



Centre of Research
Excellence in Aphasia
Recovery and Rehabilitation



NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery & Rehabilitation Annual Report 2019-2020



Australian Government

National Health and Medical Research Council








Centre of Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation

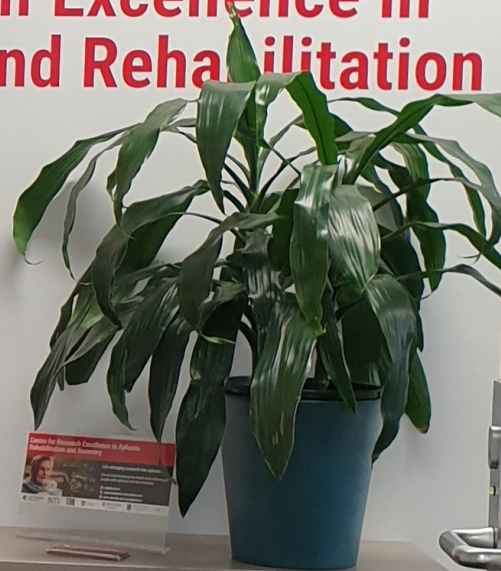


Life-changing research into aphasia
We are transforming the health and wellbeing
of people with aphasia and their families.

 www.latrobe.edu.au/aphasiacre
 @aphasiacre
 /aphasiacre



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, La Trobe University

Aphasia CRE Annual Report 2019-2020

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**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.

Director's Executive Summary

As Centre Director, it is with the greatest pleasure that I introduce this first summary of our progress on research projects and capacity building. The Centre of Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation is funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council, with its hub based at La Trobe University.

Our investigators, staff and students are also based at Edith Cowan University, Monash University, The University of Sydney, the University of Melbourne, the University of Technology Sydney, the University of Queensland, and the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health. I am incredibly fortunate to lead a dedicated and expert group of investigators, postdoctoral research fellows, research affiliates, higher degree students, research associates, administrative staff, volunteers, and community of practice members whose mission it is to transform the lives of people living with aphasia. Together with our Research Partners Advisory Group, clinical and industry partners we are on a path towards achieving our ambitious goals.

In this annual report we present activity and progress within our four research programs and our Aphasia Inclusion Hub, and we document our high levels of community engagement through social media, website, education and capacity building activities.

We commenced our work in March of 2019 and gratefully occupied our new purpose-fitted office space just before the COVID-19 pandemic took hold in Australia.

Despite the COVID-19 setbacks, including the halting of face to face research data collection and the requirement to work entirely virtually from home, we have continued to make very substantial progress on all of our goals - a testament to the creativity and commitment of our team. For example, for many people COVID-19 created a new awareness of the harsh effects of social isolation, something people with aphasia face on a daily basis. With this backdrop, our team pivoted quickly to create an online repository of COVID-19 related communicatively accessible clinical resources which saw high international uptake.

From the platform of engagement and research productivity you will see documented in this report, I am confident that we will continue to grow and achieve our goals. Thank you to everyone in our broad national and international community who has supported our work and so willingly engaged in deep and respectful collaboration. We look forward to continued success.



Management Team
Inaugural Meeting
March 2019

Pictured back L-R, Prof. Richard Lindley, Prof. Ian Kneebone, Dr Annie Hill, Prof. Lyndsey Nickels, Prof Leanne Togher, Dr Caroline Baker, A/Prof Erin Godecke, Prof Emma Power
Front L-R – Dr Marcella Carragher, Dr Michelle Attard, Dr Sonia Brownsett, Prof Miranda Rose (Director & Chairperson), Prof Dominique Cadilhac, Prof Leeanne Carey, Prof David Copland & Kelly Maskell (Centre Manager & Secretariat)

Governance Update

Centre of Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation

Management
Committee

Executive
Committee

Research Partners
Advisory Group

Management Committee

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 Leeanne 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, Dr Cathy Price, Dr Robyn O'Halloran, Dr Natasha Lannin, Kelvin Hill
- **Post Doctoral Research Fellows** - Dr Annie Hill, Dr Sonia Brownsett, Dr Michelle Attard, Dr Marcella Carragher, Dr Caroline Baker, Dr Emily Brogan, Dr Brooke Ryan, Dr Ciara Shiggins
- **Centre Manager** - Kelly Maskell (Secretariat)

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee comprises the four Research Program leads, the Centre Director, and the two senior postdoctoral research fellows. The Executive Committee monitors and executes the Centre strategy and 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, Dr Marcella Carragher, Dr Annie Hill & Kelly Maskell (Secretariat)



Research Partners Advisory Group

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), Dr Ciara Shiggins (Postdoctoral Research Fellow) and Kelly Maskell (Secretariat)



Konrad Ermert

Mimi Ermert

Stephanie Ho

Robert Nicholls

Archana & Gopal Sinh



Tim Adam

Julie Adam

Kim and Emma Beesley

Dr Ciara Shiggins

Prof. Miranda Rose



A/Prof Erin Godecke presenting Pre-conference Workshop Stroke Society of Australia Conference, Brisbane 2019

Aphasia CRE Statistics 2019/2020



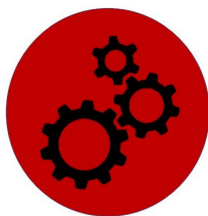
98
Publications



\$9,587,921
Funding/Grants



36 Higher Degree
Research Students



111
Active Projects



38 Keynotes &
Presentations



17 Aphasia CRE
Seminars



831 Community of
Practice Members



10,652 visitors from 84
countries viewed our
Resources



1,916 Social Media
Followers



Program 1: Neurobiological and Psychosocial Predictors of Recovery



Professor David Copland,
University of Queensland

“Achievements are even more impressive given the COVID-19 disruptions and numerous challenges this year has presented.”



Program Lead - Professor David Copland

Investigators - Professor Leanne Carey, Professor Dominique Cadilhac, Professor Leonid Churliov, Professor Julius Fridriksson, Professor Cathy Price, Professor Lyndsey Nickels, Associate Professor Erin Godecke, Dr Robyn O'Halloran, Dr Sonia Brownsett

Affiliates - Professor Katie MacMahon, Associate Professor Anne Whitworth, Dr Sarah Wallace, Dr Kristine Shrubsole.

Students - Kim Garden, Veronika Vadinova, Aoife Reardon, Jennifer Lee, Bonnie Cheng

Program 1 Aims & Progress

The Queensland arm of Program 1 is delighted to **have** moved into their new home at the Queensland Aphasia Research Centre (QARC).

Despite the disruption caused by COVID-19 to the data collection phase of many of our projects, work has been continuing with PhD students developing their skills in the processing of stroke-based imaging data, learning new methodologies and scanning of healthy control participants.

Other important achievements across the program include:

- Veronika Vadinova presented work on small vessel disease as a predictor of language recovery in her PhD confirmation and at the Society for the Neurobiology of Language conference. Supervised by S Brownsett, D Copland and K McMahan.
- J Renton completed her Honors thesis: Do Social determinants influence post-stroke aphasia outcomes? Supervised by S Wallace, M McSween and R O'Halloran.

- Dr Sarah Wallace presented at the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine as part of a symposium on measurement in rehabilitation entitled, Showing You Care About Stroke Through Shared Measures: How to Improve Clinical and Research Outcomes by Implementing Core Outcomes Measure Sets and Common Data Elements.
- Dr Sarah Wallace was awarded the UQ Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences Early Career Research Excellence Award.
- Professor David Copland and a team of investigators including a number of CRE investigators and affiliates were awarded an NHMRC partnership grant. (see details on pg. 24)
- Dr Brownsett, Professors McMahon and Copland along with other collaborators have been awarded funding to investigate functional imaging protocols that can be implemented to minimise the risk of post-surgical aphasia on language outcome.
- A number of grant applications were submitted to the Stroke Foundation, Royal Brisbane and Womens Hospital (RBWH) Foundation, Princess Alexandra Hospital Foundation SERTA & philanthropic Neurosurgical fund, the Herston Imaging Research Facility, the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Brain Cancer Survivorship Grant, and the Australian Research Council (ARC). This has been an excellent opportunity for the program to build collaborations within and across disciplines, both nationally and internationally.

Program 1 Beacon Projects

- **To determine the influence of structural damage and structural and functional connectivity on language outcome using a patient classification method.**
Significant capacity building has been occurring for this project with the training of three PhD students working on the processing and analysis techniques that will be used to investigate a range of neurobiological influences on outcome. Two students have successfully completed their PhD confirmations (Veronika Vadinova and Kimberley Garden), and some new inter-disciplinary and international collaborations have been developed to include a range of aetiologies that may result in aphasia (including stroke, epilepsy and brain tumours). Dr Aleksi Sihvonen from Finland has begun contributing to this body of work, bringing neurological and methodological expertise. Preliminary structural findings have also been presented at international conferences, despite COVID-19 challenges.
- **Testing individual probabilistic recovery curves from Predicting Language Outcome and Recovery after Stroke (PLORAS) recovery predictions, and their modulation in response to therapy.**
Considerable work has been undertaken to prepare the data for this project, with the collation of imaging datasets taking place across Australia and the QLD data being ready for testing. These achievements were even more impressive given the COVID-19 disruptions that added numerous challenges to this process.

Program 2: Treatment Effectiveness Across the Continuum of Care



“This program will address clinical pathways for acute post-stroke management, communication enhanced hospital environments and optimum therapy regimes to produce the best outcomes in aphasia.”



