modified cognitive behavioural therapy to treat depression in stroke survivors with aphasia.</b> Stolwyk R, Thomas S, Tjokrowijoto P, Kneebone I, Ryan B & Baker C.	APS College of Clinical Neuropsychologists Conference, Manly. Australia.
Tjokrowijoto P.	<b>Receipt of mental health treatment in Australian survivors of stroke: Contributing factors and long-term outcomes.</b> Tjokrowijoto P, Stolwyk R, Ung D, Kneebone I, Kilkenny M, Kim J, Olaiya M, Dalli L, Cadilhac D, & Andrew N.	International Neuropsychological Society conference, Barcelona. Spain.
Tolkacheva V.	<b>The role of non-acoustic sublexical probabilistic phonotactic cues during speech perception.</b>	Australasian Brain and Psychological Sciences Meeting. Brisbane, Australia.
Vadinova V.	<b>White matter hyperintensities within right callosal connections are associated with severity of poststroke aphasia.</b>	Science of Aphasia.
Vadinova V.	<b>White matter hyperintensities within the forceps minor are associated with comprehension deficits in aphasia.</b>	Australasian Brain and Psychological Sciences Meeting. Brisbane, Australia
Wallace S.	<b>Meaningful Evaluation of Post-Stroke Aphasia Services (MEASuRES): Development of a Minimum Set of Process of Care Indicators.</b>	Stroke Society of Australasia Conference

## Poster Presentations:

El-Helou R.	<b>Co-design of the Kalmer relaxation intervention alongside people with aphasia. E-poster presentation.</b> El-Helou R, Ryan B, Kneebone I.	United Kingdom Stroke Forum, Liverpool, United Kingdom.
El-Helou R.	<b>Evaluation of the Online Mood Assessment Post Stroke Training program: A feasibility study.</b> El-Helou R, Rogers J, Ryan B, Marsden D, Baillie A, Winkler A, Kneebone I.	United Kingdom Stroke Forum, Liverpool, United Kingdom.
El-Helou R.	<b>Development of the Co-designed Kalmer relaxation intervention.</b>	University of Technology Sydney - Stroke Seminar, Sydney, Australia (online).
Harvey S.	<b>Personalising lexical retrieval treatment dose in chronic post-stroke aphasia: effect on acquisition and maintenance of picture naming skills.</b> Harvey, S., Carragher, M., Dickey, M. W. & Rose, M. L.	International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference, Philadelphia, USA.
Lanyon L.	<b>Exploring the acceptability and feasibility of a peer-led hub-and-spoke model of community aphasia group delivery. Perspectives of stake holders.</b> Lanyon L, Attard M, Wilcox C, Carragher M, Shiggins C, Pierce J, Wong S, Fenner P & Rose M.	Speech Pathology Australia National Conference, Melbourne, Australia.
Larkman C.	<b>How do speech language pathologists provide aphasia therapy when they do not share a language with the client? A scoping review.</b> Larkman, C, Mellahn, K, Han, W., Rose M	International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference, Philadelphia 2022.
Pettigrove K.	<b>Facilitating community aphasia groups- a scoping review of the literature.</b> Pettigrove K, Lanyon L, Attard M & Rose M.	Speech Pathology Australia National Conference, Melbourne, Australia.

Ryan, B.	<b>Reducing the impact of aphasia in stroke patients and their caregivers a year post onset via a brief early intervention: A cluster randomised control trial of the aphasia Action Success Knowledge (ASK) program.</b> Ryan, B., Kneebone, I. I., Rose, M. L., Togher, L., Power, E., Hoffman, T., Khan, A., Simmons-Mackie, N., Carragher, M., & Worrall, L.	International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference, Philadelphia, United States
Sekhon J.	<b>What do speech-language pathologists think of a counselling education program for supporting psychological wellbeing in post-stroke aphasia?</b> Sekhon J, Oates J, Kneebone I & Rose M.	Aphasiology Symposium of Australasia 2022 Melbourne, Australia.
Sekhon J.	<b>Feasibility and preliminary efficacy of a counselling education program on speech pathologists' self-efficacy and self-rated competency for counselling in post-stroke aphasia.</b> Sekhon J, Oates J, Kneebone I & Rose M.	International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference, Philadelphia, United States
Sekhon J.	<b>Preliminary efficacy and feasibility of an education program on speech pathologists' self-efficacy and self-rated competency for counselling in post-stroke aphasia.</b> Sekhon J, Oates J, Kneebone I & Rose M.	The Australasian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment (ASSBI) conference, Perth, Western Australia.
Sekhon J.	<b>Counselling training for speech pathologists to support psychological wellbeing in post-stroke aphasia – results of a pilot randomised controlled trial.</b> Sekhon J, Oates J, Kneebone I & Rose M.	Speech Pathology Australia National Conference, Melbourne, Australia.

## Workshops & Other Presentations:

Baker C.	<b>Supported communication in aphasia training for Clinical Neuropsychology students.</b> Baker. C. & Ryan, B.	Monash University, Australia.
Bennington C.	<b>International stakeholder perspectives about aphasia awareness</b>	Aphasia CRE Student Showcase, La Trobe University, Melbourne.
Best B.	<b>The usability and feasibility of a mobile music listening application for people with post-stroke aphasia</b>	Aphasia CRE Student Showcase, La Trobe University, Melbourne.
Brownsett S, Copland D.	<b>Language and Epilepsy in action programme. Inservice Training.</b>	Mater SLP
Casey K.	<b>We got there in the end.... somehow, we got there": A qualitative study of healthcare professionals providing care in the community to people with chronic aphasia, and how technology could assist.</b>	Aphasia CRE Student Showcase, La Trobe University, Melbourne.
Davies L.	<b>Speech pathology weekend service in the inpatient rehabilitation setting: implications for people with aphasia</b>	Aphasia CRE Student Showcase, La Trobe University, Melbourne.
Ford A.	<b>From the Inner Circle to Rebuilding Social Networks: A Grounded Theory Longitudinal Study Exploring the Experience of Close Personal Relationships from the Perspective of People with Post Stroke Aphasia</b>	Aphasia CRE Student Showcase, La Trobe University, Melbourne.
Harvey, S.	<b>Dose in aphasia [Presentation].</b>	Sydney Speech Pathology Managers group meeting.
Harvey, S.	<b>Dose in aphasia [Presentation].</b>	Royal North Shore Hospital PD meeting, virtual event.
Harvey S.	<b>Examining dose frameworks to improve aphasia rehabilitation research [Paper presentation].</b> Harvey, S., Rose, M. L., Brogan, E., Pierce, J. E., Godecke, E., Brownsett, S. L., ... & Hayward, K. S.	British Aphasiology Society, London, UK [virtual event].



