



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY

School of Allied Health,
Human Services and Sport

**RESEARCH
CAPABILITY**

**SPEECH
PATHOLOGY**



Acknowledgement of Country

LaTrobe University proudly acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands our campuses are located on.

We recognise that Indigenous Australians have an ongoing connection to the land and the University values their unique contribution both to the University and the wider Australian society.

We are committed to providing opportunities for Indigenous Australians, both as individuals and communities through teaching and learning, research and community partnerships across all our campuses and online.

We pay our respects to Indigenous Elders, past, present and emerging.

Indigenous art by Dixon Patten of Bayila Creative





OUR VISION

To improve communication and swallowing participation and outcomes for people and their families through high-quality, innovative and meaningful research.

OUR FOCUS

Our research focuses on developing and evaluating evidence-based practices in communication and swallowing, as well as understanding the lived experience of individuals, the broader impact on communities, and health economics. We work collaboratively with industry partners and interdisciplinary teams to address complex real world problems.

Evidence-based practice

Lived experience

Impact on communities

Health economics

RESEARCH CAPABILITY

OUR OBJECTIVES

- Drive world-leading research that creates knowledge, influences practice, and improves the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities.
- Work with industry to develop and foster a culture of partnership, innovation and research translation and impact.
- Build research capacity and a global reputation through national and international collaboration.
- Guide and mentor students to be outstanding researchers, practitioners, and future leaders.

OUR STAFF

Our staff work collaboratively in inter-disciplinary teams, utilising world-leading facilities and technology, to provide a distinct advantage in our research capability.

A strength of the team is our inter-disciplinary approach to problem solving and research translation, with staff expertise and engagement across broad research areas and methodologies.

We collaborate widely , researching with local, national and international organisations, such as the Centres of Research Excellence (CRE) in Aphasia Recovery & Rehabilitation, CRE Stroke Trials, Centre for data analytics and cognition, La Trobe Business School, Stroke Foundation, Australian and World Associations of Transgender Health, School of Psychology and Public Health and the Carolina Centre for ABA and Autism Treatment.

OUR GRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS

We offer research degrees at Master and Doctoral (PhD) levels. Many of our students are conducting research with industry partners in hospitals, rehabilitation centres, community health, and education settings. Our academic staff are globally recognised for their expertise in applied quantitative and qualitative research, providing excellent training to our post graduate students in areas including:

- aphasia recovery and rehabilitation
- telehealth
- progressive neurological conditions
- gender-affirming communication
- child speech and language
- autism
- stuttering
- speech perception, production, prosody and discourse function
- clinical education
- swallowing.

STAFF PROFILES



Shane Erickson

Dr Shane Erickson is a Senior Lecturer in the Discipline of Speech Pathology. He specialises in stuttering and telepractice research, and investigations of the implementation of treatment into clinical practice. Shane has published research investigating the use of the internet to deliver stand-alone treatment to adults who stutter, a novel approaches to measuring stuttering, and the impact of stuttering on adolescents and their families. In addition, he has published widely on the roles and practices of speech-language pathologists (SLPs) in several clinical contexts. Shane is a member of several research collaborations investigating telehealth competencies for allied health practitioners and service access and information seeking behaviours of families of children who stutter.

Key research interests:

- stuttering intervention, assessment and impact
- telehealth intervention and clinician competencies
- clinical implementation of research into practice.



Robyn O'Halloran

Professor Robyn O'Halloran is the Director of the NHMRC-funded for Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation. Her research interests include creating inclusive healthcare environments, working with people with lived experience, clinicians and researchers to codesign inclusive environments, and evidence-based practice in healthcare settings. Robyn has been co-chair of the advocacy group Aphasia Victoria and is the Program Lead for Access and Inclusion in the NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation.

Key research interests:

- inclusive healthcare
- co-design with people with lived experience
- implementation science.



Miranda Rose

Emeritus Professor Miranda Rose is the founder of the NHMRC-funded Centre for Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation. Miranda is a world leader in aphasia rehabilitation research investigating multidisciplinary interventions across the continuum of care. She has expertise in clinical trials, codesign, health services research and the development of evidence implementation resources.

