Overview

- APEC SLP is an informal network of educators in speech language pathology in the Asia Pacific region.
- There is no joining or membership fee.
- The network meets annually to address issues of common interest and mutually support professional development of speech language pathology educators.
- Meetings are aligned with the Speech Pathology Australia national conference in June as many participants attend this conference each year and Heads of Speech Language Pathology programs meet with the Speech Pathology Australia Association leadership at this conference. This minimises travel costs and facilitates the attendance of senior leaders in speech language pathology.
- Hosted by local university with a voluntary organizing committee.
- 25 to 30 educators from Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia.
- Mutually developed resources are shared on the APEC SLP website https://sites.google.com/site/apecslp/ and communication supported via a discussion forum, all managed by volunteers.

Mission Statement

The Australia Pacific Education Collaboration in Speech Language Pathology (APEC SLP) aims to support and foster innovative practice in the education of speech-language pathologists. APEC SLP provides opportunities for speech pathology educators to meet, exchange information and develop collaborations in learning and teaching and curriculum development. APEC SLP aims to foster research into learning and teaching and ultimately, positively influence the education of speech pathology students. It is our intention to be inclusive and both outward and forward looking in our activities.

Background

Two projects funded by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council had supported meetings between representatives of Australian and New Zealand speech language pathology programs in 2007 and 2008. Meetings had focused on supporting the integration of COMPASS®, a competency based tool for assessing students’ performance on practicum, into curriculum in Australia and New Zealand as well as exploring the possibility of benchmarking assessment scores as a strategy to inform curriculum.

As educators wished to continue to meet after the projects ended, APEC SLP was established at the Australian/New Zealand combined national speech pathology conference in Auckland, New Zealand in May 2008.

Timeline of meetings and length

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Meeting Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Auckland, New Zealand</td>
<td>2 hour meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Adelaide, South Australia</td>
<td>1 day meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Melbourne, Victoria</td>
<td>1 day meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Darwin, Northern Territory</td>
<td>2 day meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Hobart, Tasmania</td>
<td>2 day meeting</td>
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Forum Content

Forum content and process is negotiated amongst the membership and can include a range of formats including:

- Guest speakers are invited from outside the discipline to talk about broader learning and teaching issues e.g. impact of health policy on student placements, attracting and retaining indigenous students.
- Roundtables are held so subgroups can discuss and address issues of common interest e.g. honours programs, ethical overseas placements, rural placements.
- Presentations or panel discussions are provide by colleagues to colleagues on innovations or issues for discussion e.g. e-portfolios, case based curriculum, place of reflection in the curriculum.
- Benchmarking COMPASS® assessment data occurs at each meeting as follows:
  - Participants identify questions on which they wish to compare their students’ clinical performances with other universities at a teleconference prior to the meeting.
  - Participants then come prepared to share benchmarked data from the Benchmarking COMPASS® Database on their program(s).
- Discussion of benchmarked data provides insight to other program’s curriculum structure and content and the opportunity to learn how other programs are supporting their students’ professional development. Frequently more questions are raised for further investigation and research about what and how our students learn.[1]

All are welcome to access the APEC SLP website, attend and/or contribute our Forum meetings or join our email discussion forum to receive updated information.

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