Program Lead – Associate Professor Erin Godecke

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

Affiliates – Associate Professor Mike Dickey (USA), Dr Jade Dignam, Dr Kate Hayward, Associate Professor Deborah Hersh, Associate Professor Anne Whitworth

Co-Supervisors – Dr Weifeng Han, Dr Ali Lakhani, Dr Samantha Siyambalapitiya

Students - Edwina Wang, Chelsea Larkman, Kathleen Mellahn, Sam Harvey, John Pierce, Kristina Bradley, Siobhan Kavanagh, Sarah D’Souza, Maya Menahemi Falkov, Tran Huu Duc (Vietnam), Dr Ngán Thanh (Vietnam), Cathy Taylor-Rubin

Program 2 Aims & Progress

This year Program 2 has focused efforts in three key areas:

1. improving the aphasia clinical pathway
2. enhancing communication enriched environments
3. investigating dose in aphasia recovery

- Key developments are:
- A team led by Dr Caroline Baker is currently synthesizing results for a scoping review of the management of communication disability in the first 90 days after stroke.
- Four honours theses related to the clinical pathway and communication enhanced environments have been submitted and publications are in preparation.

- Sarah D'Souza has submitted the main results paper for her PhD investigating implementing a communication enriched environment in an inpatient setting. She will be submitting her thesis in 2021.
- A virtual 'Dose Fest' was conducted in April 2020 that brought together leaders in measuring dose in stroke rehabilitation.
- Sam Harvey, John Pierce and Siobhan Kavanagh continue work in their dose-related PhDs publishing 3 scoping and systematic reviews in the topic. Sam Harvey has commenced data collection in a highly novel study of impacts of personalising dose on outcomes from naming therapy.
- Publications arising from 'Dose Fest' relating to consistent dose terminology and establishing a dose pipeline are ongoing.
- The NHMRC-funded trial of constraint induced aphasia therapy, multi-modality aphasia therapy and usual care in people with chronic aphasia (COMPARE) was completed in July 2020 with all 216 participants randomised as planned. The dose was 30 hours provided within 2 weeks. A sub-study investigates a distributed dose of the 30-hour intervention provided over 5 weeks. Results of the main study and sub-study are expected to be released in May 2021.

Program 2 Beacon Projects

- **Clinical Pathway:** Aim: Provide and implement an up to date evidence based clinical pathway for aphasia across the continuum of care. Key update: COMPARE completed recruitment in July 2020!
- **Communication enriched environments:** Aim: Evaluate feasibility, effectiveness and sustainability of a communication enhanced environmental (CEE) implementation package. Key update: PhD candidate Sarah D'Souza submitted the main results of her PhD!
- **Dose:** Aim: To develop evidence that enables personalized aphasia assessment management concerning dose and intensity of therapy. Key update: We conducted a virtual 'Dose Fest' in April 2020 to define a research agenda.



Pictured L-R, Professor Miranda Rose, Melanie Hurley, Dr Marcella Carragher and Cassie Wilcox.

The COMPARE team converted and finalised data collection from all 216 participants online during COVID restrictions in Melbourne, it was definitely time for a celebration!



Program 3: Technology for Healthcare Communication and Rehabilitation



Professor Leanne Togher,
The University of Sydney

“Technology offers people with aphasia and their families exciting new ways to access treatment, education, support and life participation.”



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, Dr Caroline Baker

Associates - Dr Melissa Brunner, Dr Elise Elbourn, Dr Rachael Rietdijk, Dr Jade Dignam, Dr Clare Burns, Dr Nicholas Behn, Dr Jessica Campbell

Students - Sophie Brassel, Petra Avramovic, Kristen Bradley, Zali Hall, Melissa Miao, Lynn Grayson, Edwina Lamborn, Genevieve Vuong, Leana Nichol, Pauline Cuperus, Rajath Shenoy

Program 3 Aims & Progress

The Technology for Healthcare Communication Program made progress on various beacon projects despite the impacts of COVID-19.

- **TeleCHAT:** The aim of this program is to deliver a comprehensive high-dose aphasia therapy via telerehabilitation. Dr Annie Hill and PhD student Genevieve Vuong have been translating the existing in-person version of this intensive intervention for delivery into the home via telerehabilitation. The training package is being
- **Online communication partner training for student healthcare professionals.** The aims of this program are 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. Dr Michelle Attard completed data collection as part of the first aim with over 300 multidisciplinary students receiving the

training package (module + workshop). Results from this study, along with findings from the systematic review (the second aim), are planned for journal submission in 2021.

- **Speech Pathology Australia Telepractice Policy Project**

The aim is to develop a telepractice principles of practice guideline and a telepractice portal. Dr Annie Hill has been working with Dr Clare Burns and a national working party on this project. Annie and Clare are also reviewing the telepractice position statement. The telepractice portal will be evaluated during 2021 and final policy documents will be available shortly after.

- **Technology solutions for aphasia - Collaboration of Aphasia Trialists Working Group 4 Project.**

Dr Annie Hill is leading this group of international researchers to coordinate a Think Tank on “Future technology innovation in aphasia management”. It seeks to bring together leaders in aphasia, artificial intelligence, speech recognition and big data to brainstorm how technology can be applied in innovative ways to manage aphasia.

- **Survey of telepractice use by Australian speech pathologists.**

The aim is to conduct an online survey of Australian speech pathologists regarding their use or non-use of telepractice pre and since COVID-19): Lily Stevenson, an honours student at UQ, has conducted the survey. Submission for journal publication is planned for 2021.

- **Cued Naming using eSALT.** The aim is to investigate the feasibility of using an asynchronous

telerehabilitation platform (eSALT) to deliver cued naming therapy to inpatients. Dr Annie Hill is collaborating with Dr Angela Cream and Dr Deb West in Western Australia. Software has been deployed and participant recruitment is underway.

- **Safe Healthcare for People with Communication Disabilities.**

Prof. Leanne Togher is co-leading a new project with Prof. Sue McAllister and Prof. Sarah Dennis (The University of Sydney) funded by the National Disability Insurance Scheme. They aim to develop, pilot and evaluate a model for capacity building for future and current health care workers and healthcare environments to meet the needs of people with communication disability. It will be conducted with South West Sydney Local Health District (LHD) and Western NSW LHD. The project will incorporate the use of technology and digital health in a range of healthcare contexts and commenced in early 2021.

- **Healthcare Communications App.** Dr Marcella Carragher has led the development of a mobile app aimed at improving healthcare communication for people with aphasia. In 2020 it was trialled at Bendigo Health. There is also a study at Eastern Health investigating how it is used on acute and subacute wards being conducted by Dr Edwina Lambourne.

- We thank Dr Michelle Attard for her significant contributions to Program 3. Dr Attard led the communication partner training projects and contributed to the CRE in many other ways. Now that her CRE Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at The University of Sydney is complete; we wish her well in the future.



Team members – Prof Leanne Togher, A/Prof Emma Power, Dr Annie Hill, Dr Marcella Carragher and Dr Michelle Attard

Program 4: Optimising Mental Health and Wellbeing in Aphasia



“While there have been some interruptions to the progress of many planned research projects in 2020, the team have worked hard and focused on knowledge translation.”



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, Dr 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)

Students - Kathryn Pettigrove, Rebecca El-Helou, Priscilla Tjokrowijoto, Jas Sekhon, Leanne Ruggero, Sayampurna Ray (*Tulip), Hope Schlesinger, Almut Plath (Germany), Leona Walters (UK)

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. While there have been some interruptions to the progress of many planned research projects in 2020, the team have worked hard and focused on knowledge translation. Some projects were adapted to suit the online data collection context.

A selection of Program 4 highlights includes:

- Invited online presentation by Dr Brooke Ryan to a special interest group for clinicians who work with patients affected by communication impairments of neurological origin. (The interest group is called Adult Neurologic Communication Special Interest Group)

- Invited masterclass webinar for the Aphasia Institute of Toronto by Dr Caroline Baker attracted a worldwide audience.



Pictured – Dr Caroline Baker

- Invited presentation to European Stroke Organisation – World Stroke Organisation (ESO-WSO) 2020 on supporting communication online for people with aphasia by Dr Brooke Ryan <https://eso-wso-conference.org/>
- A working visit to the Melbourne Aphasia CRE office from international colleague, Almut Plath, a speech pathology Masters student from Catholic University of Applied Sciences, Mainz, Germany.

- UQ speech pathology student Natsumi Iwasaki, co-supervised by Dr Caroline Baker and Dr Brooke Ryan, successfully completed her honours research project entitled “Experiences of mood changes and preferences for management within stepped psychological care from the perspective of spouses of people with aphasia.”
- Dr Brooke Ryan along with the scientific committee including Ian Kneebone, Rene Stolwyk, Dana Wong, and Clare Ramsden convened the Organisation for Psychological Research into Stroke (OPSYRIS) 2020 conference, taking it to an online program for 2020. (see page 38 for OPSYRIS event).
- Applications for grant funding were submitted to:
 - Stroke Foundation to evaluate a telehealth mental health service for people with aphasia
 - NHMRC Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies grant scheme to evaluate one of Australia's first online internet health interventions for anxiety post-stroke.

Program 4 Beacon Projects

In 2021 the team will begin recruiting for their beacon projects:

- **ADAPT (Aphasia, Depression And Psychological Treatment)**. ADAPT will provide access to a treatment programme for post-stroke depression, at no financial cost.
- **PRISM (PREvention Intervention and Support in Mental health)** which will address the need for

research into management of emotional problems in people with aphasia. PRISM aims to implement preventative mental health care into health services.

- The Peer-led Community Aphasia Group project will trial its updated training materials with a face to face “take 2” of the pilot. (Hub and Spoke Training pilot of peer supporters is pictured below)



Pictured – Staff completing Hub and Spoke Project Training in the Peer-led Community Aphasia Group project.



Aphasia Inclusion Hub



Dr Ciara Shiggins,
La Trobe University

“The inclusion of people with aphasia in stroke research is underpinned by the need for effective communication between healthcare providers, researchers, and people with aphasia”



Advisory Group Members – Dr Ciara Shiggins, Dr Robyn O’Halloran, Professor Julie Bernhardt, Associate Professor Emma Power, Professor Richard Lindley, Dr Gordon McGurk, Dr Brooke Ryan, Professor Sandy Middleton and Professor Miranda Rose

Student – Sarah Tisberger

Volunteer – Farhana Dewan

Aphasia Inclusion Hub Aims & Progress

The Aphasia Inclusion Hub was established to promote effective transfer of the Aphasia CRE’s research outcomes into health policy and/or practice through:

- **increased participation of people with aphasia in general stroke research;**
- **improved trial readiness of clinical sites; and by**
- **developing a collaborative research agenda.**

We have made progress on a range of initiatives that address these goals, with a particular focus on the inclusion of people with aphasia in stroke research irrespective of disciplines.