Key research interests:

- multidisciplinary aphasia interventions and long-term care: development, evaluation and implementation of multidisciplinary aphasia rehabilitation across the continuum of care
- application of technology to aphasia rehabilitation: development of health care communication tools and AI enabled self-management platforms
- multimodal aphasia intervention: developing, testing and implementing multimodal aphasia therapies aimed at enhanced function and quality of life.



Annie Hill

Associate Professor Annie Hill is a Principal Research Fellow in the NHMRC-funded Centre for Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation. She conducts research in telerehabilitation across speech pathology practice areas and is the international leader in telerehabilitation for post-stroke aphasia. She has expertise in telerehabilitation technology design, application and evaluation. Annie holds leadership positions nationally and internationally. She is the Chair of the Telerehabilitation Group for the World Federation of NeuroRehabilitation, leading a group of telerehabilitation researchers spanning more than 24 countries. Annie has co-authored the telepractice policy documents for the peak body, Speech Pathology Australia.

Key research interests:

- telerehabilitation in aphasia rehabilitation – development, evaluation and implementation of aphasia telerehabilitation
- translation of complex interventions for delivery via telerehabilitation
- telerehabilitation across speech pathology and broader allied health services
- exploration of dance in aphasia rehabilitation – physical, cognitive, communication and wellbeing outcomes from co-created dance interventions for stroke survivors with aphasia.



Kate Bridgman

Dr Kate Bridgman is a Senior Lecturer in the Discipline of Speech Pathology. Her research focuses on stuttering, telehealth competencies, and technology mediated interventions. Kate completed her PhD investigating the telehealth delivery of early stuttering treatment. She has published research relating to speech pathologists' practices and perceptions of working with people who stutter. Kate has supervision experience with honours, masters, and PhD students. She is a member of national and international research collaborations investigating telehealth competencies for health students.

Key research interests:

- stuttering management, lived experience, and speech pathologists' practice
- adapting interventions for telehealth and student competencies
- clinical implementation of research into practice.



Colleen Holt

Dr Colleen Holt is a Senior Lecturer whose multidisciplinary research and teaching spans linguistics, audiology, speech pathology and work integrated learning. She also holds postgraduate qualifications in tertiary education management and digital teaching and learning. Dr Holt's research focuses on the interplay between speech perception, speech production and cognitive processing, with much of her work centred around the efficacy of cochlear implants in providing access to language comprehension. She has extensive experience in curriculum design for higher education and is interested in how professionals from a range of disciplines develop knowledge of speech and language for professional purposes.

Key research interests:

- perception and processing of speech and prosodic cues
- processing of foreign-accented speech
- development of speech and language competency in allied health and other disciplines.



John Pierce

Dr John Pierce is a post-doctoral researcher at the Centre for Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation at La Trobe University. With clinical experience as a rehabilitation speech pathologist, his research focuses on innovative approaches to aphasia treatment and management, particularly through the use of digital technology and co-design. He has a proven track record in clinical trials, development and deployment of technology-based tools, and international collaborations.

Key Research Interests:

- aphasia rehabilitation
- developing and testing digital tools and AI applications
- treatment intensity and dose
- research dissemination and communication.



Rachel Davenport

Dr Rachel Davenport (She/her) is a Senior Lecturer in the Discipline of Speech Pathology. She has extensive experience in both clinical education and in research. Having been the clinical education coordinator at La Trobe University for close to 20 years, Rachel has extensive experience with both clinical educators and with students. Rachel is a leader in the exploration of innovative alternative methods of clinical education, with her research exploring methods of clinical teaching and learning including online learning, simulation-based learning programs, social media, and employing people with lived experience as educators. She collaborates broadly and has extensive experience supporting the development of new skills.

Key research interests:

- transfer of knowledge and skills in the practice setting
- simulated learning
- struggle and failure in clinical learning
- qualitative research approaches.



Samantha Turner

Dr Samantha Turner is a lecturer and researcher in the Discipline of Speech Pathology. Her research is informed by her experiences working clinically with young children and their families in early intervention. Samantha's PhD thesis characterised speech and language impairments in children and adults with neurodevelopmental conditions, with the goal of identifying new gene pathways to speech and language disorders and improving outcomes for individuals with these conditions. Her research continues to focus on optimising developmental outcomes for young children through evidence-based education and intervention.