## Workshops & Other Presentations continued.

Larkman C.	<b>Designing research to include culturally and linguistically diverse people with aphasia</b>	Aphasia CRE Student Showcase, La Trobe University, Melbourne.
Levine R.	<b>Implementing a structured group clinical planning model for Comprehensive, High-dose Aphasia Treatment (CHAT) within post-acute rehabilitation settings</b>	Aphasia CRE Student Showcase, La Trobe University, Melbourne.
Mellahn K.	<b>Comparing acute hospital outcomes for people with post-stroke aphasia who require an interpreter.</b>	Aphasia CRE Student Showcase, La Trobe University, Melbourne.
Pierce J E.	<b>Creating a Video Abstract for your research- Workshop.</b> Pierce JE, Wallace S, Harvey S, Baker C, Shiggins C, Carragher M, Rose M.	Australasian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment Conference, Perth, Australia.
Pettigrove K.	<b>Instructional Design for Speech Pathologists - Developing, Piloting and Evaluating an Education Package about Community Aphasia Group Facilitation</b>	Aphasia CRE Student Showcase, La Trobe University, Melbourne.
Reardon A.	<b>Improving the Reliability and Validity of Presurgical Language Mapping in Refractory Epilepsy</b>	Aphasia CRE Student Showcase, La Trobe University, Melbourne.
Rotherham A.	<b>What makes for successful conversation from the perspective of PWA and their primary conversation partners? Item generation for a patient reported outcome measure using the Nominal Group Technique.</b>	Aphasia CRE Student Showcase, La Trobe University, Melbourne.
Shiggins C.	<b>Get Involved! Shaping research with people affected by stroke. [Invited Workshop]</b>	UK Stroke Forum, Liverpool, UK.
Wallace H.	<b>Exploring the meaning of driving and the psychosocial consequences of driving cessation for people with aphasia: A narrative review</b>	Aphasia CRE Student Showcase, La Trobe University, Melbourne.
Wong D.	<b>How multidisciplinary team members can work with someone with cognitive and mood changes.</b> Wong, D. & Trevena-Peters, J.	Smart Strokes Conference, Sydney. Australia
Wong D.	<b>Making research matter: Working with people with lived experience of stroke on research projects.</b> Lynch, E., Wong, D., O'Malley, A., & Booth, B	Smart Strokes Conference, Sydney. Australia
Zingleman S.	<b>The profiles and outcomes of people with communication difficulties after stroke: a linked data study.</b>	Aphasia CRE Student Showcase, La Trobe University, Melbourne.

## Webinars / Podcasts / Videos:

Pettigrove K.	<b>Making Aphasia Groups Work Podcast.</b>	<a href="#">Aphasia Access Podcast Episode #86</a>
Reardon A.	<b>Collaboration with Epilepsy Queensland produced video about our research as part of their education and engagement.</b>	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XDhEXhiHrB0">www.youtube.com/watch?v=XDhEXhiHrB0</a>
Sekhon J.	<b>Counselling education to enable SLPs to support psychological wellbeing in people with post-stroke aphasia. Podcast.</b>	<a href="#">Aphasia Access Podcast Episode #95</a>
Sekhon J.	<b>Enabling Counselling Practice in Aphasia Rehabilitation Podcast.</b>	<a href="#">Speech Pathology Aust. Podcast S04 E39</a>
Wong D.	<b>Neuropsychological Rehabilitation After Acquired Brain Injury.</b>	<a href="#">Navigating Neuropsychology Podcast</a>





## Publications 2022

- Baker, C., Kneebone, I., Ryan, B., Shiggins, C., Worrall, L., & Rose, M. (2021). **Stroke Living guidelines - public submission on draft recommendations from the Centre of Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation, Australia.**
- Barnden, R., Cadilhac, D., Lannin, N., Kneebone, I., Hersh, D., Godecke, E., Stolwyk, R., Purvis, T., Nicks, R., Farquhar, M., Gleeson, S., Gore, C., Andrew, N.E. **Development and field testing of a standardised goal setting package for person-centred discharge care planning in stroke.** *PEC Innovation*, 2022;1. DOI:10.1016/j.pecinn.2021.100008
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- Berg, K., Isaksen, J., Wallace, S. J., Cruice, M., Simmons-Mackie, N., & Worrall, L. (2022). **Establishing consensus on a definition of aphasia: an e-Delphi study of international aphasia researchers.** *Aphasiology*, 36(4), 385-400. DOI:10.1080/02687038.2020.1852003
- Brady, M., Ali, M., VandenBerg, K., Williams, L., ...Rose, M., et al. (2022). **Precision rehabilitation for aphasia by patient age, sex, aphasia severity, and time since stroke? A prespecified, systematic review based, individual participant data, network, subgroup meta-analysis.** *International Journal of Stroke*. DOI: 10.1177/17474930211064602
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- Brady, M.C., Ali, M., VandenBerg, K., Williams, L.J., Williams, L.R., Abo, M., ..Rose, M., ..et al. (2022). **Complex speech-language therapy interventions for stroke-related aphasia: the RELEASE study incorporating a systematic review and individual participant data network meta-analysis.** *Health Soc Care Deliv Research*;10(28).
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- Brogan, E., Kim, J., Grimley, R., Wallace, S., Baker, C., Thayabaranathan, T., Andrew, N., Kilkenny, M., Godecke, E., Rose, M., and Cadilhac, D. (2022). **The excess costs of hospitalization for acute stroke in people with communication impairment: a Stroke123 data linkage substudy.** *Archives Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*. DOI:10.1016/j.apmr.2023.01.015
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## Publications 2022 continued.