The inclusion of people with aphasia in research trials: Without adequate support and resources,

stroke researchers can face barriers to including people with aphasia in stroke research trials.

Dr Ciara Shiggins is leading a team of researchers in writing a position paper on the issues around the exclusion of people with aphasia from stroke research and mitigations to support inclusion. This manuscript is in the final stages of preparation.

What’s the evidence for the exclusion of people with aphasia in research trials? To complement the position paper, Dr Ciara Shiggins is also leading a systematic review of the literature to determine if people with aphasia have been included in stroke randomised controlled trials that were published in 2019, and if so, how their inclusion has been supported. In 2019, 226 completed stroke trials and 168 protocols were published. The team is charting the data from these

sources and plan to submit a manuscript for publication in 2021. This research will provide us with an insight into current inclusionary practices for people with aphasia across stroke research.

The perspectives of stroke researchers: To better understand the barriers and facilitators to including people with aphasia in stroke research, the team is also interviewing stroke researchers across different disciplines. Participant recruitment and interviews are completed, and data analysis has begun.

Developing a collaborative research agenda: Dr Ciara Shiggins is working as a post-doctoral fellow on a project led by Professor Julie Bernhardt and supported by the Stroke CRE and the Stroke Foundation. The aim of this project is to support stroke survivors, including people with aphasia, and stroke researchers to work together in genuine research partnerships. The Stroke CRE team led an inclusion and diversity day, on February 25th, 2020 which included stroke survivors, family members, clinicians, and researchers. The issues identified on this day will inform the development of training materials for stroke survivors and researchers on how best to work together.

Why do we need an Aphasia Inclusion Hub?

The inclusion of people with aphasia in stroke research is underpinned by the need for effective communication between healthcare providers, researchers, and people with aphasia; this can only be achieved in an accessible healthcare system. As the work of the La Trobe University Aphasia Hub developed throughout 2019 and 2020, we saw new opportunities for collaboration with the other programs of research in the Aphasia CRE and with external partners on creating sustainable, accessible and inclusive healthcare systems for people with aphasia. Therefore, a proposal was prepared by Dr. Robyn O'Halloran, Dr. Ciara Shiggins and Prof. Miranda Rose and approved by the CRE Executive, to formally transform the La Trobe Aphasia Hub into the Aphasia Inclusion Hub. From 2021, the Aphasia Inclusion Hub will be led by Dr. Robyn O'Halloran and will be the fifth program of research in the Aphasia CRE.

The Aphasia Inclusion Hub will build on the original aims of the Aphasia Hub and include research aims related to improving the capacity of healthcare systems to support the full participation of people with aphasia in their own healthcare and the research that informs that care.



Dr Ciara Shiggins, Prof. Miranda Rose and Dr Robyn O'Halloran working on plans for the Aphasia Inclusion Hub for 2021

QARC Team celebrate the opening of the new Centre at Queensland University. November 2020



Aphasia CRE Beacon Projects Summary

KEY	Completed	✓
	In Progress	➔
	To be started	●
	Suspended	◆

1.1 NEUROBIOLOGICAL PREDICTORS OF APHASIA RECOVERY AND TREATMENT RESPONSE		
Test the accuracy of probabilistic recovery curves derived from PLORAS database for patients receiving aphasia therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracts being drawn up for 2 studies with University College London COMPARE dataset - consent forms obtained. Imaging datasets being acquired VERSE datasets - ethics approved. Datasets and copies of consent to share still to be acquired. 	➔
Determine the influence of structural damage and structural and functional connectivity on language outcome using a patient classification method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systematic review manuscript in final draft Training of PhD students in imaging analysis ongoing Pre-processing of imaging data taking place, including drawing lesions. 	➔
Validate predictors of aphasia outcome and examine the influence of psychosocial factors on recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping review conducted looking at income, ethnicity and sex. 	●
1.2 ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL MINIMUM DATASET ON APHASIA OUTCOMES		
Develop a national minimum dataset for aphasia to be embedded within Australian Stroke Clinical Registry (AuSCR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping review published 'measurement instruments for use with PWA' Study underway looking at how researchers describe social-demographic data – DESCRIBE study. 	➔
Cross validate predictors from aphasia to other allied health rehab studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration with Dr Aleksi Shivonen (Finland) analysing START study data to see which cognitive and structural factors impact on recovery predictors. 	➔
2.1 CLINICAL PATHWAY		
Provide and implement an up to date evidence based clinical pathway for aphasia across the continuum of care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping review (Management of aphasia in first 90 days) in final draft Updating evidence in the Australian Aphasia Rehabilitation Pathway (AARP) Clinical ready implementation resources for pathway: Linking to Collaboration of Aphasia Trialists (CATs) Aphasia Therapy Finder project. 	➔
2.2 COMMUNICATION ENRICHED ENVIRONMENTS		
Evaluate feasibility, effectiveness and sustainability of a communication enhanced environmental (CEE) implementation package.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sarah D'Souza finishing her PhD in the area. Consultation phase for a larger grant. 	➔
2.3 DOSE		
To develop evidence that enables personalized aphasia assessment management concerning dose and intensity of therapy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aphasia dose terminology and research pipeline publications in draft, expected publication in 2021 Treatment studies for dose and intensity: COMPARE trial results released May 2021; personalised naming dose study underway Several systematic reviews published in 2020. 	➔



3.1 TELECHAT		
To deliver a comprehensive high-dose aphasia therapy via telerehabilitation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publications relating to review of evidence for aphasia telerehabilitation, and task analysis for translation of aphasia rehabilitation for telerehabilitation delivery. Two publications in preparation and expected to be published in 2021. 	
3.2 ONLINE COMMUNICATION PARTNER TRAINING		
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two publications are in progress, one relating to the trial of an online communication partner training program for student health professionals nearing submission, and the other is a systematic review of communication partner training for student health professionals. 	
3.3 HEALTHCARE COMMUNICATION APP		
To develop and test a mobile application for enhancing healthcare communication for people with Aphasia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trialled at Bendigo Health in 2020 Eastern Health study in 2021. 	
4.1 ADAPT: CBT FOR PEOPLE WITH APHASIA		
Evaluate the feasibility and acceptability of using cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT) as a treatment for depression in people with aphasia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment underway Expected completion December 2022. 	
4.2 COMMUNITY APHASIA GROUP HUB AND SPOKE PILOT		
Increase social connectedness, quality of life, and participation of people with aphasia and their close others through peer-led Community Aphasia Groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collection commenced January 2020 and paused due to COVID-19 in March 2020, recommenced March 2021 with two groups Expected completion December 2022. 	
4.3 PRISM: STEPPED PSYCHOLOGICAL CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH APHASIA		
Evaluate the feasibility and acceptability of using stepped psychological care with people with aphasia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health professional training and recruitment underway Expected completion December 2022. 	
5.1 APHASIA INCLUSION HUB		
Inclusion of people with aphasia in stroke research trials irrespective of disciplines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Position paper is in the final stages of preparation Systematic review data is under analysis and manuscript is in preparation Data collection is complete for the qualitative interview study. Data is being analysed and manuscript is in preparation. 	

Imprisoned

Depressed

Imprisoned

Upset

Hopeless

Up

Darkness

Horrible

Really low

Horrible

Excluded

Terrified

Frightened

Frightened

Overwhelming frustration

LATROBE All kinds of clever



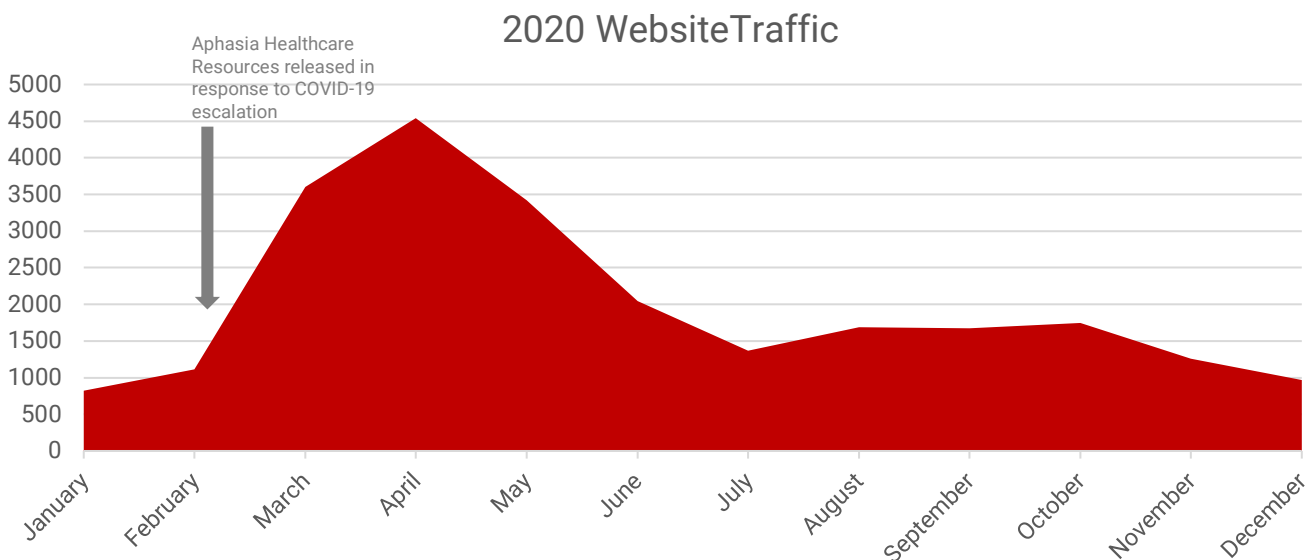
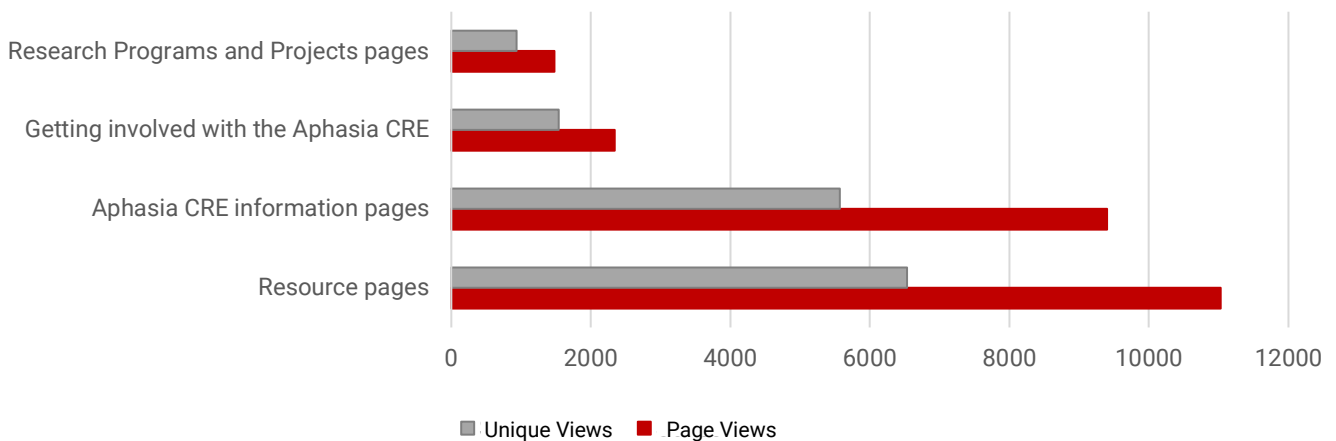
Dr Caroline Baker, presenting on
Mental Health and Wellbeing at
St Vincent's Subacute Forum 2019