Key research interests:

- early intervention for children with neurodevelopmental conditions
- paediatric motor speech disorder
- supporting families to optimise their child's developmental outcomes.



Lucette Lanyon

Dr Lucette Lanyon is a Senior Lecturer in the Discipline of Speech Pathology and is a Research Affiliate with the Centre of Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation. As a researcher, Lucie has a particular interest in sustainable service design models focused on improving health and wellbeing outcomes for people with acquired neurogenic communication disorders. Prior to completion of her PhD in 2017 Lucie worked clinically in a range of acute, sub-acute and outpatient settings for 14 years and maintains strong connections within clinical networks.

Key research interests:

- multidisciplinary stroke and aphasia service design and implementation
- designing research protocols aimed at increasing participation of people with aphasia and stroke in clinical trials
- communicatively accessible environments.



Emma Ball

Ms Emma Ball is a Lecturer in Speech Pathology. Emma is a Certified Practising Speech Pathologist (CPSP) and coordinates the Voice Clinic within La Trobe Communication Clinic. Emma is a member of both the World Association of Transgender Health (WPATH) and Australian Association of Transgender Health (AusPATH), and coordinates both the Victorian interest group for gender affirming voice and communication care (GIIV), and the national forum group for gender affirming speech pathologists across Australia.

Key research interests:

- how speech pathologists can best provide support for gender affirming clients in Australia
- Australian speech pathologists' perception regarding their educational preparedness, experience, and confidence to work with trans and gender diverse individuals
- social health and well-being impacts for trans and gender diverse clients accessing inclusive speech pathology services.



Marcella Carragher

Dr Marcella Carragher is a post-doctoral researcher at the Centre for Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation. Her research interests are driven by her experiences working as a community speech pathologist and the challenge of ensuring gains from therapy generalise to everyday conversations. She has experience in clinical trials, codesign, conversation partner training, and implementing digital communication tools within hospitals.

Key research interests:

- generalisation of therapy effects to daily life
- quantifying the impact of aphasia on everyday conversation
- designing treatments that change everyday conversations
- supporting conversations between healthcare providers and patients with communication disability.



Lillian Krikheli

Dr Lillian Krikheli is a Lecturer in the Discipline of Speech Pathology with a particular research interest in clinical laryngology and dysphagia management. Lilli's doctoral research was a multi-phase international consensus study that investigated the role and practice of speech pathologists working in paediatric palliative care settings. Since then, she has continued to consult on projects that use Delphi methodology for clinical guideline development. Lilli is a certified practising speech pathologist (CPSP, MSPA) and her research is grounded in her ongoing clinical practice within the hospital environment.

Key research interests:

- oropharyngeal secretion management
- voice banking
- eating and drinking with acknowledged risk (EDAR) (also known as 'risk feeding').



Katherine Pye

Ms Katherine Pye is a Lecturer in the Discipline of Speech Pathology. Katherine is currently completing a PhD in Health Economics with a focus on inefficiencies in the public health system and inequities in access to effective speech pathology and education. She has worked across a wide range of settings in Australia and overseas, with a focus on supporting young autistic children and their families – most recently in the context of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Katherine has experience in program development and evaluation, mixed methods research and economic modelling. She is passionate about teamwork and welcomes opportunities to collaborate.

Key research interests:

- program evaluation, including quantitative and qualitative methods and economic evaluation
- inclusive, neurodiversity-affirming practices
- experiences of families accessing supports.



Sterling Quinn

Dr Sterling Quinn (he/they) is a Lecturer in the Discipline of Speech Pathology. Sterling completed their PhD ('Exploring new directions in voice training for gender diverse clients') at La Trobe between 2017–2023. Sterling's research collaborations have received multiple accolades, including the 2023 Editors Award for Speech from the Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research.

Key research interests:

- laryngology and voice therapy/training
- LGBTQIA+ health and representation
- clinical education.



Kathleen Mellahn

Dr Kathleen Mellahn is a Lecturer in the Discipline of Speech Pathology and is a Research Affiliate with the Centre of Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation. Kathleen completed her PhD investigating the clinical pathways and experiences of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) people with aphasia. Kathleen's research interests stem from her experience working with people with aphasia across the continuum of care. She has a particular interest in improving access and equity of care for people with aphasia who speak a primary language other than English.