- Brown, S.E., Scobbie, L., Worrall, L., Mc Menamin, R., & Brady, M.C. (2022). **Access G-AP: development of an accessible goal setting and action planning resource for stroke survivors with aphasia.** *Disability and Rehabilitation*. DOI:10.1080/09638288.2022.2085331
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- Cheng, B.B.Y., Ryan, B.J., Copland, D.A., & Wallace, S.J. (2022). **Prognostication in post-stroke aphasia: Perspectives of people with aphasia on receiving information about recovery.** *Neuropsychological Rehabilitation*. DOI:10.1080/09602011.2022.2051565
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- Lowe, J.R., Wallace, S.J., Sam, S., & Young, A. (2022). **Minimum data and core outcomes for subacute rehabilitation: A scoping review.** *Clinical Rehabilitation*, 36(3), 388-406. DOI:10.1177/02692155211060468.
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- Miao, M., Power, E., Rietdijk, R., Debono, D., Brunner, M., Salomon, A., McCulloch, B., Wright, M. R., Welsh, M., Tremblay, B., Rixon, C., Williams, L., Morrow, R., Evain, J. C., & Togher, L. (2022). **Coproducing knowledge of the implementation of complex digital health interventions for adults with acquired brain injury and their communication partners: Protocol for a mixed methods study.** *JMIR Research Protocols*, 11(1), e35080. DOI:10.2196/35080



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## Awards



### THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL RESEARCH FUTURES AWARDS



**The Centre of Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation (Aphasia CRE) was recognised in The Australian’s Annual Research Futures Awards as one of the top five research institutions in the Australian Disability & Rehabilitation sector.**

**“Disability and rehabilitation research is a growing area for two reasons. The first is that our society is increasingly recognising the rights of disabled people. The other is the increasingly sophisticated treatments being developed for people who need rehabilitation after injuries”**

**“La Trobe University’s Centre for Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation develops ways to help those with aphasia – which is difficulty speaking, understanding speech, reading and writing, typically experienced after a stroke.” [The Australian, November 8, 2022](#)**



### **Queen's Birthday Honours for Emeritus Professor Linda Worrall.**

Emeritus Professor Linda Worrall was recognised for her service to speech pathology through aphasia research and advocacy, with her appointment as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

We would like to congratulate Linda, this is well deserved recognition for a prominent leader in aphasia research for many years and for devoting her professional life to aphasia, helping the Aphasia community by founding the Australian Aphasia Association and the Australian Aphasia Rehabilitation Pathway.



### **Elizabeth Usher Memorial Award 2022 recipient Professor Miranda Rose.**

Aphasia CRE Director, Professor Miranda Rose was named the recipient of the prestigious Elizabeth Usher Memorial Award 2022.

Miranda delivered the keynote address, the Elizabeth Usher Memorial lecture at the Speech Pathology Australia National Conference in Melbourne 2022.



### **Speech Pathology Australia (SPA) Fellowship awarded to Dr Robyn O'Halloran.**

Dr Robyn O'Halloran was awarded Fellowship to Speech Pathology Australia at the 2022 national conference held in Melbourne.



### **QARC Award for Consumer and Community Involvement.**

The QARC team received a University of Queensland Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences Award for Consumer and Community Involvement (CCI) in Research (November 2022).

This award recognised the outstanding partnerships that have been established between QARC researchers, people with lived experience of aphasia, and clinicians. It acknowledged the commitment of the Centre to CCI at the governance level of the centre, across research projects and in the development of CCI theory and training.



## PhD Completions



### **Dr Jasvinder Sekhon - La Trobe University**

**Thesis: Enabling Speech-Language Pathologists to Feel Confident and Competent in Counselling for Supporting Psychological Wellbeing in People Affected by Post-Stroke Aphasia.**

Supervisors: Professors Jennifer Oates, & Miranda Rose from La Trobe University and Professor Ian Kneebone from University of Technology Sydney.

Jas' thesis included a systematic review of education enabling SLPs to support psychological wellbeing in post-stroke aphasia, a survey study of current counselling education provided to SLP students and a trial of an education program for improving SLP confidence and self-reported competence for counselling in post-stroke aphasia rehabilitation.

The research reported in her thesis provides evidence of the limited education currently available for SLPs in counselling to support people affected by post-stroke aphasia. It also provides evidence of the feasibility and preliminary efficacy of the counselling education program she developed (CLEAR) aimed at improving SLPs' self-efficacy and self-rated competency for supporting psychological wellbeing.



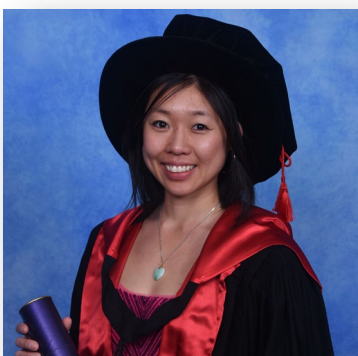
### **Dr Sam Harvey - La Trobe University**

**Thesis: Towards Precision Rehabilitation in Post-Stroke Aphasia: Examining the Role of Treatment Dose in Aphasia Recovery.**

Supervisors: Professor Miranda Rose and Dr Marcella Carragher from La Trobe University and Professor Michael Walsh Dickey from the University of Pittsburgh.

Sam's PhD examined how much treatment a person with aphasia needs to get the best recovery of language skills after having a stroke. Sam and team conducted three studies: a scoping review of aphasia research studies identified inconsistent conceptualisation, measurement and reporting of treatment dose and a tendency for too little information to be provided regarding the dose provided in aphasia treatment studies. A meta-analysis of studies that compared different doses of a single treatment provided

supporting evidence for the superiority of higher doses of treatment over lower doses for some people with aphasia. Sam then developed and tested a new way to personalise the amount of treatment provided to individuals with aphasia. Treatment personalisation aims to enhance recovery by targeting the right amount of the right treatment to the right person at the right time. Sam's findings provide a foundation for the systematic evaluation of treatment dose in aphasia rehabilitation.



