



Press Release - For Immediate Release

18th June 2014

THE ROBIN TAVISTOCK AWARD 2014

PROFESSOR LINDA WORRALL, BSPHY, PhD

The Trustees of the Tavistock Trust for Aphasia are delighted to announce that **Professor Linda Worrall** is the 2014 recipient of The Robin Tavistock Award.

This award is named after Robin Tavistock, the 14th Duke of Bedford who founded The Tavistock Trust for Aphasia. It is presented annually to a person, or group, who is inspirational and has made a significant contribution to the field of aphasia.

Professor Linda Worrall is the Director of The Centre for Clinical Research Excellence (CCRE) in Aphasia Rehabilitation and she is based at The University of Queensland. Linda has had an outstanding career in aphasiology.

It is not uncommon these days for science and research to lose touch with the human context – to ignore the impact of a condition on the patient and the family. Linda has done the opposite and has proved that this need not, and should not, be the case.

In her early work, with a few others around the world, Linda carried the torch for the importance of taking into account what is needed when living with aphasia in the community. She has always understood the paramount importance for practical research into functional communicative needs of people with aphasia.

Linda has developed and evaluated new integrated approaches to managing and improving not only the aphasic condition, but also its many associated consequences. She has been a pioneer in ensuring that the client is at the centre of all that is done. This has influenced the perception and work of others.

Linda is recognised as being a passionate and exceptional teacher, galvanising and inspiring the next generation of speech pathologists. This, coupled with her rigorous, ground-breaking client centred research has established her as a leader in the field of aphasia, and someone who has earned the respect from her peers not only in Australia, but internationally.

Linda has inspired and influenced practitioners through her teaching and through her research, but most of all through her example. Everything she does, is done with a sense of fun, warmth and enthusiasm.

But perhaps one of Linda's most impressive contributions to the world of aphasia is that she has done what leading researchers and academics aspire to do and that is to ensure succession. Through her work she has guaranteed that aphasia research is fit for purpose well into the midst of the 21st century.

The description of 'inspirational' and 'making a significant difference' could not be more appropriate. It is because of Linda Worrall's exceptional contribution to the world of aphasia that the Trustees have awarded her the Robin Tavistock Award 2014.

The formal presentation of the Award will be made by Henrietta, Duchess of Bedford in Brisbane later this year.



The Trustees of the TTA are very grateful to the organising committee of the International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference 2014, The Hague, for their assistance in enabling the public announcement to be made at their event.

Ends

Additional information

- **Aphasia** is a communication disability. People with aphasia can find it hard to speak, read, write, understand language and use numbers – or a combination of any of these.
- Aphasia is different for each person who has it, but it is often described as like having the word you are trying to find on the tip of your tongue all the time.
- Aphasia affects all communication in everyday life, but does not affect intelligence.
- It can lead to social isolation, depression and reduced quality of life.



Professor Linda Worrall

- 1978: Qualified as a Speech Therapist from The University of Queensland
- 1987: Gained her PhD from The University of Nottingham
- 1990: Became a lecturer at The University of Queensland
- 1995: Made a Fellow of Speech Pathology Australia
- 2000: Founded the Australian Aphasia Association
- 2006: Promoted to Professor
- 2009: Director of the Centre for Clinical Research Excellence (CCRE) in Aphasia Rehabilitation
- 2014: Presented with the Elenor Wray Award from Speech Pathology Australia.

For further information, please contact Loretta Porche, Media Relations Officer, The University of Queensland: l.porche@uq.edu.au, +61 0418 772 819.

The Tavistock Trust for Aphasia

- The Tavistock Trust for Aphasia is the only grant-making trust in the United Kingdom that focuses solely on aphasia. Robin Tavistock, who became the 14th Duke of Bedford, had a brain haemorrhage in 1988 which left him with aphasia.
- Founded in 1992 by Robin Tavistock, the Trust works to improve the quality of life for those with aphasia, their families and careers. Amongst other things, the TTA funds pioneering research and projects to improve treatment and research; acts as a catalyst in bringing together organisations working in the same area; raises the profile of aphasia among the public and professionals and assists people, at their point of need, through a small grants programme.
- For further information, please visit the Trust's website: www.aphasiatavistocktrust.org