Website Impact

The Aphasia CRE website hosted by La Trobe University, continues to grow in impact throughout 2020. An 800% increase in website visits was seen in March 2020 when the Aphasia CRE team, led by Dr Ciara Shiggins collated the Aphasia Healthcare Resources Repository for both clinicians and people with aphasia and their family and carers. The repository was promoted via social media, newsletters and online in response to the urgent COVID-19 healthcare need to have accessible guidelines and resources. These resources exist in many languages and are shared freely worldwide.

24252 Aphasia CRE Website Page Views in 2020



The Aphasia CRE Website and resources are accessed by health professionals and people with aphasia around the world. There are 84 countries that have accessed our resources:

- Argentina
- Australia
- Austria
- Bahrain
- Barbados
- Bangladesh
- Belgium
- Botswana
- Brazil
- Brunei Darussalam
- Bulgaria
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Egypt
- Falkland Islands (Malvinas)
- Fiji
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Gibraltar
- Greece
- Hong Kong (China)
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Isle of Man
- Israel
- Italy
- Japan
- Kenya
- Kuwait
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Malaysia
- Malta
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Moldova
- Morocco
- Nepal
- The Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Puerto Rico
- Qatar
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Saudi Arabia
- Singapore
- Slovakia (Slovak Republic)
- Slovenia
- South Africa
- South Korea
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Swaziland
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Taiwan
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States of America
- Vietnam
- Zimbabwe

Social Media



Aphasia CRE engagement on social media increased exponentially throughout 2020 with 1549 Twitter and 367 Facebook (triple our 2019) followers. 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, sharing our research with colleagues and people with aphasia worldwide.

Social media highlights include –

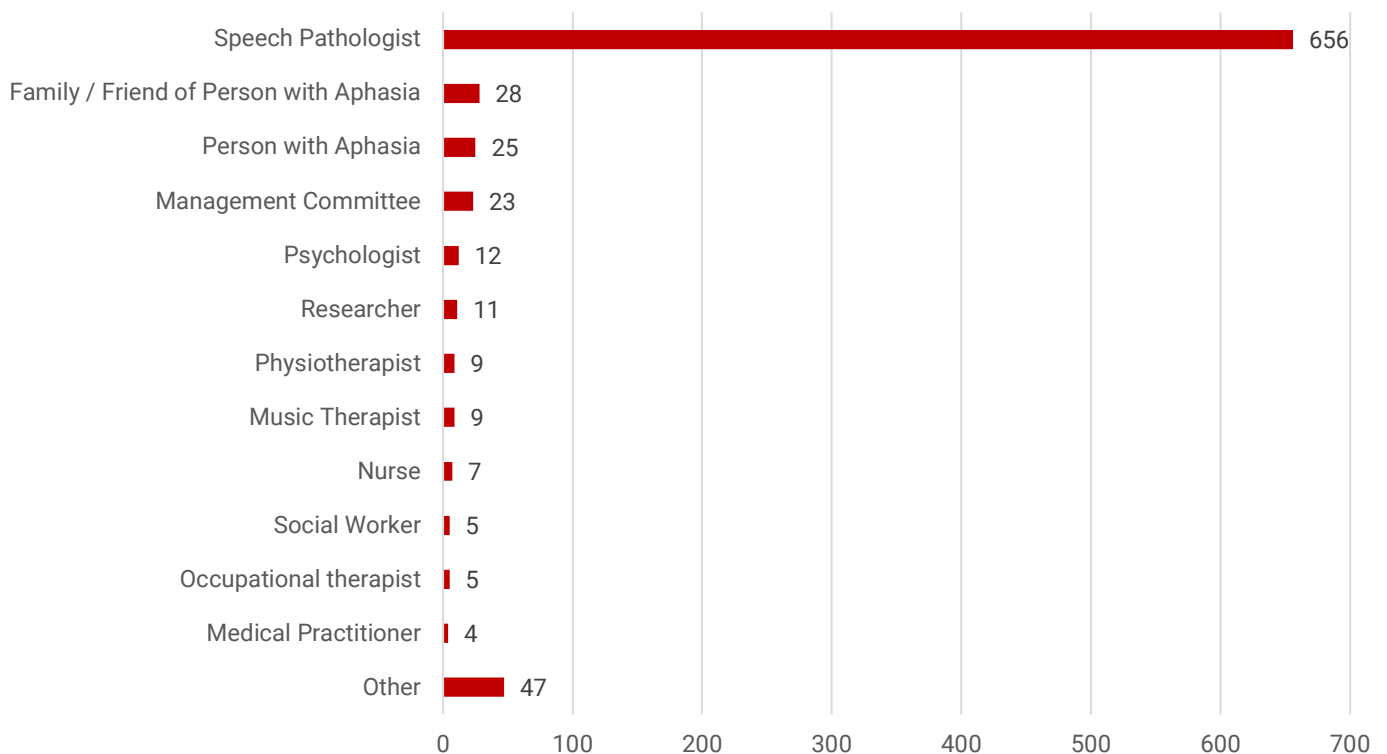
- 
 - **Twitter Tweetchats** hosted by Dr Ciara Shiggins and Dr Caroline Baker with various guests, subjects so far have included:
 - Telepractice and working with people with aphasia
 - Social connection and wellbeing for people with aphasia
 - Healthcare communication for all
 - TeleGAIN and online aphasia groups
- 
 - **Twitter Training for Health Professionals** – in direct response to clinicians and researchers wanting to engage with the Tweetchats, Dr Caroline Baker and Dr Ciara Shiggins hosted free training sessions on using Twitter for research, education and professional connection and engagement.

Community of Practice



In 2020 our Community of Practice (COP) spanned the globe with 841 multidisciplinary members. COP members receive newsletters and updates from the Aphasia CRE including invitations to seminars and events. There are also regular opportunities to participate in our research projects and to advise on research directions.

Who are our Community of Practice Members?



Where do our Community of Practice members come from?

- 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
- Poland
- Singapore
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Syrian Arab Republic
- United Kingdom
- United States
- Of America



Funding & Grants 2019/2020

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 in this reporting period, with a total of \$9,582,436 awarded.

Funding Body:	National Disability Insurance Scheme - Information Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC)		
Project:	Enhancing healthcare access for people with communication disabilities	\$2,325,319	2020-2022
Team:	McAllister, S., Togher, L., Dennis, S.		
Funding Body:	icare NSW (State Government)		
Project:	icare Brain Injury Psychiatry Project	\$2,200,000	2019-2021
Team:	Togher, L. & Hickie, I.		
Funding Body:	NHMRC Ideas Grant		
Project:	Communication Connect: Improving long term communication and mental health outcomes following stroke and brain injury.	\$1,809,756	2021-2025
Team:	Rose, M., Togher, L., Copland, D., Kneebone, I., Alahakoon, D., Power, E., Hill, A., Wong, D., Usherwood, T., Ryan, B.		



Funding & Grants 2019/2020 continued.