### **Dr Bonnie Cheng – University of Queensland**

**Thesis: Prognostication in Post-Stroke Aphasia.**

Supervisors: Dr Sarah Wallace, Professor David Copland, Dr Brooke Ryan

Bonnie's doctoral research covered Prognostication in post-stroke aphasia: and considered perspectives of people with aphasia, and speech pathologists. Her work has been disseminated through 4 publications, 7 conference presentations, and in multiple media and public forums (e.g., ABC Radio National, World Science Festival). Dr Cheng has been successful in attaining a Research Analyst position with Corrective Services NSW.



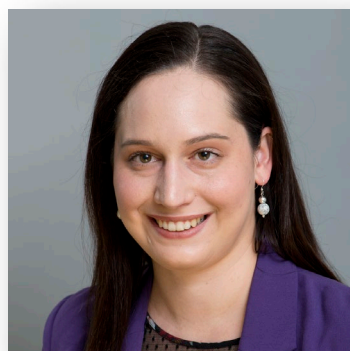


### **Dr Emma Ward – University of Queensland**

**Thesis - The spatial and temporal signatures of word production stages during verb naming investigated with TMS.**

Supervisors: Professors de Zubicaray, McMahon, from Queensland University of Technology, Dr Sonia Brownsett from the University of Queensland and Dr Gesa Hartwigsen from the Max Plank Institute, Leipzig.

Emma's PhD consisted of a series of experiments that investigated the spatial and temporal aspects of intransitive and transitive action pictures using behavioural tasks and transcranial magnetic stimulation. Overall, her body of work has provided novel insights into how verbs are organised in the mental lexicon, and the roles that the specific neural regions play in the spoken production of action words. James Cook University have been lucky enough to recruit Emma into a continuing lecturer of Psychology position.



### **Dr Leanne Ruggero – Macquarie University**

**Thesis: Quality of Life and Living Positively with Primary Progressive Aphasia" explored what 25 people with PPA said about their lived experiences of PPA, as well as how to best capture this information.**

Supervisors: Prof. Lyndsey Nickels from Macquarie University and Dr Karen Croot from The University of Sydney.

People with primary progressive aphasia reported frustration and challenges living with PPA that extended beyond just their aphasia. They were often still able to find ways to adopt a positive outlook, although there was a limit to their positivity. They had a wide range of responses to questions in quality-of-life scales. Most people with PPA were able to use quality of life scales with support. Leanne and colleagues concluded that speech pathologists are well placed to support communication when asking individuals with PPA about their experiences. The results of the overall PhD support providing multidisciplinary services to people with PPA and their friends and family to support their wellbeing, communication, and activities.



### **Dr Leana Nichol – University of Queensland**

**Thesis: Self-management of aphasia: building and supporting a communication infrastructure**

Supervisors: A/Professor Annie Hill Associate advisors: Dr Sarah Wallace, Dr Rachelle Pitt and Dr Amy Rodriguez.

Leana's doctoral research explored the concept of chronic condition self-management and aphasia. Her research covered how self-management principles and practices have been applied in aphasia intervention and considered possibilities for expanded use of self-management. The perspectives of people with aphasia, communication partners, and speech pathologists were sought in order to determine foundational aspects of aphasia self-management. Leana's work has been disseminated through five peer-reviewed publications and seven conference presentations.



## International PhD Completions

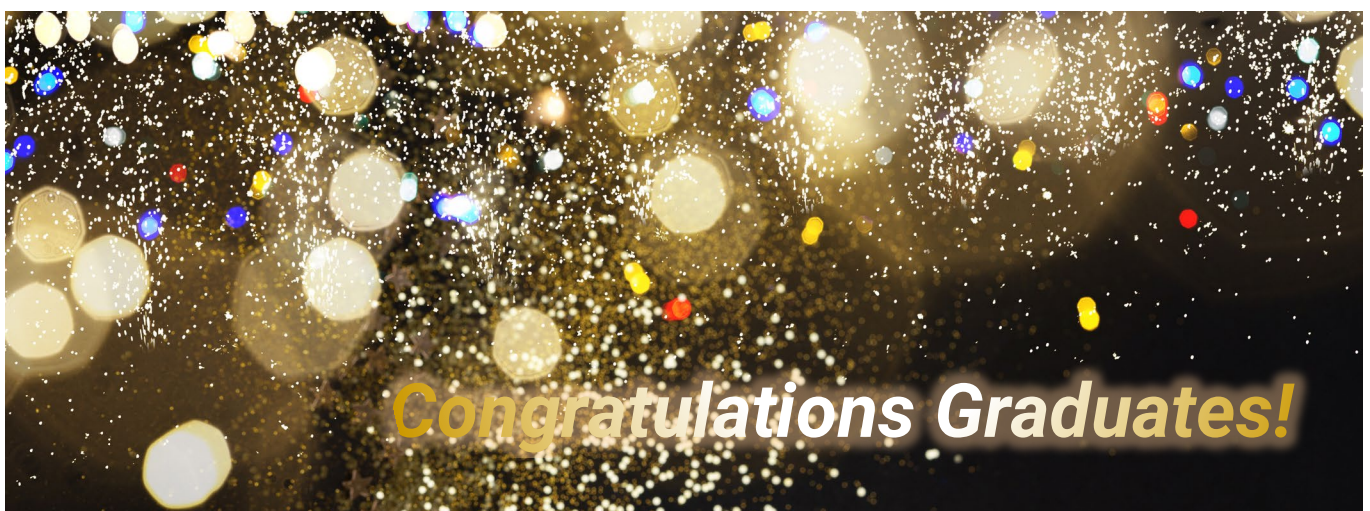
- **Dr Leona Wolters.** Clinical Psychology Doctorate. University of East Anglia.  
Thesis: Mechanisms and processes in current practice for addressing social isolation and connection for people living with acquired brain injury.  
Supervisors: Dr Ciara Shiggins and Dr Fergus Gracey.
- **Dr Georgie Berger.** Clinical Psychology Doctorate. University of East Anglia.  
Thesis: Social isolation and social connection for people living with acquired brain injury.  
Supervisors: Dr Ciara Shiggins and Dr Fergus Gracey.
- **Dr Hope Schlesinger.** Clinical Psychology Doctorate. University of East Anglia.  
Thesis: Identifying Depression and Suicidality in People with Post- Stroke Aphasia.  
Supervisors: Dr Ciara Shiggins, Dr Cat Ford, Prof Niall Broomfield and Prof Ian Kneebone.