Key research interests:

- the inpatient experience of people with post-stroke aphasia
- the effectiveness and accessibility of aphasia treatment
- translational research.



Timothea Lau

Ms Timothea Lau is Lecturer in the Discipline of Speech Pathology. Timothea is currently a PhD candidate at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music with a focus on designing and implementing a vocal health education program for conservatorium singing students. She has worked in a range of multidisciplinary research projects investigating motor neurone disease, health literacy of allied health professionals, experiences of culturally and linguistically diverse health professionals, and voice.

Key research interests:

- vocal health
- health promotion
- voice and voice disorders
- singing voice.



Kate Morris

Mrs Kate Morris is a Lecturer within the Discipline of Speech Pathology. Kate is a Certified Practicing Speech Pathologist with 20 years of experience as a clinical leader in tertiary hospital settings, nationally and internationally. Kate's research interests include improving health outcomes for those with swallowing and communication changes in the critical care setting including those with a tracheostomy. Kate also has a particular interest in the design and delivery of effective, efficient, and engaging workforce training programs for clinicians.

Key research interests:

- improving health outcomes for hospitalised patients experiencing swallowing and communication impairments, with a particular focus on critical care populations
- workforce education and training, particularly in advised practice areas of Speech Pathology.



Jodie Smith

Dr Jodie Smith holds a teaching and research position in the Discipline of Speech Pathology and a research fellow role in the Childhood Autism and Parenting Team (CAPT), School of Psychology and Public Health. Jodie's research areas are language development and childhood autism, with a focus on participatory research with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities.

Key research interests:

- autism diagnosis and early supports
- autism within CALD communities
- qualitative methodological approaches.



Rebecca Sullivan

Mrs Rebecca Sullivan is a Certified Practicing Speech Pathologist and Research Fellow within the Discipline of Speech Pathology. Rebecca has extensive experience working with adults with communication and swallowing difficulties and is passionate about improving the care and safety of hospital patients with communication disability.

Key research interests:

- understanding the risks and contributing factors to adverse events in hospital patients with communication disability
- co-designing interventions to help mitigate the risks of adverse events in hospital.

WORLD CLASS RESEARCH AND TRAINING FACILITIES

TELEHEALTH RESEARCH AND TRAINING FACILITY

Following the proliferation of its use during COVID-19, telehealth has become integral to the Victorian health system. As more people opt to use this service delivery method, La Trobe University is ensuring future speech pathologists can meet this increasing demand and that high quality telehealth research is available to guide clinicians around the world.

The Victorian Government partnered with La Trobe University to provide funding through the Victorian Higher Education State Investment Fund (VHESIF). VHESIF delivered \$1.6 million in funding to La Trobe to enable the development of innovative facilities that teach students best practice for telehealth and allow researchers to investigate optimal services.

Located on the Bundoora campus, these innovative spaces feature:

- eight telehealth and specialist consultation rooms
- a classroom with a capacity for up to 30 students at a time
- advanced cameras and IT equipment.



LA TROBE COMMUNICATION CLINIC

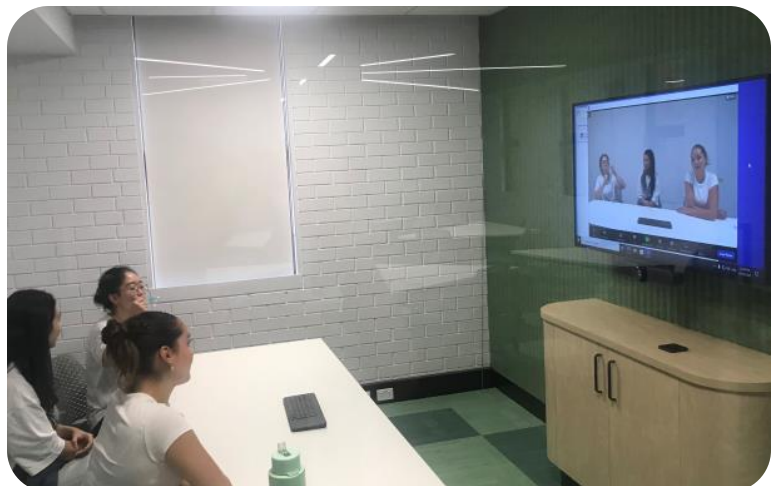
The La Trobe Communication Clinic provides high quality speech pathology services to the community from the University's Bundoora campus or via telehealth.

