

Alana Portacio - Curriculum Vitae

Alana Portacio (Nee - Watts)
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Australian Citizen

Clearances

- Working With Children Check
- Police Clearance
- NDIS Clearance

Educational Background

- 2024/2025: Berry Street Education Model - Curriculum and Classroom Strategies
- 2017: Hanen Certified (It Takes Two To Talk) – Hanen Centre
- 2016: PROMPT Trained – PROMPT Institute
- 2016: Key Word Sign – Basic Training Workshop
- 2012-2013: Master of Speech Pathology – Curtin University of Technology
- 2011: Health Sciences Foundation Course – Curtin University of Technology
- 2007: Bachelor of Arts (Art) Honours – Curtin University of Technology
- 2003-2005: Bachelor of Arts (Art) – Curtin University of Technology
- 1998-2002: High School – Iona Presentation College

Summary of Skills

- **Early Intervention Expertise:** Extensive experience in early intervention, focusing on family-centred practice and routines-based intervention. Skilled in empowering families and caregivers to support children with communication needs effectively.
- **Communication and Collaboration:** Superior verbal and written communication skills, enabling effective collaboration with clients, families, educators, and multidisciplinary teams. Adept at liaising with professionals to ensure cohesive support for children.
- **Neurodiversity Affirming Practitioner:** Strong advocate for Neurodiverse Affirming Practices within therapy, community and school contexts. Committed to education in this area and direct practice, ensuring empathy, understanding, inclusion and creating supportive environments for neurodivergent individuals.
- **Service Delivery:** Proven ability to plan and manage therapy from an individual level to a large scale (small therapy group, playgroups, classrooms). Skilled in adapting strategies to meet diverse needs and achieve therapeutic goals.
- **Educational Engagement:** Passionate about educating and training carers, teachers, and support networks. Experienced in delivering professional development sessions and workshops to enhance understanding of communication needs.

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- **Autonomous Work Ethic:** Highly experienced in working independently, managing complex caseloads, and organising schedules to maximise efficiency and therapeutic outcomes.
- **Technical Proficiency:** Proficient in using Cliniko for practice management, as well as MS Office Suite, including Word, Excel, and Outlook. Knowledgeable in navigating NDIS and Medicare processes for early intervention and school-aged populations.
- **Cultural Competence:** Experienced in working with children and families from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds, ensuring population-sensitive and tailored interventions.

Professional Experience

2024 - Present: Speech Pathologist

Mary MacKillop Catholic Community Primary School, (Catholic Education Western Australia or CEWA)

- Deliver comprehensive speech and language services to support student communication and learning.
- Conduct screenings and assessments for Kindergarten and flagged PP-6 students.
- Provide 1:1 and group therapy focusing on language, speech, literacy, and AAC.
- Collaborate with teachers and staff to integrate communication goals into the curriculum.
- Liaise with parents and external service providers, including NDIS.
- Serve as a case worker for NDIS-funded students.
- Support teachers in adapting classroom environments for diverse needs.
- Recommend and implement school-wide strategies like Trauma-Informed Education from the Berry Street Education Model (BSEM).
- Provide professional development for teaching staff.
- Provide professional development for Student Speech Pathologists and Student Occupational Therapists from Curtin University.
- Maintain accurate records and support funding applications.

February 2022 - Present: Principal Speech Pathologist and Owner

Alana Portacio Speech Pathologist

- I currently collaborate with a Psychologist to conduct Autism assessments and participate in the multidisciplinary diagnostic process.
- Provided speech pathology support to children (ages 3-8) and their caregivers in community settings.
- Worked with children with diverse needs, including hearing loss, Developmental Language Disorder (DLD), Global Developmental Delay (GDD) and Autism.
- Educated and empowered caregivers and educators to support children with communication needs.

February 2022 - present - Research Assistant/Sessional Academic - Curtin University

Roles I undertook included:

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- Clinical Educator at Majella Catholic Primary School (terms 1-3 2022) - Supervised and assessed Speech Pathology students in primary school settings; Liaised with school staff to prioritise children for intervention; Provided feedback on students' written communication and performance.
- Tutor for unit; Fundamentals of Management in Allied Health Practice (2022) - Responsibilities included; co-teaching the tutorial associated with the unit each week during one semester, marking student assignments and marking student practical examinations (VIVAS), attendance of team meetings each week.
- Sessional marking for assignments and practical exams (2022-2023) - additional marking of student assignments and practical exams for the Speech Pathology undergraduate degree at Curtin University.

Research Assistant (2022 to present) - assisted/assisting with the following projects:

- *Profiling the language skills of adolescents in Curriculum and Reengagement in Education (CARE) Schools in WA*
- *The Young Children's Speech Development study*

Responsibilities related to these studies included; liaising with participants and gaining consent to participate, collection of data from participants (completing interviews, questionnaires and standardised assessments), liaising with individuals involved in the participant's care (parents, Teachers, Youth Workers, Psychologists), preparing reports summarising the data collected, analysing results and preparing themes related to the studies, liaising and meeting with researchers involved in each study.

Published Co-authored papers include:

- Jackson, E., Portacio, A., Boyes, M., Townsend, J., & Leitão, S. (2025). AJLD early career researcher award winner 2024: developing teachers' knowledge and confidence for supporting students with speech, language, and communication needs in flexible learning program classrooms: a pilot study. *Australian Journal of Learning Difficulties*, 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19404158.2025.2470425>

Co-authored papers awaiting submission/review include:

- *Cyberbullying in adolescents with neurodevelopmental disorders and difficulties: Exploring stakeholder perspectives on the suitability and effectiveness of preventative education.*
- *Profiling the Oral Language and Psychosocial Skills of Young People Attending Flexible Learning Programmes*

January 2015 – February 2022: Speech Pathologist

Telethon Speech and Hearing

- Supported children with hearing loss and other co-occurring speech, language and communication needs in the Chatterbox (Early Intervention program for children with hearing loss), Talkabout (specialist school for children aged 2-6), Private Practice and Outpost (School-aged program for children with hearing loss) programs.
- Ran playgroups and individual therapy sessions within all programs discussed.
- Developed and implemented a project on service delivery models within the Chatterbox program and explored options for a mobile service.
- Supervised final-year students and presented on speech and language topics.

January 2017 – April 2018: Clinical Educator at St Brigid's Primary School Curtin University

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Responsibilities in this role were similar to those discussed in my previous role as a Clinical Educator (see above).

January 2014-October 2015: Speech Pathologist

Fremantle Speech Pathology Services

- Managed a caseload of clients with speech, language, communication and literacy difficulties.
- Developed expertise in literacy development through mentorship and professional development.

August 2014-September 2014: Clinical Educator

Curtin University

- Supervised Speech Pathology students in adult placements.
- Provided support and feedback on clinical documentation and sessions.

December 2013 – January 2014: Research Assistant

Curtin University

- Assisted in a research project on reading difficulties post-stroke.
- Liaised with participants and conducted assessments.

Affiliations/Memberships

- 2024 - Present: School Board Parent Member
- 2022 - Present: Language and Literacy in Young People Research Group (LaLYP) Committee Member
- 2012-2023: Speech Pathology Australia Member

Volunteer Experience

- Speech Pathology Australia Sub-Committee Member
- Paediatric Language Volunteer at Fremantle Language Development Centre
- Adult Language Volunteer with Speech Pathology Australia and Catholic Homes

Professional Development

- Attended various training sessions, including Kimochis, Berry Street, and Mental Health First Aid.
- Regularly participated in workshops and seminars on speech and language topics.
- Detailed list of Professional Development available upon request.

Referees

Available upon request.