Funding Body:	National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Ideas Grant		
Project:	Staying connected: personalising stroke recovery and rehabilitation through new technologies for people with stroke living at home.	\$1,730,000	2021-2024
Team:	Carey, Alahakoon, Hillier, Pollack, Bayley, Boyd, Skidmore, Nawaratne, Ramanathan.		
Funding Body:	NHMRC Partnership Grant		
Project:	Implementation of Comprehensive High-dose Aphasia Treatment (CHAT): This project will investigate the implementation and effectiveness of a comprehensive high dose aphasia treatment	\$1,065,665	2020
Team:	Copland, D., Cadilhac, D., Lannin, N., Wallace, S., Shrubsole, K., Hill, A., Kilkenny, M., Dignam, J., Power, E., Ryan, B.		
Funding Body:	NHMRC Investigator Grant Emerging Leadership Level 1 grant		
Project:	Driving quality improvement through Meaningful Evaluation of Aphasia SeRvicES (MEASuRES). This work will be carried out in collaboration with the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation (Aphasia CRE), the Queensland Aphasia Rehabilitation Centre (QARK)	\$639,750	2020
Team:	Wallace, S.		
Funding Body:	icare NSW (State Government) Quality of Life Investment Call		
Project:	Online treatment resources for people with traumatic brain injury and their families.	\$586,000	2020-2022
Team:	Togher, L., Power, E., Rietdijk, R., Lim, R., Rushworth, N.		
Funding Body:	Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Grant		
Project:	How the brain produces speech: Neuronal oscillations to neuromodulation. This project will use intracranial recordings to characterise neuronal oscillations in combination with direct electrical stimulation, functional neuroimaging and non-invasive brain stimulation to establish critical areas and their timecourses with millisecond resolution.	\$526,690	2020
Team:	De Zubicaray, G., McMahon, K., Brownsett, S., Piai, V., Liegeois-Chauvel, C.		
Funding Body:	Children's Hospital Foundation Centre for Child and Adolescent Brain Cancer Research		
Project:	Risk factors for speech and language impairments and long-term outcomes in survivors of childhood primary posterior fossa tumours.	\$413,314	2020
Team:	De Zubicaray, G., McMahon, K., Brownsett, S., Wood, M., Hassall, T., Nicholls, W., Lloyd, O.		
Funding Body:	Raine Foundation Clinical Research Scholarship		
Project:	Clinical Research Fellowship. Investigating lateropulsion in stroke recovery	\$223,000	2020
Team:	Nolan, J., Singer, B., Godecke, E.		
Funding Body:	UQ Research Infrastructure Grant		
Project:	Upper limb assessment and rehabilitation devices. Funding to purchase TMS & neuromodulation equipment for future studies to investigate language and rehabilitation	\$164,595	2020
Team:	Sale, M., Brauer, S., Copland, D., Fleming, J., Carroll, T., Mattingly, J., O'Sullivan, M., Brownsett, S., Toyras, J., Padilha, L.		
Funding Body:	Perron Institute for Neurological and Translational Science		
Project:	Neurotrauma Research Program. Culturally safe support groups for Aboriginal people following stroke and trauma recovery	\$95,000	2020
Team:	Armstrong, E., Ciccone, N., Coffin, J., Woods, D., Carpio, R., Thompson, S., Katzenellenbogen, J., McAllister, M., & Godecke, E.		

Funding Body:	Dementia Australia Research Foundation Seed funding		
Project:	Evaluating the feasibility and effectiveness of a novel discourse intervention to improve everyday communication in people with dementia.	\$75,000	2020
Team:	Cartwright, J., Whitworth, A., Godecke, E.		
Funding Body:	Tim Glendinning Memorial Fund for Young Adult Stroke Research Grant		
Project:	Resuming Employment after Stroke: Enhancement through Telecoordination - RESET Rural Expansion Engaging a group of rural dwelling young people with stroke & health professionals to guide service refinement and test intervention and research procedures with the aim of testing in a trial and rolling out into services across Australia.	\$75,000	2020
Team:	Turner, A., Dean, O., Kennedy, A., Smith, H., Kneebone, I., Clissold, B., Naker, S., Mohebbi, M., Gao, L., Stolwyk, R.		
Funding Body:	Stroke Foundation Early Career Seed Grant		
Project:	Supporting carers of stroke survivors to get tailored information to meet their needs.	\$50,000	2019
Team:	Lynch, E., Mitchell, J., Hales, K., Lane, S., Godecke, E., Cadilhac, D., Harvey, G.		
Funding Body:	Stroke Foundation Early Career Seed Grant		
Project:	Aphasia PRevention Intervention and Support in Mental health (Aphasia PRISM). This project focuses on psychological intervention via telerehabilitation for people with aphasia in rural/regional areas. It will increase our understanding of psychological intervention via telerehabilitation for people with communication disability.	\$49,579	2020
Team:	Baker, C., Rose, M., Kneebone, I., Wong, D., Ryan, B., Thomas, S., & Cadilhac, D.		
Funding Body:	La Trobe University Research Funding Area (RFA) Building Healthy Communities Grant		
Project:	Reducing the risk of adverse events for people with communication difficulties in hospital. This project will investigate if having a communication difficulty predicts adverse events in hospital.	\$42,083	2020
Team:	O'Halloran, R., Rose, M., Sundararajan, V., Merner, B., Hill, S., Walker, V., Daws, K., Gock, H.		
Funding Body:	Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) Foundation		
Project:	Improving reliability and validity of presurgical language mapping. Developing an fMRI language protocol for pre-surgical planning to minimise risk of aphasia, tests-retest in healthy adults	\$39,996	2021
Team:	McMahon, K., Brownsett, S., Gillander, L., Copland, D., de Silva, N., Burfein, P., Berry, C.		
Funding Body:	La Trobe University Research Funding Area (RFA) Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Grant		
Project:	Driving innovation in stroke care based on the priorities of people affected by stroke: Validating a novel assessment of everyday communication for people with aphasia and their close others	\$20,000	2019-2020
Team:	Carragher, M., Togher, L., Rose, M.		
Funding Body:	Speech Pathology Australia New Researcher Grant		
Project:	Optimising mood and wellbeing with aphasia after stroke: a feasibility study of PRevention Intervention and Support in Mental health (PRISM).	\$15,000	2020
Team:	Baker, C., Rose, M., Kneebone, I., Wong, D., Ryan, B., Thomas, S.		



Funding & Grants 2019/2020 continued.

Funding Body:	Speech Pathology Australia New Researcher Grant		
Project:	Co-Design of the Queensland Aphasia Rehabilitation Centre. Will identify unmet need in aphasia services through experience-based co-design.	\$13,676	2020
Team:	Anemaat, L., Wallace, S.J., Copland, D., Palmer, V		
Funding Body:	Herston Imaging Research Facility Project Support Scheme		
Project:	Developing a robust and clinically useful pre-surgical language mapping fMRI paradigm. Testing a robust and clinically useful fMRI paradigm for people with epilepsy.	\$12,000	2021
Team:	Brownsett, S., McMahon, K., Copland, D., Reorden, A., Gillinder, L.		
Funding Body:	Western Australian Department of Health		
Project:	Implementation of mCIMT in early supported discharge following stroke.	\$8,350	2020
Team:	Weerakkody, A., Singer, B., Godecke, E.		
Funding Body:	La Trobe University, School of Allied Health, Human Services and Sport Strategic Research Grant Scheme		
Project:	Measuring clinical competencies in facilitating psychological interventions after aphasia.	\$5485	2020
Team:	Baker, C., Wong, D., Rose, M., Kneebone, I., Thomas, S., Ryan, B., Jones, E. & Wallace, S.		
Funding Body:	Charlies Foundation for Research		
Project:	Feasibility of cued naming therapy via telepractice for aphasia early post-stroke	\$5,000	2020
Team:	Hill, A., Cream, A., West, D.		
Funding Body:	HETI (Health Education and Training)		
Project:	Aphasia and mood training for NSW stroke clinicians. In partnership between Aphasia CRE and South Eastern Sydney Local Health District NSW (St George Hospital, Speech Pathology Department)	\$3,949	2020
Team:	Baker, C., O'Sullivan, A., Rose, M., Kneebone, I., Sekhon, J. & Ryan, B.		
Funding Body:	CASS (Contributing to Australian Scholarship and Science) Travel Award	\$3,000	2020
Team:	Wallace, S.		
Funding Body:	Ausdance QLD		
Project:	Co-creation of a dance intervention for stroke survivors including those with aphasia	\$2,500	2020-2021
Team:	Hill, A.		
Funding Body:	La Trobe Intellectual Climate Fund. Fostering the graduate research community at La Trobe.		
Project:	A four-part seminar series with invited experts speaking about the importance of mindfulness and self-compassion for graduate researchers.	\$500	2020
Team:	Pettigrove, K., Edgar, K., Kennedy, L., Virgona, A.		
TOTAL GRANT INCOME 2019/2020		\$9,587,921	



Professor David Copland presents at the Stroke Society of Australia Conference in 2019

Speaking Engagements

Despite COVID-19 restrictions, the Aphasia CRE team has been actively engaged in forums, conferences and events throughout Australia and worldwide. The necessity of events being driven online enabled the opportunities and flexibility to present remotely during 2020. It may result in significant changes to conferences and how they involve a worldwide audience going forward.

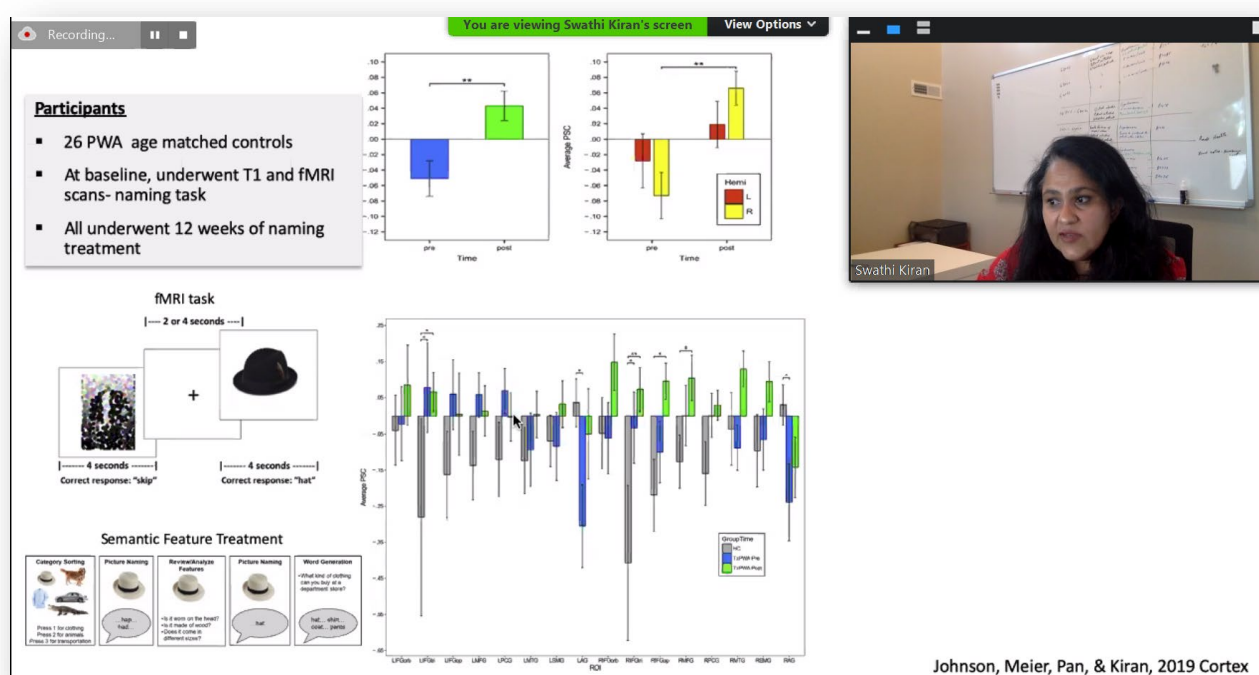
International guest speakers scheduled to be in Australia visiting the Aphasia CRE team in 2020 were still happy to present at our events. They took on the challenges of presenting from their home country and accommodating time differences with delivering presentations in the very early hours of the morning or at night. We are incredibly grateful that they were willing to do so. The knowledge shared with Aphasia CRE audiences has been incredibly valuable sparking research communication and collaborative projects internationally.