## Masters Completions

- **Zoe Butt.** Masters of Clinical Psychology. University of Technology Sydney.  
Thesis: Emotional reactions of speech pathologists to working in post-stroke aphasia rehabilitation.  
Supervisors: Prof Ian Kneebone, Dr Brooke Ryan and A/Prof. Emma Power
- **Emily Eley.** Master of Clinical Rehabilitation. Flinders University, Adelaide.  
Thesis: The effects of cognitive-linguistic interventions to treat aphasia in the first 90 days post stroke: A systematic review.  
Supervisor: Dr Caroline Baker

## Honours Completions

- **Michelle Jing Yi Ong.** University of Queensland.  
Honours thesis: Application of Asset-Based Approaches with adults in health & social care: a Scoping Review.  
Supervisors: Dr Ciara Shiggins, Dr Fergus Gracey and Dr Sarah Hanson.





**Prof Leanne Togher presenting the keynote address at the German Aphasia Conference, Bielefeld, Germany, October 2022**

# EVENTS

## Research Partners Advisory Group Meeting 2022

For the first time since inception, members of our Research Partners Advisory Group met 'face to face' at the Aphasia CRE office to discuss research priorities, direction and progress.



L-R: Konrad Ermet, Mimi Ermet & Robert Nicholls



L-R: Prof Miranda Rose, Tim Adam, Julie Adam, Dr John Pierce and PhD Candidate Nelson Hernandez.

## Communication Connect Co-design Workshops

Communication Connect project has been conducting co-design workshops where people with aphasia, healthcare professionals and researchers work together to develop solutions to challenges of living with communication disability.



L-R: Prof Dammindha Alahakoon, Prof Miranda Rose, Rod McQueen, Dr Achini Adikari, June McQueen, Diana Antoniazzi & Tracy Sheldrick.



L-R: Prof Dammindha Alahakoon, Rod McQueen, Tracy Sheldrick, PhD student Nelson Hernandez, Vikki Cail.

## IARC Philadelphia 2022

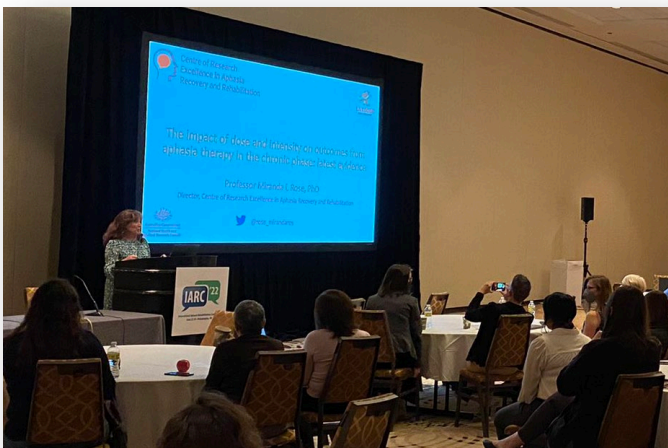
# International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference

June 22-24 • Philadelphia, PA

Collaboration of Aphasia Trialists (CATs) and Centre of Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation (Aphasia CRE) joint Technology Innovations in Aphasia Rehabilitation Think Tank Event.



L-R from back: Dr John Pierce, Dr Megan Sutton, Dr William E Evans, Dr Sarah E Wallace, Dr Sabine Corsten, Dr Norina Lauer, Dr Rob Cavanagh, Dr Mark Brodie, Dr Sam Harvey, Professor Stephanie Wilson, Professor Swathi Kiran, Professor Jacquie Kurland, Professor Miranda Rose.



Miranda Rose delivers invited talk at IARC.



Linda Worrall delivers invited keynote talk at IARC.



Above left: Dr Ciara Shiggins presentation at IARC on the inclusion of people with aphasia in research trials.  
 Top right: PhD Candidate Kathryn Pettigrove presents at IARC (from her hotel room in Philadelphia whilst battling COVID-19)  
 Above right: Prof Sabine Corsten, PhD Candidate Almut Plath and colleagues, Poster presentation at IARC.

## ASA 2022 - Aphasia CRE Affiliates and Research Partners Event



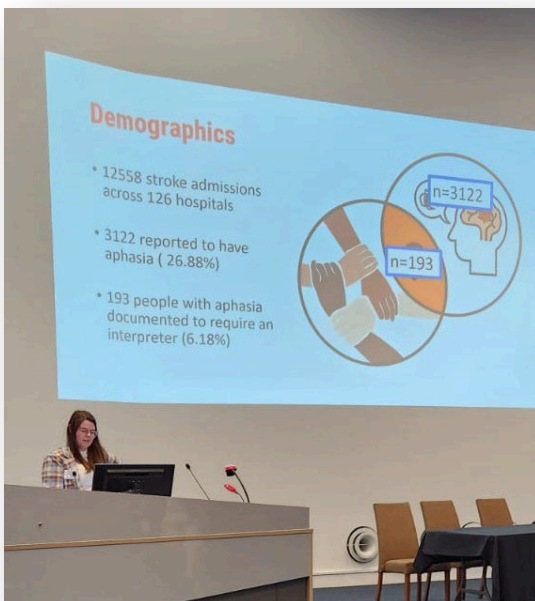
Members of our Research Partners Advisory Group enjoy time together with the Aphasia CRE team at the Aphasia Symposium of Australiasia event – L-R. Dr Ciara Shiggins, Kelly Maskell, Tim Adam, Julie Adam, Mimi Ermet, Prof Miranda Rose, Emma Beesley, Kim Beesley and Konrad Ermet.

