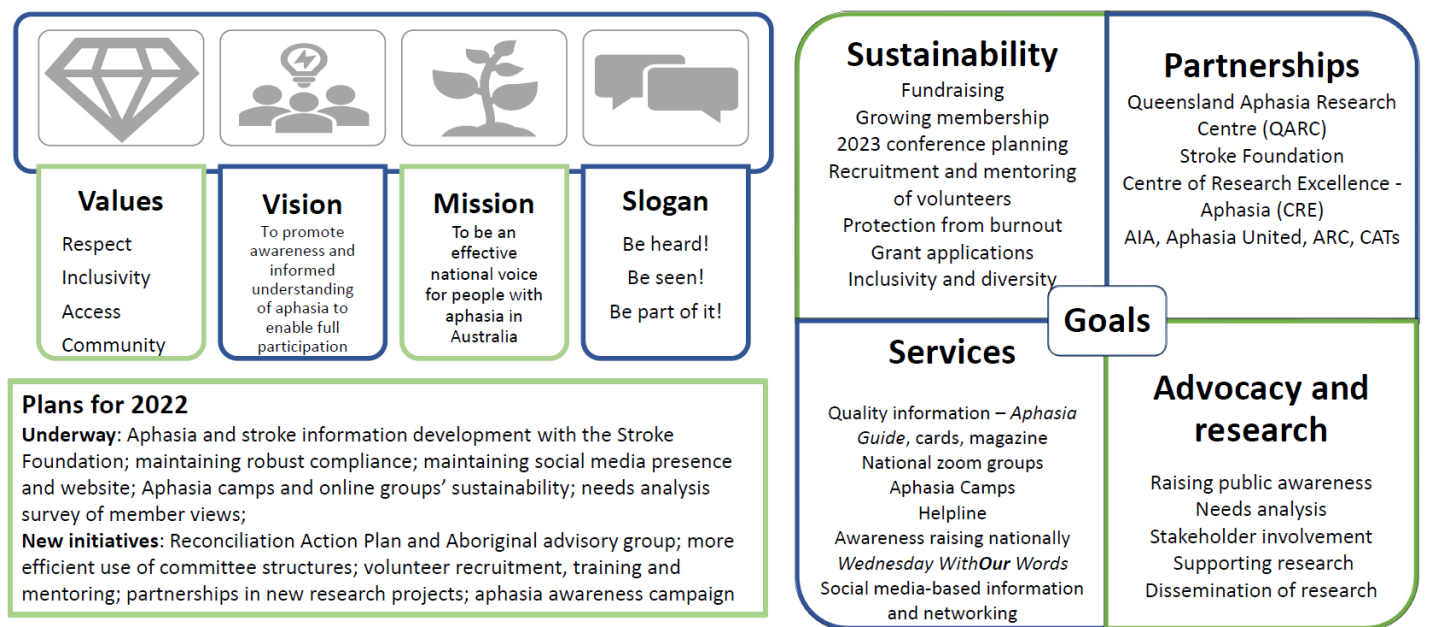


Annual General Meeting of the Australian Aphasia Association – 26th October 2022 – Chairperson's report: Prof Deborah Hersh.

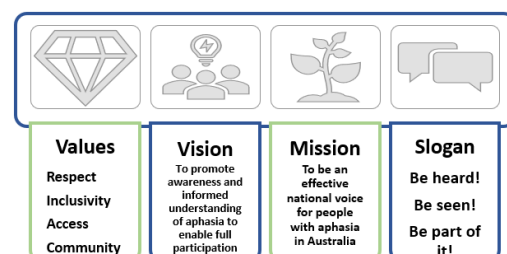
I would like to thank the AAA Board for their time and energy over this last year. We are all volunteers and we have worked hard this year to move forward on our goals from our **strategic plan**. Some things are still in progress:

Australian Aphasia Association Strategic Plan Summary 2022

Executive Directors: Deborah Hersh (Chair); Claire Bennington (Deputy Chair); Brooke Ryan (Treasurer); Kim Beesley (Secretary); Frankie Banzski (Webmaster; media coordinator); Damir Muftic; Kathryn Pettigrove; Ciara Shiggins; Miriam Williams.



I have worked with Claire Bennington and Miriam Williams on **reviewing our governance documents** and making them more *aphasia friendly*. This work is ongoing.