The Aphasia CRE Seminar Series has been a great success with a wide range of presentations. Our audience includes attendees from around the world and we regularly have 400-500 people registering for each seminar. In 2020, 1255 people including health professionals, researchers and people with aphasia attended or watched these seminars live, and over 2000 visitors have viewed the seminars online via our website. Thanks to the team of Dr Michelle Attard, Dr Caroline Baker and Kelly Maskell (Aphasia CRE Centre Manager) for coordinating these seminars. Most of our seminars have been recorded and we welcome you to view them online via our resources page - <https://www.latrobe.edu.au/research/centres/health/aphasia/resources>

Seminars from 2020:

- Seminar # 1 - Technology solutions to healthcare communication. Presented by Prof. Leanne Togher, Aphasia CRE Chief Investigator in July 2019
- Seminar # 2 - Improving the quality of life in aphasia. The effectiveness of the biographical narrative approach in different settings. Presented by Prof. Sabine Corsten. Catholic University of Applied Sciences, Mainz, Germany in Aug 2019
- Seminar # 3 - Who benefits, and why? Person specific and practice-related predictors of naming treatment response in aphasia. Presented by A/Prof. Mike Dickey, Department of Communication Science and Disorders. University of Pittsburgh, USA. In September 2019
- Seminar #4 - Sexuality and intimacy after stroke: is it really any of our business? Presentation by A/ Prof. Emma Power, University of Technology Sydney, Graduate School of Health on behalf of the Sydney Sexuality Group in October 2019
- Seminar #5 - Very early aphasia management. Presented by A/Prof. Erin Godecke, Senior Research Fellow at Edith Cowan University. Aphasia CRE Chief Investigator in November 2019
- Seminar #6 - Neurobiological principles and predictors of aphasia recovery. Presented by Prof. David Copland from The University of Queensland in January 2020
- Seminar #7 - Psychological management of stroke. Presented by Prof. Ian Kneebone from The University of Technology Sydney in February 2020
- Seminar #8 - Hospital care for people with aphasia: A long term perspective. Presented by Dr Robyn O'Halloran from La Trobe University in March 2020

- Seminar # 9 - Online aphasia group therapy: feasibility, outcomes, lessons learned. Presented by Dr Rachelle Pitt from The University of Queensland in April 2020
- Seminar #10 - Understanding and predicting outcomes in aphasia rehabilitation. Presented by Prof. Swathi Kiran from Boston University, USA in May 2020
- Seminar #11 - Dementia: New ideas for an old problem. Presented by Prof. Richard I Lindley from The University of Sydney in June 2020
- Seminar #12 - The Australian Stroke Clinical Registry: Progress over 10 years and relevance to those with aphasia. Can we do more? Presented by Prof. Dominique Cadilhac from Monash University in July 2020
- Seminar #13 - Improving inclusion in stroke clinical trials and research. Presented by Prof. Julie Bernhardt from The Florey Institute in August 2020
- Seminar #14 - Supporting wellbeing through peer-befriending: Results from the SUPERB feasibility randomised controlled trial. Presented by Dr Katerina Hilari from University of London, UK in September 2020
- Seminar #15 – Preservation of singing skills and rehabilitative efficacy of music in stroke and aphasia. Presented by A/ Prof. Teppo Särkämö from the University of Helsinki in October 2020
- Seminar #16 - Lessons learnt in implementation trials and how to improve implementation of high-level evidence in health care settings. Presented by Prof. Sandy Middleton from Australian Catholic University in November 2020
- Seminar #17 - Living Stroke Guidelines: how does this support best practice care for people with aphasia? Presented by Mr Kelvin Hill from the Stroke Foundation Australia in December 2020



Seminar 10 - Professor Swathi Kiran presents from Boston University



Speaking Engagements and Webinars:

1. Dr Caroline Baker presented for the Aphasia Institute, Canada Masterclass Series in September 2020 on 'Optimising Mental Health and Well-Being in Aphasia' with a focus on assessment, prevention and treatment of mood problems after post-stroke aphasia (e.g., depression)" Current evidence and the role of speech language pathologists within interdisciplinary practice was discussed.
2. ANCDs USA hosted a webinar series, Prof. Miranda Rose presented on "Multimodal approaches to aphasia intervention" in August 2019
3. The Stroke Foundation ran a webinar about aphasia management during COVID-19 and invited Prof. Miranda Rose to be a panel member, along with Melita Guy and consumers, Kim and Emma Beasley. July 2020 [View the recording here](#)
4. Aphasia Access Teach-in 24 Hr Conference in July was a huge success for the Aphasia CRE team with presenters including Prof. Miranda Rose, Dr Caroline Baker, Dr Ciara Shiggins, Dr Marcella Carragher, Dr Robyn O'Halloran, Dr Annie Hill, Dr Brooke Ryan, A/Prof. Emma Power and Jas Sekhon in July 2020
5. Prof. Miranda Rose presented on Research Leadership at the WATTLE Women in Academic Leadership Program, La Trobe University, Melbourne in December 2019
6. Prof. Miranda Rose presented at the Stroke Society of Australasia Rehabilitation Seminar, Canberra with "A national agenda for enhancing aphasia recovery and rehabilitation" in September 2019
7. Prof. Miranda Rose presented "Tackling aphasia through a national research agenda" for the Stroke Association of Victoria in March 2019
8. Prof. Miranda Rose presented "Latest evidence and practice in aphasia rehabilitation across the continuum of care" for Speech Pathology Australia Professional Development series in Melbourne, March 2019 and Sydney, October 2019.
9. Dr Annie Hill presented to over 1900 delegates of the Indian Federation of NeuroRehabilitation on the topic of Aphasia Management via Telerehabilitation, 2019.
10. Dr Annie Hill presented at Telerehabilitation Webinar, International Clinical Experiences hosted by Clínica Alemana de Santiago – Chile, 2019.
11. Dr Annie Hill delivered a keynote presentation to the UQ SHRS Postgraduate Conference on the topic of Sustainable implementation of telerehabilitation in Speech Pathology: What the rapid transition during the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us, December 2020
12. Prof. Kneebone presented "Centre of Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation: Optimising mental health and wellbeing in aphasia." as an invited keynote at the University of Sydney Communication Sciences and Disorders Research Symposium, Sydney, Australia. February 2020

Videos, Podcasts and Editorials:

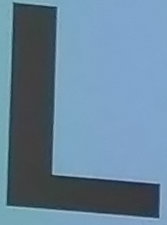
1. **La Trobe University's Connected series**, exploring what researchers do and why in an informal chat style interview. Professor Miranda Rose explained her interest in aphasia and latest updates in the breadth of aphasia research in the CRE and the world.
2. **Recent Editorial in Stroke by Professor Richard Lindley**: Mechanical Thrombectomy Saves Costs after Stroke due to Large Vessel Occlusion Mattle HP, Lindley RI (Editorial) Stroke 2020; 51: 703-704

3. **Prof. Richard Lindley's editorial on telemedicine** discussing improving outcomes for people with stroke, it has been published along with a podcast. Listen here - www.mja.com.au/podcast/212/8/mja-podcasts-2020-episode-16-telemedicine-acute-stroke-prof-richard-lindley The article related to this podcast is: Telemedicine is improving outcomes for people with stroke. Lindley RI. (Editorial). Medical Journal of Australia 2020; 212: 364-365
4. **Speech Pathology Australia podcast series with Professor Miranda Rose Director of the Aphasia CRE**, discusses evidence-based aphasia therapy across the continuum of care. (Nov 2019) Listen here - <https://soundcloud.com/speechpathologyaustralia/evidence-based-aphasia-therapy-s01-e23>
5. **Aphasia Access - Mental Health Concerns in People with Aphasia** In conversation with Professor Ian Kneebone - Ian Kneebone is head of discipline within the discipline of Clinical Psychology in the Graduate School of Health at the University of Technology Sydney. In this episode, Professor Jerry Hoepner speaks with Ian about our roles in addressing mental health concerns among individuals with aphasia. <https://www.latrobe.edu.au/research/centres/health/aphasia/resources>
6. **Enable Me - Hidden Disability** We speak to psychologist and researcher Professor Ian Kneebone, stroke survivor and StrokeSafe Ambassador Toni Arfaras and social worker Siobhan McGinniss from StrokeLine. Many of the challenges that people face after stroke, including fatigue, memory loss, even speech difficulties, aren't visible to those around them. In this podcast, we talk about the impact of invisible and hidden disabilities, how to make others understand and some things you can do to live well while dealing with them. <https://enableme.org.au/Community/Podcasts>
7. **Aphasia Access - Dr Robyn O'Halloran** - Broadening the role of the SLP in acute care assessment Dr. Katie Strong, Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Central Michigan University talks with Dr Robyn O'Halloran, Senior Lecturer in the Discipline of Speech Pathology at La Trobe University. Robyn is the lead author of the Inpatient Functional Communication Interview: Screening, Assessment and Intervention (IFCI : SAI), published by Plural in November 2019. Listen here - <https://aphasiaaccess.libsyn.com/38-broadening-the-role-of-the-slp-in-acute-care-assessment-a-conversation-with-robyn-ohalloran>