## Aphasia CRE Student Showcase 2022

The Aphasia CRE hosted the annual Student Showcase at La Trobe University in November. Aphasia CRE higher degree research students from around Australia presented to an audience including investigators, Post Doc's, people with aphasia and their peers.



Above: Aphasia CRE team with Student Presenters and La Trobe Undergraduate Student Volunteers.



Above: PhD Candidate Kathleen Mellahn presenting preliminary findings from her work with Stroke Foundation comparing outcomes for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse people with #aphasia using audit data at the Aphaisa CRE.



Above: PhD candidate Claire Bennington (left) was delighted to finally meet her PhD advisors with lived experience of aphasia Emma Beesley and Kim Beesley in person.



## Aphasiology Symposium of Australasia (ASA) 2022

The Aphasia CRE were delighted to host the 2022 Aphasiology Symposium of Australasia (ASA) at La Trobe University. The theme of this conference was “Reconnecting”, and there were lots of opportunities to do that with the Conference and social event attended by over 160 attendees.

Keynote speaker, Dr Annie Hill presented on the growth of telerehabilitation for aphasia & how to maximise accessibility for people with aphasia and uptake by clinicians. She also presented outcomes from the TeleCHAT project which is the first ICAP to be delivered via telerehabilitation.

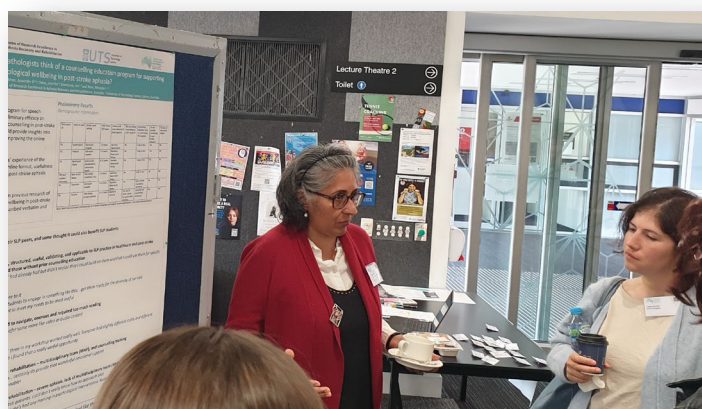
Subscribe to the ASA website for updates on ASA Perth 2023 [www.aphasiasyposium.com](http://www.aphasiasyposium.com)



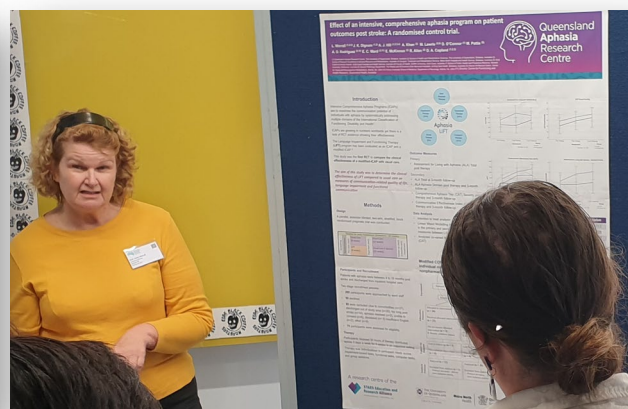
Above left: Roz Shand presented Nursing & speech pathology join forces.



Above top right: Dr Caroline Baker, Poster presentation  
 Above right: Prof Lyndsey Nickels – Poster presentation



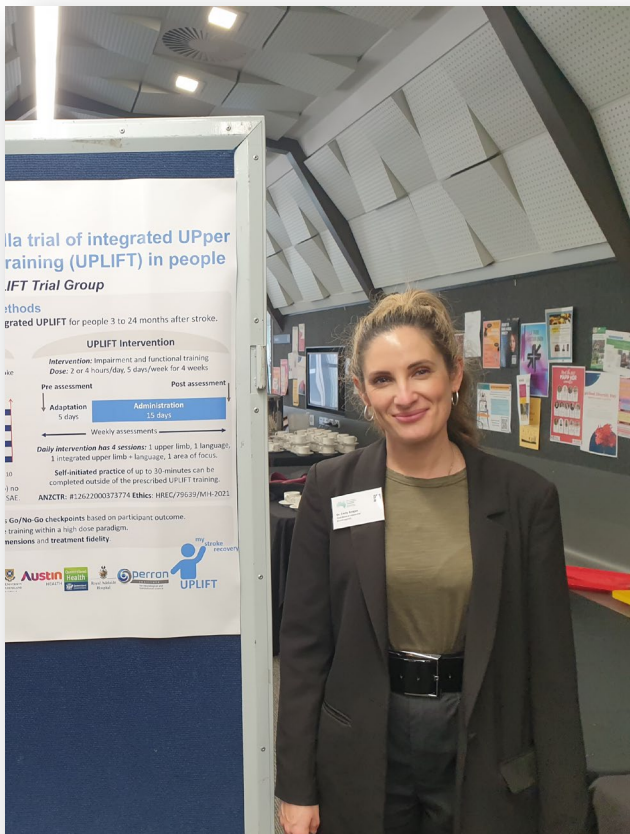
Dr Jasvinder Sekhon - Poster presentation.



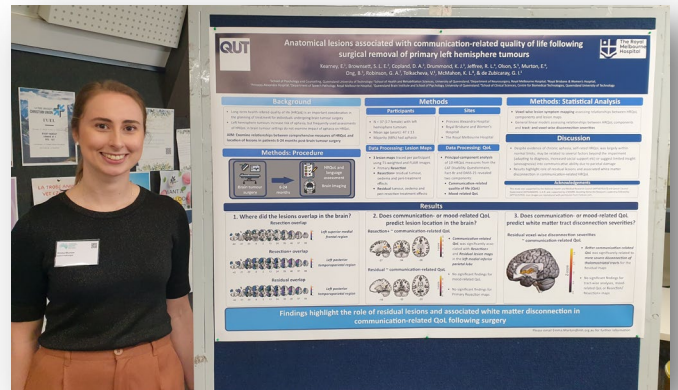
Emeritus Professor Linda Worrall Poster presentation



Panel Discussion – Under the pump but wanting to make a difference: a discussion between clinicians, researchers and people living with aphasia.