Our Clinic offers a range of evidence-based services in voice, fluency (stuttering), and paediatric speech and language. It is equipped with ten clinical spaces with adjacent observation rooms for teaching purposes.

Our clinical programs are delivered by students working under the direct supervision of highly qualified and experienced clinician educators. It is part of our mission to ensure that students develop the competencies, skills and experience to provide safe and effective speech pathology services to the community on graduation.

Our services include:

- paediatric speech and language
- paediatric fluency
- voice general
- voice gender affirming.



CENTRE FOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE IN APHASIA RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION

The Centre for Research Excellence in Aphasia Rehabilitation and Recovery (Aphasia CRE) aims to transform the health and wellbeing of people with aphasia and their families through research that leads to enhanced, cost-effective and sustainable interdisciplinary aphasia rehabilitation and community services.

We are a national research centre based at La Trobe University led by Professor Miranda Rose, with Chief Investigators (CI) based at numerous universities and institutes Australia-wide. The \$2.5 million centre is funded by the National Health Medical Research Council (NHMRC). Over the last 5 years the Aphasia CRE has progressed 5 programs of research.



The Aphasia CRE has attracted over 27 higher degree research students, and more than \$10 million in funding. Research students and early career researchers have access to capacity building sessions and mentoring by the wider Aphasia CRE team. The Aphasia CRE's 114 projects have led to 94 keynotes and presentations nationally and internationally and resources that have been assessed by over 90 countries. The Aphasia CRE actively promotes dissemination of aphasia research through the monthly seminar series and engagement with the centre's 1405 international community of practice members. Multidisciplinary collaborations with national and international researchers are a cornerstone of the Aphasia CRE's research success and have led to meaningful impact on the lives of people living with aphasia and their families.

WHY CHOOSE SPEECH PATHOLOGY AT LA TROBE?



Highly Cited Research

La Trobe's research in Speech Pathology is highly cited, with a 2019–2024 average of 11.4 citations per paper. The national average over the same period is 6.8.

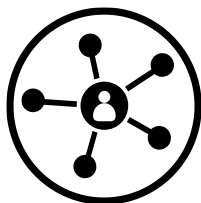
www.scival.com;
www.scopus.com



High Quality Journal Publications

Almost three quarters of journal articles authored by Speech Pathology staff are published in Q1 journals, placing us well above the national average of 48.5%

www.scival.com;
www.scopus.com



Leading research

Our researchers are working to improve health and wellbeing across communities and the lifespan.

[Find out more](#) about our research



1st in Victoria

We're the best in Victoria and third in Australia for employer satisfaction, with a rating of 88.1 per cent.

Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT), 2023, [2022 Employer Satisfaction Survey \[PDF, 812 KB\]](#)

INDUSTRY RELATIONSHIPS

We partner with a diverse range of Australian and international organisations. Together, we are training the next generation of speech pathologists and working on collaborative research projects that improve participation and wellbeing.

ORGANISATIONS

The Discipline of Speech Pathology partners with a range of institutes and health organisations. These include Centres of Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery & Rehabilitation, and Innovation and Translation in Stroke Trials. Additionally, we work closely with national and international research teams addressing Transgender health and wellbeing, Autism intervention, Indigenous health, and stuttering management. We partner with many major health services, education departments, and tertiary institutions across Australia and internationally.

Speech Pathology research and higher degree students receive outstanding site-based clinical research supervision and opportunities to work directly with consumers and healthcare partners.

OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE WITH OUR RESEARCH TEAM

There are numerous opportunities to partner with us on research projects, including:

- » Honours projects (12 months' duration)
- » Masters/PhD projects (2-3 years duration, full time)
- » Collaborative research projects
- » Collaborative grant applications.

CONTACT US

If you are interested in working together but don't know where to start, please just email or give us a call:

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WANT TO KNOW MORE? GET IN TOUCH

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