We are located at: the Queensland Aphasia Research Centre (QARC) on level 7 of the STARS building. **Thank you to Linda Worrall** who has been keeping track of our post and our sales of merchandise at QARC. Thank you also to both Leanne Ruggero, Genevieve Vuong, and Linda Worrall for managing our emailed queries and helpline telephone calls.

I have had the pleasure of working with **Kerri Colegate**, Director of Noongar Consultancy Services, to develop the wording for the AAA Acknowledgement of Country. We would like to thank Kerri very much for her help with this:

Australian Aphasia Association

Acknowledgement of Country

Australian Aphasia Association would like to acknowledge the many **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people** who are the **Traditional Owners** of the land we live on across Australia and pay our **respects to Elders past, present and future**.

Australian Aphasia Association recognises the **importance of language as a way of connecting people** to each other and to their lands, and that **sustaining culture** through **stories, song, art, and practices** strengthens the **wellbeing** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities so they can continue to thrive.

Our partnerships: We have continued to work closely with the **Stroke Foundation**. Last year, we completed a **consultation process**, and the draft of the ***Aphasia Handbook*** is now finalised. Jude Czerenkowski from the Stroke Foundation is working with an illustrator and graphic designer. We will present the **Aphasia**

Handbook at the Aphasiology Symposium of Australia in Melbourne in November 2022 and we hope it will be launched early next year. The *Aphasia Handbook* will be given out free of charge to all people in hospital who have aphasia after their stroke. It will give them and their families **information**. It will also support their communication and be a record of their treatment in hospital and rehabilitation.

Awareness of aphasia: We had a number of activities to raise awareness of aphasia including joining the international #RockingAphasia awareness campaign which involved painting pebbles with messages about aphasia, posting on social media, and leaving them in places for people to find:



When the news broke about **Bruce Willis** developing aphasia, there was a lot of **media attention**. Linda Worrall gave TV and radio interviews, and other members of the AAA were also interviewed. Several news articles were published and these reached thousands of people.

<https://www.abc.net.au/everyday/what-its-like-to-live-with-aphasia/100968048>

<https://theconversation.com/au/topics/aphasia-22940>

The AAA sponsored a **conference prize** for the 2022 Smart Strokes Conference which was **won by Sam Harvey**. This was a great way to reach health professionals and alert them to our work with aphasia.

We also ran **Wednesday with OUR Words** – an awareness-raising event during Stroke Awareness Week in August. This year, we

highlighted **word-finding** and what might have an impact on how easy it is to find a word you might want to say.

Australian Aphasia Association (AAA)
Wednesday With OUR Words 2022

What makes words easy or hard to **find** and **say** when you have **aphasia**?

Finding words is different for different people

Finding words is different on different days

Nouns? Verbs?
Adjectives?
Prepositions?

Saying the word? Reading? Repeating?

Single words? Phrases? Sentences?

1800 APHASIA (1800 274 274)

Email: questions@aphasia.org.au



How common is the word?

- **Cat** may be easier than **jaguar**
- How familiar a word is will be different for each person



How easily can you think of the image of the word?

- **Mug** may be easier than **happy**
- Words which are hard to make into a picture can be harder to find



How long is the word?

- **Fox** might be easier than **elephant**
- Some people find shorter words easier to say than longer words



How meaningful is the word?

- The **name of someone you love** may be easier than someone you don't know well
- Emotions affect finding words

Our fundraising and grants:

We have two **Long Lunches** planned - one in Brisbane

(18th November) and one in Sydney (17th November 2022).

Last year's Long Lunch in 2021 raised over \$2,000.

You helped us provide online support to over 40 people with aphasia.

You helped pay for materials to train 15 speech pathology students to help run our zoom groups.

Thank you!

For Your Support
It means a lot to us!

You helped us purchase 32 chapters of accessible reading materials for "A dogs purpose" book club.

\$2000 was raised
by the AAA long lunch in 2021!!



Values
Respect
Inclusivity
Access
Community



Vision
To promote awareness and informed understanding of aphasia to enable full participation



Mission
To be an effective national voice for people with aphasia in Australia



Slogan
Be heard!
Be seen!
Be part of it!

We applied for two grants (from Australia Post, and Kedron-Wavell) but unfortunately, we were not successful.