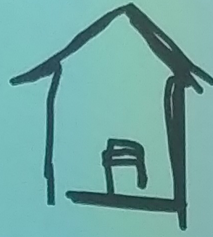


Dr Annie Hill delivered the Keynote address at the Nordic Aphasia Conference 2019

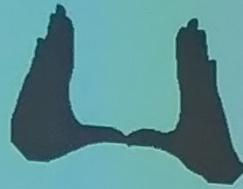
Multimodal treatments =
other modalities cue speech



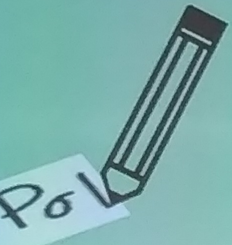
Reading/
orthographic



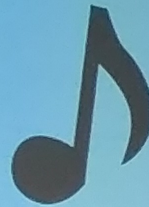
Drawing



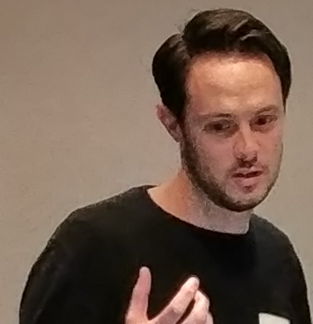
Gesture



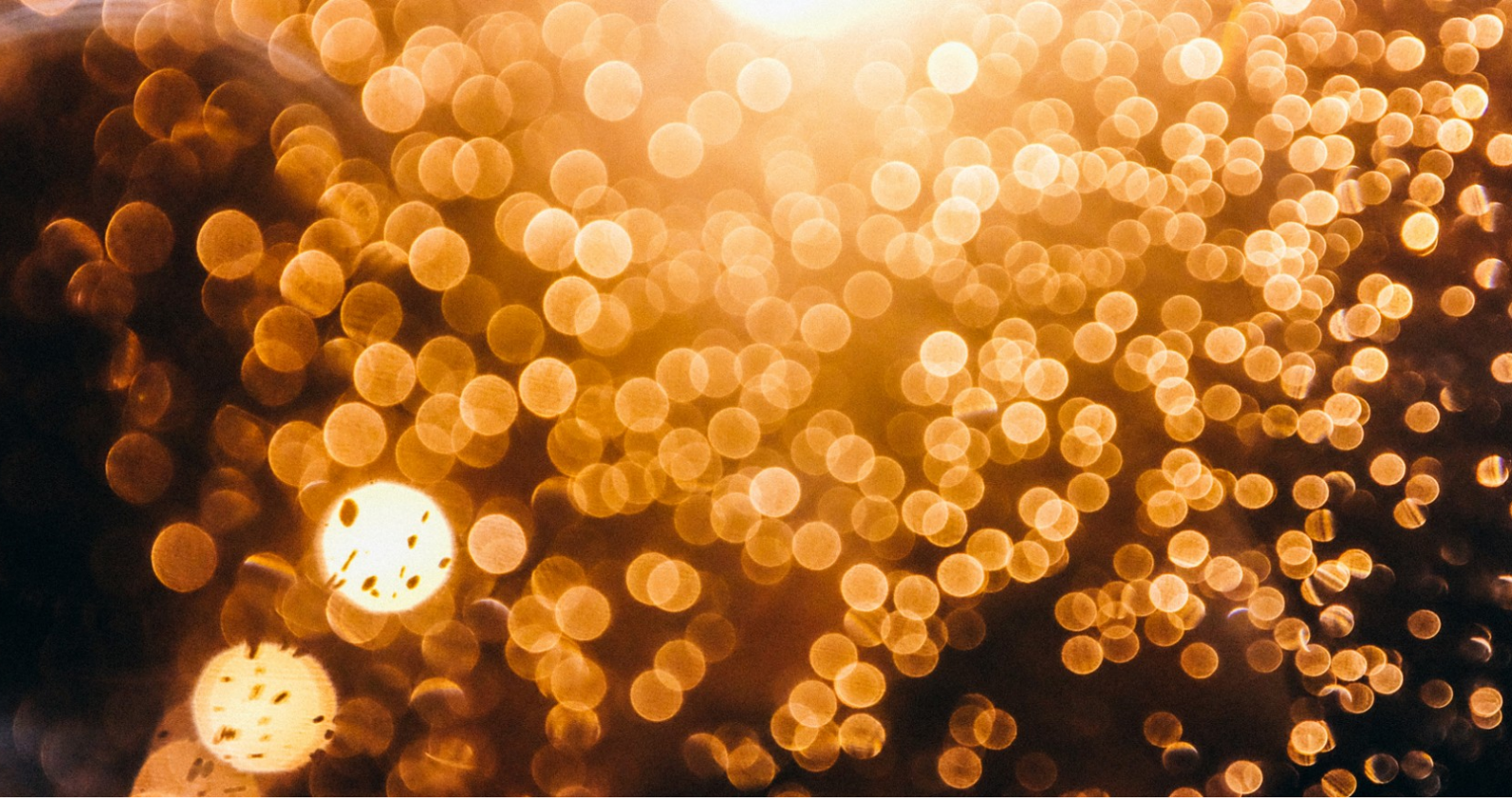
Writing



Music



PhD Candidate, John Pierce
presenting at the St Vincent's
Subacute Forum 2019.



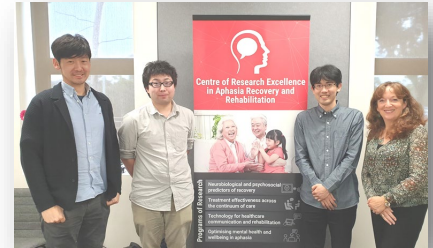
Awards

- Dr Robyn O'Halloran was awarded the Elinor Wray Award from Speech Pathology Australia, for an outstanding contribution to speech pathology research, clinical practice, leadership, student education and supervision over her entire career but specifically for the more recent development and publication of the Inpatient Functional Communication Interview – Screening, Assessment and Intervention (IFCI:SAI)
- Prof. Ian Kneebone was the 2019 Recipient of the Australian Psychological Society (APS), College of Clinical Psychologists Ian M Campbell Memorial Prize. This prize is awarded annually to an APS member who has made an outstanding contribution to the scientific or professional status of clinical psychology in Australia.
- PhD candidate Sam Harvey won the La Trobe University 3MT (Three Minute Thesis) competition for his presentation "Personalising treatment to optimise aphasia recovery." Sam went on to represent La Trobe University in the South East Asia 3MT competition.
- PhD candidate John Pierce was awarded the La Trobe University Tavistock Trust Student prize for Aphasia for recognising excellence in aphasia studies and research in the area of aphasia.
- Dr Brooke Ryan along with CRE affiliates Emeritus Professor Linda Worrall, Dr Jessica Campbell and Leanne Ruggiero were recognised for their voluntary roles for Australian Aphasia Association (AAA). As a result of COVID-19 the Aphasia CRE led the setup of an online AAA group for people with aphasia using Zoom meetings to connect and engage. The AAA online zoom group is now a continuing volunteer led service offered by the AAA. This effort was recognised in National Volunteer Week in 2020 along with the work of the many wonderful volunteers for the AAA. You can find out more about the AAA here <https://aphasia.org.au/>
- Dr Emily Brogan from Edith Cowan University was a national finalist in the FameLab 2020 Competition. Her presentation is available to view here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jORNHgPuAAo>



International Visitors

Dr Kazuki Sekine, Mr Keita Kitagawa and Mr Wataru Kimura visited from Japan in March 2020, working with Prof. Miranda Rose on a Japanese adaptation of our Multi-modality Aphasia Therapy (M-MAT) protocol. For more information on M-MAT - <https://tinyurl.com/v48wytI>



Associate Professor Mike Dickey was a visiting scholar at the Aphasia CRE La Trobe Hub in 2019. The visit was supported by a Collaboration Ready grant from La Trobe University's Sport Exercise and Rehabilitation Research Focus area.

Mike presented his work on predictors of aphasia treatment response and provided a tutorial on advanced statistical analysis methods, focused on mixed-effects models. Mike and CRE Director Prof. Miranda Rose have established a collaborative project focused on aphasia treatment dosage, leveraging findings from the COMPARE trial to shed critical light on how behavioural treatment is administered and may be optimized to create the best outcomes for people with aphasia.



Professor Sabine Corsten (Pictured on right with Dr Robyn O' Halloran and Dr Marcella Carragher) was our visiting fellow in the Aphasia CRE in August 2019. During her visit Sabine worked with Prof. Miranda Rose and Dr Michelle Attard (Aphasia CRE Post Doctoral Research Fellow) to develop a collaborative project examining a cultural and linguistic translation of her German Biographic Narrative Therapy for use in Australia.



Almut Plath from Catholic University of Applied Science, Mainz, Germany was a visiting intern at the Aphasia CRE in early 2020. Almut is a German Masters student working with Prof. Sabine Corsten and Prof. Miranda Rose on a collaborative project examining an Australian cultural and linguistic translation of Professor Corsten's German Biographic Narrative Therapy.





Sharon McGowan- Stroke Foundation CEO, joined Professor Miranda Rose, Aphasia CRE Director & Professor Russell Hoye, Dean & Head of School, SAHSS in celebrating the Launch of the Aphasia CRE. February 2020

Events

Aphasia CRE Launch Event

The Centre for Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation launch on 27th February 2020 at La Trobe University was a celebration of a fantastic year establishing the Centre and its programs of research.

