

SPEAKOUT

THE MAGAZINE FOR AUSTRALIAN SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS

DECEMBER 2022

ACU 2022 YOUNG
ALUMNI OF THE YEAR
AWARD WINNER
OLIVIA RAYNER



Olivia Rayner

Placeholder

Placeholder



Speech
Pathology
Australia

ACU 2022 YOUNG ALUMNI OF THE YEAR AWARD **OLIVIA RAYNER**

ABOUT THE AWARD:

The award recognises a graduate who is 35 years old or younger at the time of nomination whose early accomplishments since graduation have led to high achievement in their professional field or community engagement.

ABOUT OLIVIA

Olivia is a 29 year old Certified Practising Speech Pathologist who is passionate about the growing speech pathology industry. She has studied a Bachelor of Psychology Applied Science at RMIT University, and a Bachelor of Speech Pathology at ACU, graduating in 2020.



now
we're
talking

Speech Pathology
& Psychology

Image: Now We're Talking clinic

OLIVIA'S ACKNOWLEDGED ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE AWARD:

2019: FOUNDED A NIGHT FOR APHASIA

A Night for Aphasia (ANFA) is an awareness campaign based in Melbourne which focuses on bringing attention and shedding light on the Acquired Language Disorder called Aphasia. A team of five speech pathologists work hard to make this event happen each year (Sophie Nichols, Shevaun Pope, Mikayla Power and Hannah McKerral, as well as numerous volunteers for each event).

Our first event in 2019 was a huge success, located at Rydges Hotel, with tickets selling out in under 8 weeks and over 130 people in attendance. The attendees left feeling informed and positive, while the people with Aphasia felt celebrated.

Our second event in 2021 took place on an online platform, hosting over 100 guests who were able to hear from our sensational guests speakers, Carers of People with Aphasia, and individuals with Aphasia in a panel format. We were able to raise \$6000, some of which we donated back to Melbourne based Aphasia organisations such as The Australian Aphasia Association and Aphasia Victoria.

Our third event in June 2022, was also a huge success with 130 guests in attendance. We raised \$8500 and donated \$5000 to Aphasia based charities, with the rest going towards creating ANFA 2023.

No other event like ANFA exists. It culminates a perfect balance between educational and professional speakers, networking opportunities, and people with Aphasia sharing their experiences over food and drinks. People from all walks of life come together to learn about something that affects so many people within the Melbourne community and worldwide. It is an evening to celebrate the Aphasia community and to shed some light on what *Aphasia really is*.

ANFA aims to educate Australian Allied Health Professionals, students and the general public about Aphasia to facilitate further research, understanding and awareness. We strongly believe that increased awareness about Aphasia is crucial in helping those individuals and families who are affected comfortably reintegrate into society with this invisible and relatively unknown disorder. By bringing this awareness we ensure that more people have the knowledge to be able to recognise and facilitate this reintegration from hospital admission back into their community.

The ANFA mission:

To educate and raise awareness for this widespread communication disorder, and to recognise the volume of people living with, or caring for people with Aphasia.

2020: STARTED HER OWN PRIVATE PRACTICE 'NOW WE'RE TALKING SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY' BASED IN WILLIAMSTOWN

Now We're Talking Speech Pathology and Psychology is a spacious five room private speech clinic that does things a little differently. We now have 14 members on the team, two reception staff, eight speech pathologists, one school teacher and three fourth year speech pathology students (plus our therapy dog Stanley) and assist over 165 families privately each week.

Now We're Talking aims to have our families walk through the door and feel that they are a part of a wider community, and that they feel connected and supported. This is the approach that all of the staff at Now We're Talking are devoted to. We are a family-centred practice that puts connection, community, communication and of course progress first throughout our journey together.

Our team members can assist with the assessment, diagnosis and intervention for fluency, voice, speech, language, literacy, neurodiverse individuals, apraxia of speech,

and workplace performance. Along with the private practice days, my team and I are also contracted by three local primary schools 15–20 hours per week. This allows us to contribute to the community on a larger scale and support teachers and students with affordable assessments, diagnosis and intervention.

I employ two fourth year speech pathology students for these days which greatly assists the school in having more speechies involved, assists more students to obtain this much needed intervention and assists me to be able to cover a wider caseload while maintaining a good quality of service. These school days allow us to support an additional 190 families a week.

We have a wonderful community and a great reputation for providing a high quality service that genuinely cares.

As a director, I encourage and support my clinicians to be creative and make their dreams happen. This is why we have so many fabulous programs and have recently opened a voice clinic to support the transgender community achieve a voice that they feel best represents them.

OTHER NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Host to Inner West speech pathologist community catch ups.
- School readiness weekly tutoring groups and holidays programs. This program is offered to typical and neurodiverse students to participate in a 1 hour gymnastics class, and a 1 hour class to learn basic pre-prep organisation, literacy, numeracy and social skills.
- Special interest groups for neurodiverse individuals.
- The development of an early language online courses for parents, to combat large waiting lists and assist families on a wider scale.
- 10 week kindergarten visits including the screening of all 4-5 year olds and accompanying observations and recommendations to parents and staff.
- Participation in a number of podcasts and as a guest speaker for online webinars to hero the speech pathology field and inspire students to enrol.
- 2021 sponsorship of the up and coming Speechies Podcast to assist them in being able to create their content with up-to-date equipment and present it on the highest quality platforms.

Olivia Rayner

Olivia Rayner