Website: We have done a lot of work exploring options for the redevelopment of our website. This work is ongoing.



Congratulations to **Linda Worrall** who was awarded a **Member of the Order of Australia (AM)** for her extraordinary contribution to aphasiology.

We developed this **update of our work** up to June 2022.

Australian Aphasia Association (AAA) Update – June 2022



What have we been doing and what are we planning?

June was international aphasia awareness month. We supported **#RockingAphasia** leaving messages about aphasia painted on pebbles in many place for people to find.

After the family of **Bruce Willis** announced his aphasia, there was a lot of media attention.

Linda Worrall was on TV and radio

<https://www.abc.net.au/everyday/what-its-like-to-live-with-aphasia/100968048>

<https://www.mamamia.com.au/what-is-aphasia/>


We are working with the Stroke Foundation to develop an **Aphasia Handbook** to be given to everyone who has aphasia after a stroke. We hope it will be ready this year.

We are planning an update of our website to be more user-friendly. We are talking to a web designer and will get it checked for accessibility.

We are starting to plan the next **AAA Conference with Aphasia WA**. It will be **Perth** in early **November 2023**, in person and with some online options too.

Congratulations to Emeritus Professor **Linda Worrall** who got an **OAM in the Queen's Honours list** for her work with aphasia!!

We have been developing a new magazine, we have an **Aphasia Book Club**, and our **Zoom Groups**.

			
Values Respect Inclusivity Access Community	Vision To promote awareness and informed understanding of aphasia to enable full participation	Mission To be an effective national voice for people with aphasia in Australia	Slogan Be heard! Be seen! Be part of it!

Contact us:

Free-call phone number:

1800 APHASIA (1800 274 274)





Email:

questions@aphasia.org.au

www.aphasia.org.au

ABN: 53 872 558 043

Written on behalf of the Australian Aphasia Association – **June 2022**

			
Values Respect Inclusivity Access Community	Vision To promote awareness and informed understanding of aphasia to enable full participation	Mission To be an effective national voice for people with aphasia in Australia	Slogan Be heard! Be seen! Be part of it!

We would like to thank our **many volunteers!**

Virtual Community Coordinators who coordinate all the administration for the **online zoom groups**:

Leanne Ruggero; Brooke Ryan; Brittany Fong

Volunteers who run the zoom groups on Tuesdays and Fridays:

Sumail Singh, Nicole Liu, and Sage Smith

Volunteers who run the groups on Fridays:

Susan Starr, Greta Consiglio, Gabby Moore, Hiruni Sene, Lital Weitz, Hope Oliver, Mikayla Greenwell-Smith, Julia Pantaleon, Phoebe Blakey, Anna Kuwaoka, Josephine Petrakis, Jess Liang and Ashna Arora.

Volunteers for administration: Morgan Perry and Sienna McCormack

Our Second Aphasia Camp: This was run in February on the Gold Coast and attended by 60 people with aphasia, family members, speech pathologists and students. It was very successful and allowed people to connect and build friendships. Thank you so much to **Megan Trebilcock, Kim Garden, Amanda Batchelor, Linda Worrall, Brooke Ryan**, and many others.



Thank you to the **James Frizelle Foundation** for supporting our Aphasia Camps! We have **funding until 2024** for Aphasia Camps.

We continue to meet with all the **representatives of the State-based groups** and now have people in every state and territory who are connected to our State Representative group. This is very exciting, and we are happy to help advise on the development of community aphasia groups or organisations in each of these areas.

Vale: Dr Jess Campbell: It is with great sadness that we remember Dr



Jess Campbell who passed away recently. Jess was a member of the **Queensland Aphasia Research Centre** and she ran **the Tech Hub** which helped so many people with aphasia gain confidence with technology. Jess was a wonderful generous speech pathologist and researcher, and she will be very greatly missed by many people in our community and beyond.

We have many plans for next year including the 2023 National Conference. This will be in Perth in early November and be run in partnership with Aphasia WA.

I would like to **encourage membership of the AAA** as well as of your local state-based organisations. We have 250 paid members. Your membership allows us to function at a national level, to initiate projects that benefit all Australians with aphasia, to plan and support our Aphasia Camps and national conference, and to represent Australia internationally. We appreciate your support.



Thank you, Deborah