

70 ANNIVERSARY



Celebrating 70 years of service and advocacy



1931

Miss Elinor Wray, the founder of speech therapy in Australia, began work in Sydney.

1944

The first professional organisation was established in 1944, the Australian Association of

Speech Therapists in Sydney. Other associations were established in South Australia and Western Australia.

1948

Four separate state representative organisations for speech therapy had been established. An Australian College of Speech Therapists was established to function as an examining, qualifying and professional body.

1949

The Australian College of Speech Therapists (ACST) was inaugurated as an unincorporated body.



1950s

1950 The Board of Examiners was appointed and embarked on preparation of an examination syllabus.

1951 The Federal Council of the Australian Branch of the British Medical Association (now the Australian Medical Association) granted the college full professional recognition as the examining, qualifying and representative body for speech therapy within the Commonwealth. Reciprocal recognition with the College of Speech Therapists in London was granted.

1954 The Australian College of Speech Therapists (ACST) became an incorporated body, registered in the Australian Capital Territory, with Miss Grace Ellis elected as the first President. The Memorandum and Articles of Association was established and a Council of Management with representation from each state convened. By the time of incorporation, the College had already held its first conference and published its first journal issue.

1955 The College's first Annual General Meeting was held on 12 March in Sydney.

1956 Branches of the College were established in NSW, VIC, WA and Qld.

1958 The College gained affiliation with the International Association of Logopaedics and Phoniatics (IALP) that acknowledged the strength of international links.

1960s

1962 The University of Queensland introduced a diploma course in speech therapy, the first university course of its kind in Australia. Elizabeth Usher, having developed the course curriculum, was appointed part-time lecturer.

1963 The national office was relocated from Sydney to Melbourne.

1968 Following increasing contact with north American speech therapists, the ACST invited Marianne Frostig to be the keynote speaker at the dyslexia conference. That year, proceedings of the annual conference was published for the first time.

1969 The course became a three-year degree, and the first graduates completed their bachelor in 1969.



1970s

Early 1970s The Standards and Ethics Committee commenced formal procedures for processing overseas applicants as the College began to receive applications from immigrants with overseas qualifications in speech pathology.

Late 60s - early 70s These were important years in the development of tertiary education programs for speech pathologists across several states.

1973 The College's role in training was phased out. By 1978, Australia had five training programs in speech pathology.

1973 The Australian Journal of Human Communication Disorders began publication.

1975 The Association changed its name to the Australian Association of Speech and Hearing (AASH) reflecting changes in the profession and in the education of undergraduates.

1975 The title used for members of the profession changed from speech therapist to speech pathologist.

1979 The Queensland government introduced *The Speech Therapists Act* giving speech therapists in Queensland similar status and protection as other health professions for the profession and the public.

1980s

Mid 1980s The Association began a process of planning for the future. The Memorandum and Articles of Association were significantly reviewed resulting in a streamlined corporate structure. The size of Council was reduced from 20 to 11 and organisational lines of responsibility were clarified. A strategic plan was developed.

1988 AASH employed the first full-time executive director.

1988 A "future directions" corporate plan was developed.

1990s

1992 Council approved new guidelines for eligibility of membership for those with overseas qualifications, spelling the end of the national exam.

1994 The Competency Based Occupational Standards (CBOS) documents were launched.

1996 The membership voted to change the Association's name to Speech Pathology Australia. The inaugural *Speech Pathology Week* was held to raise awareness of the profession and the Association. The Association's website was also launched.

1997 National office moved from East Melbourne to its own premises at Bank Place, in Melbourne's CBD.

1999 Dr Linda Worrall presented the inaugural Elizabeth Usher Memorial Lecture at the Sydney Conference and the Association's journal, was

relaunched as *Advances in Speech-Language Pathology*.

2000s

2000 The Professional Self Regulation (PSR) program was introduced with over 1,500 members accepting the initial invitation to join the voluntary scheme.

2001 and 2002 The Principles of Practice and Scope of Practice documents were developed

2002 Association funded research grants for both clinicians and students throughout Australia were launched.

2004 The Mutual Recognition of Credentials between ASHA, CASLPA, RCSLT and Speech Pathology Australia was signed at the International Association of Logopaedics and Phoniatics World Congress hosted by the Association in Brisbane.

2005 The inaugural Children's Language and Literature Award was presented to well-known children's author Paul Jennings. Further presentations of this award have been made to Colin Thiele and Mem Fox.

2006 Speech Pathology Australia launched COMPASS (Competency Assessment in Speech Pathology) a competency-based assessment tool designed to validly assess the performance of speech pathology students in clinical placements.

2007 Leading up to the federal election, the Association launched a national campaign to champion the need for accessible and adequate services for those with communication and swallowing disorders, that can present across the lifespan.

2008 The Association launched the new corporate identity.



2008 The Association's journal was re-designed and the new title *International Journal of Speech-Language Pathology* was launched in recognition of its increasing international standing.

2008 An extended agreement for the Mutual Recognition of Professional Association Credentials (2008) including ASHA, CASLPA, RCSLT, IASLT NZSTA and Speech Pathology Australia was signed at the ASHA Congress in Chicago.

2008 A submission for consideration or the speech pathology profession's inclusion in the proposed National Registration and Accreditation Scheme was submitted to the Practitioner Regulation Subcommittee.

2010s

2010 *Speak Out*, the Association's membership magazine became bi-monthly.

2013 The Association's AGM approved a major governance restructure of the Association, including the introduction of a seven-person, skills-based, Board of Directors.

2013 The National Disability Insurance Scheme was launched in Australia, requiring significant Association advocacy and member support.

2014 In partnership with ASHA, NZSTA, RCSLT, IASLT and SAC, the Association launched the *International Communication Project 2014*, subsequently evolving into the *International Communication Project*.

2014 The Australian Senate's Community Affairs Reference Committee tabled its report into the *Prevalence of different types of speech language and communication disorders and speech pathology services in Australia*.

2015 The Association moved from Bank Place to new professional offices at 114 William Street, Melbourne.

2016 The Federal Disability Discrimination Commissioner formally launched the final report of the *Speech Pathology 2030 - making futures happen* report.

2016 The inaugural *Swallowing Awareness Day* was undertaken.

2017 The Association established an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee and commenced the process of drafting a *Reconciliation Action Plan*.

2018 Speech Pathology Australia gained full membership of the National Alliance of Self Regulating Health Professions (NASRHP), an acknowledgement that the Association's self-regulation processes meet the high standards, comparable with registered professions.

2019 Having secured non-government organisation accreditation status with the United Nations, the Association co-hosted a side event at the United Nations Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability.

2019 The Association delivered a formal Apology to First Nation Australians and launched its Reconciliation Action Plan.

70 years on Speech Pathology Australia continues to achieve its vision of being an informed, influential and dynamic peak body of professionals, striving for excellence and recognition for the profession of speech pathologists and the interests of our clients with communication and swallowing difficulties.