Professor Miranda Rose, the Aphasia CRE Director, explained how the new Centre is tackling major research questions that will lead to improved quality of life for people living with aphasia. Based on the four major program areas, these include developing more accurate predictions of recovery, more effective interventions that reduce the degree of impairment and disability, utilising technology to improve therapies and healthcare communication, and best ways to enhance mental health and wellbeing.

Guest Speaker, Sharon McGowan, CEO of the Stroke Foundation explained that in Australia the number of people surviving stroke is increasing, with 30% of these survivors living with Aphasia. Finding effective rehabilitation approaches and management programs to support living well with aphasia once people return home from hospital is necessary to improve quality of life for people and their families.

We would like to thank everyone who attended the launch event and those who have supported the Aphasia CRE team. We are excited to see the effects of our work going forward.

Aphasia CRE Launch Event continued.



Dr Ciara Shiggins and Dr Caroline Baker



Aphasia CRE Chief Investigators—Prof Dominique Cadilhac, Prof Julie Bernhardt & Prof Richard Lindley



Prof Miranda Rose, Director Aphasia CRE



Aphasia Victoria Committee members Dr Marcella Carragher, Konrad & Mimi Ermett



L-R Eamonn McGrath-Lester, Melanie Hurley, Sam Harvey, Prof Leeanne Carey, Kelly Maskell, Prof Miranda Rose, Dr Marcella Carragher, Dr Lucie Lanyon, Cassie Wilcox, Maya Menahemi-Falkov, Dr Ciara Shiggins & Dr Caroline Baker

Aphasia CRE Community of Practice Launch at SPA Conference, Brisbane 2019

The Aphasia CRE formally announced its commencement at the Speech Pathology Australia national conference in Brisbane, 3 June 2019. Centre Director, Professor Miranda Rose, presented an overview of the rationale for the Aphasia CRE to a packed room of aphasia clinicians and researchers from Australia and New Zealand.

Members of the Aphasia CRE presented research updates on a range of topics, and audience members provided highly positive feedback about the Centre’s research agenda and many joined the Aphasia CRE’s community of practice.



L-R A/Prof Erin Godecke, Dr Robyn O’Halloran, Dr Caroline Baker, Maya Menahemi Falkov, Professor Miranda Rose & John Pierce

St Vincent’s Hospital Subacute Forum, Melbourne 2019

Professor Miranda Rose was the keynote speaker at the St Vincent’s Hospital subacute forum and provided an overview of the Aphasia CRE research Agenda. Several Aphasia CRE staff and students presented their research including John Pierce, Dr Caroline Baker and Dr Robyn O’Halloran.



Professor Miranda Rose



Dr Robyn O’Halloran and panelists



John Pierce

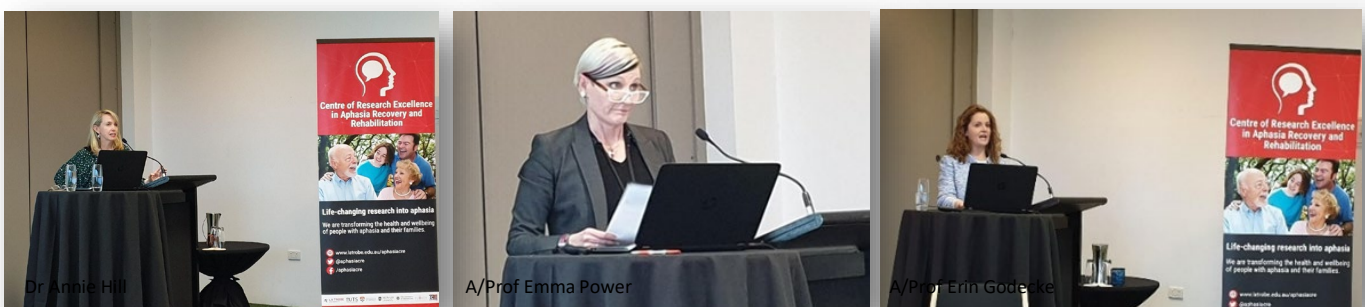
Aphasia CRE office opens at La Trobe University, Melbourne 2019

After all the planning the La Trobe Aphasia CRE Team finally moved into our purpose-built Aphasia CRE offices at the end of August 2019. We love having the team all together in one space and we have enjoyed welcoming visiting team members from other states as well as international fellows. The technology we have allows collaboration via videoconference for our entire team around the country and internationally.



SSA Conference and Pre-Conference Workshop, Canberra 2019

The Aphasia CRE Formally launched its Community of Practice at the Stroke Society of Australasia Conference in Canberra, September 2019. Aphasia CRE co-hosted a pre-conference rehabilitation workshops with the Stroke CRE –New Frontiers in Stroke Rehabilitation and Recovery pre-conference workshop. We would like to thank the Co-convenors for the SSA Pre-conference Workshop, Dr Marcella Carragher, Aphasia CRE and Sharon Kramer, Florey Institute (Below) and the organising committee.



A Night for Aphasia

Aphasia CRE Director Miranda Rose delivered the Keynote address at a night for Aphasia. A fabulous community building and advocacy event was held in Melbourne June 2019 and organized by two Australian Catholic University speech Pathology students, Georgia Harriott and Olivia O'Hare.

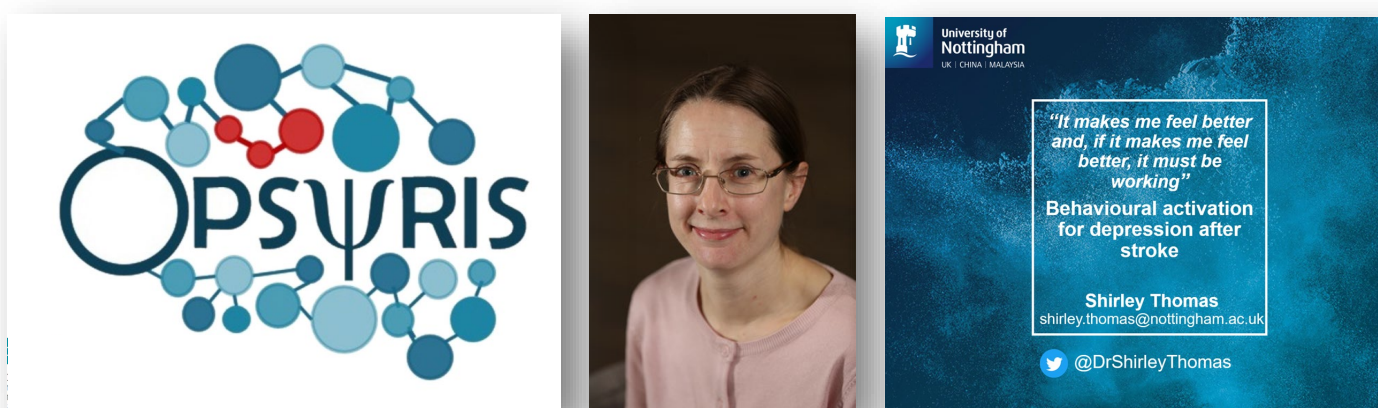
Pictured right —Prof Miranda Rose with Aphasia Victorian Board Members (L-R) Dr Marcella Carragher, Philip Wilkins, Ashley Backovic, Prof Miranda Rose, Lauren Fletcher, Sam Harvey (Photo by Hugh McKay)



OPSYRIS Conference December 2020

The aim of the OPSYRIS group (Organisation for Psychological Research into Stroke) is to facilitate research in psychological aspects of stroke rehabilitation, to provide research on stroke which informs clinical psychology practice and to promote the consideration of psychological factors in clinical stroke services.

CRE postdoctoral researcher Dr Brooke Ryan from UTS convened OPSYRIS Australia's first virtual event in Dec 2020. The disappointment with cancelling the annual face-to-face conference scheduled for Brisbane had a silver lining by allowing the conference committee to host the biggest meeting in OPSYRIS Australian history, bringing together almost 300 attendees internationally with a large multidisciplinary presence amongst speakers and the audience.



Keynote speaker, Associate Professor Shirley Thomas presented her work on behavioral activation for depression after stroke.

Australian Aphasia Association (AAA) Celebrates 20 years, December 2020

The onset of COVID-19 has highlighted more than ever how important it is to prioritise mental health, especially after stroke. In 2020, COVID-19 stopped aphasia community groups in their tracks. Our CRE team worked hard with the Australian Aphasia Association (AAA) to ensure as many people as possible with aphasia could stay connected online using zoom groups. Aphasia CRE postdoctoral fellow Dr Brooke Ryan together with Jessica Campbell and Leanne Ruggero currently volunteer their time as the AAA virtual community coordinators. Read more about the aphasia community zoom groups here: <https://aphasia.community/current-groups>.

In Nov 2020 many of the Queensland Aphasia CRE Team were in attendance to celebrate the AAA's 20 years of supporting people with aphasia with a long lunch in Brisbane.



Aphasia CRE Team members celebrate AAA 20-year anniversary, Brisbane QLD.



**Emeritus Professor Linda Worrall & Dr Robyn O'Halloran.
Book signing at the launch of their new clinical resource
the Inpatient Functional Communication Interview:
Screening, Assessment, and Intervention (IFCI : SAI)**

American Speech and Hearing Association National
Conference, Orlando, Florida, November 2019

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Emily Brogan, PhD graduated as a Doctor of Philosophy. Emily is now an Aphasia CRE post doctoral research fellow based at Edith Cowan University, Perth.

Emily says, 'The Aphasia CRE enables me to work in the area of my passion – aphasia recovery.'



Glossary

Acronyms

A/Prof. - Associate Professor
AAA - Australian Aphasia Association
ARC - Australian Research Council
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
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.



Aphasia CRE

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Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation

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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

Since our launch 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 those with or supporting a person with aphasia. Our professional members include speech pathologists, physiotherapists, psychologists, social workers, neurologists, nurses, researchers and students. We encourage you to join our community.

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 -
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The new Susan Wakil Health Building
Home to the Aphasia CRE team based at
The University of Sydney