Dr Emily Brogan – Poster presentation



Emma Murton – Poster presentation



Magali de Lourdes Caldana – Poster presentation

## Aphasia CRE Writing Retreat – Lorne 2022

Post Doctoral Researchers and PhD Candidates from Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria attended a writing retreat. They all enjoyed the rare treat of working face to face, collaborating on grants and research papers and getting out in the fresh air. October 2022.

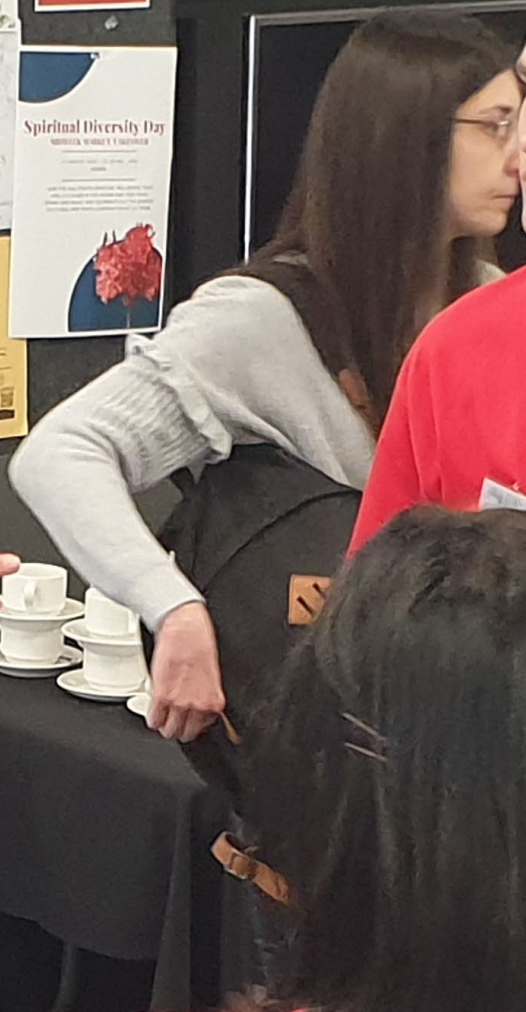
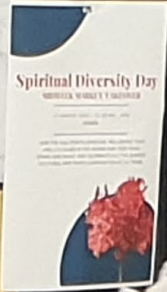
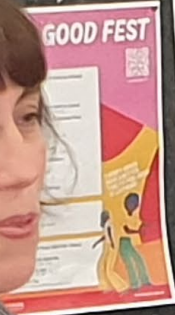


Above: Nelson Hernandez, Katherine Pettigrove, Miranda Rose, Ciara Shiggins, Lucette Lanyon & John Pierce



Above: Katherine Pettigrove, Chelsea Larkin, Sam Harvey, Ciara Shiggins & Miranda Rose

Theatre 2



Dr Lucette Lanyon in discussion with La Trobe Speech Pathology Student Volunteers at ASA2022

All kinds of clever

# Aphasia CRE Team

## Chief Investigators

- Professor Miranda Rose  
La Trobe University
- Professor Leanne Togher  
The University of Sydney
- Professor David Copland  
The University of Queensland
- Professor Ian Kneebone  
University of Technology Sydney
- Professor Julie Bernhardt  
Florey Inst. of Neuroscience & Mental Health
- Professor Richard Lindley  
The University of Sydney
- Professor Leeanne Carey  
La Trobe University
- Professor Dominique Cadilhac  
Monash University
- Professor Leonid Churilov  
Monash University
- A/Prof. Erin Godecke  
Edith Cowan University

## Associate Investigators

- Professor Cathy Price  
University College London
- Professor Julius Fridriksson  
University of South Carolina
- Emeritus Professor Linda Worrall  
The University of Queensland
- Professor Sandy Middleton  
Australian Catholic University
- Professor Lyndsey Nickels  
Macquarie University
- Professor Natasha Lannin  
La Trobe University
- A/Prof. Emma Power  
University of Technology Sydney
- A/Prof. Robyn O'Halloran  
La Trobe University
- Mr Kelvin Hill  
Stroke Foundation

## Post Doctoral Fellows

- Dr Ciara Shiggins  
The University of Queensland
- Dr John Pierce  
La Trobe University
- Dr Marcella Carragher  
La Trobe University
- Dr Sonia Brownsett  
The University of Queensland

## Administration / Research Trials Staff / Volunteers

- Kelly Maskell  
Aphasia CRE Centre Manager, La Trobe Uni
- Cassie Wilcox  
Aphasia CRE Research Associate, La Trobe Uni
- Farhana Dewan  
Aphasia Inclusion Hub Volunteer



## Affiliates

- Emeritus Professor Jennifer Oates La Trobe University
- Professor Sabine Corsten Mainz University, Germany
- Professor Deborah Hersh Curtin University
- A/Prof. Anne Whitworth Curtin University
- A/Prof. Katie McMahon Queensland University of Technology
- A/Prof. Madeline Cruice University of London, UK
- A/Prof. Michael Walsh Dickey University of Pittsburgh, USA
- A/Prof. Monique Kilkenny Monash University
- A/Prof. Natalie Ciccone Edith Cowan University
- A/Prof. Nawaf Yassi Monash Health
- A/Prof. Rene Stolwyk Monash University
- A/Prof. Shirley Thomas University of Nottingham, UK
- Dr Annie Hill The University of Queensland
- Dr Britta Biedermann Curtin University
- Dr Brooke Ryan University of Technology Sydney
- Dr Caroline Baker La Trobe University
- Dr Catherine Ford University of East Anglia, UK
- Dr Ciara Shiggins The University of Queensland
- Dr Dana Wong La Trobe University
- Dr Emily Brogan Edith Cowan University
- Dr Emma Finch The University of Queensland
- Dr Fergus Gracey University of East Anglia, UK
- Dr Jade Dignam The University of Queensland
- Dr Joosup Kim Monash University
- Dr Kate Hayward University of Melbourne
- Dr Kirstine Shrubsole Southern Cross University
- Dr Lucette (Luce) Lanyon La Trobe University
- Dr Marie-Pier McSween The University of Queensland
- Dr Michelle Attard La Trobe University
- Dr Nicholas Behn University of London, UK
- Dr Sarah Northcott University of London, UK
- Dr Sarah Wallace The University of Queensland
- Dr Tharshanah Thayabaranathan Monash University

## Higher Degree Research Students

• Amanda Elston	La Trobe University
• Amy Ford	La Trobe University
• Chelsea Larkman	La Trobe University
• Edwina Lamborn	La Trobe University
• Jasvinder Sekhon	La Trobe University
• Kathleen Mellahan	La Trobe University
• Kathryn Pettigrove	La Trobe University
• Kristina Bradley	La Trobe University
• Maya Menahemi-Falkov	La Trobe University
• Naomi Dekleine	La Trobe University
• Nelson J. Hernandez	La Trobe University
• Samuel Harvey	La Trobe University
• Aoife Reorden	The University of Queensland
• Bethany Best	The University of Queensland
• Bonnie Cheng	The University of Queensland
• Claire Benningtom	The University of Queensland
• Emma Schimke	The University of Queensland
• Genevieve Vuong	The University of Queensland
• Jennifer Lee	The University of Queensland
• Jessica Tranter	The University of Queensland
• Kimberley Garden	The University of Queensland
• Leana Nichol	The University of Queensland
• Patty Govender	The University of Queensland
• Penni Burfein	The University of Queensland
• Sam Armstrong	The University of Queensland
• Shannon Taylor	The University of Queensland
• Veronika Vladinova	The University of Queensland
• Sarah D'Souza	Edith Cowan University
• Siobhan Kavanagh	Edith Cowan University
• Rebecca El-Helou	University of Technology Sydney
• Sonia Lau	University of Technology Sydney
• Priscilla Tjokrowijoto	Monash University
• Bruna Tessaro	Macquarie University & Newcastle University, UK
• Catherine Mason	Macquarie University
• Leanne Ruggero	Macquarie University
• Pauline Cuperus	Macquarie University & University of Groningen, NL
• Rajath Shenoy	Macquarie University & Manipal Academy of H.E., India
• Suzan Dilara Tokac	Macquarie University & University of Groningen, NL
• Mareike Moormann	Curtin University
• Hope Schlesinger	University of East Anglia, UK



# Glossary

## Acronyms

**A/Prof.** - Associate Professor  
**AAA** - Australian Aphasia Association  
**ARC** - Australian Research Council  
**ASA** – Aphasiology Symposium Australiasia  
**ASHA** - American Speech – Language - Hearing Association  
**Aphasia CRE** - Centre of Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation  
**COP** - Aphasia CRE Community of Practice  
**CEO** - Chief Executive Officer  
**Dr.** - Doctor  
**ECU** - Edith Cowan University  
**IARC** – International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference  
**LTU** - La Trobe University  
**MU** - Macquarie University  
**NHMRC** - National Health and Medical Research Council, Australia  
**OPSYRIS** - Organisation for Psychological Research into Stroke  
**PhD** – Doctor of Philosophy  
**Post Doc** - Post Doctoral Research Fellow  
**Prof.** - Professor  
**PWA** - Person with aphasia  
**QARC** – Queensland Aphasia Rehabilitation Centre  
**RA** - Research Associate  
**RPAG** - Research Partners Advisory Group  
**SAHHSS** - School of Allied Health, Human Services and Sport  
**SPA** - Speech Pathology Australia  
**SSA** - Stroke Society of Australasia  
**Stroke CRE** - The Centre of Research Excellence (CRE) in Stroke Rehabilitation  
**SF** - Stroke Foundation Australia  
**UQ** – The University of Queensland  
**USyd** – The University of Sydney

## Terms

**Beacon Projects** - We have over 100 active projects within the Aphasia CRE. The beacon projects are the overarching projects, often with several sub projects. We have called them beacon projects because these are the standout projects (shining lights) signalling the aims and activities specifically related to the principal direction of the Aphasia CRE.

**Research Partners Advisory Group** - A group of people living with aphasia or supporting a person living with aphasia. They support the Aphasia CRE with lived experience perspectives and advice on research direction, programs and projects.

**Telehealth** - Mode to deliver health services to patients and clients via electronic means, usually teleconference or over the phone.

**Multi D** - Multi Disciplinary, combining or involving several academic disciplines or health professional specializations.

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## Join our Community of Practice

The Aphasia CRE - Community of Practice (COP) welcomes people with aphasia, family, friends, health professionals, researchers and organisations to join - [www.latrobe.edu.au/aphasiacre-cop](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/aphasiacre-cop)

Since our launch in 2019 the Community of Practice has grown very quickly. We have members from Australia and international locations, predominantly from United Kingdom, Ireland, USA, New Zealand, Canada, Denmark, India, Brazil and many more. Our members include people with aphasia, family and friends supporting a person with aphasia and health professionals. Our professional members include speech pathologists, physiotherapists, psychologists, social workers, neurologists, nurses, researchers, and students.

### Benefits to members of the Aphasia CRE - Community of Practice include:

- receiving our newsletter and updates on events and activities
- invitations to contribute to research agenda and studies
- opportunities to attend workshops and networking events
- free membership

Join our Community of Practice at - [www.latrobe.edu.au/aphasiacre-cop](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/aphasiacre-cop)



**Aphasia CRE**

Centre of Research Excellence in  
Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation

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**Centre of Research  
Excellence in Aphasia  
Recovery and Rehabilitation.**

