



Annual Report 2013

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Trinh Foundation Australia Ltd Annual Report

1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

Supporting the establishment of speech therapy in Vietnam

It is estimated that over 13 million people in Vietnam have communication disorders and swallowing disorders. A basic human need, as social beings, is to have the ability to communicate with each other.

Trinh Foundation Australia (TFA) is a voluntary, non-profit organisation, established in Australia. We are committed to improving the quality of life of Vietnamese people with communication and swallowing disorders. We work with our Vietnamese partners to support the emerging speech therapy profession in Vietnam. TFA is independent and does not have any political or religious affiliation.

TFA's approach is focused on capacity building and skills sharing. Volunteer Australian speech pathologists and academics have already contributed over 1000 days of their specialist expertise in teaching, clinical education and mentoring roles for TFA's programs in Vietnam.

There is enormous need for speech therapy in Vietnam, but until September 2010, there were no formal training courses for speech therapists. With our partners in Vietnam, TFA instigated, developed and supported Vietnam's first ever, 2 year postgraduate speech therapy training course.

On 21 September 2012, the first group of 18 Vietnamese speech therapists graduated from University of Medicine Pham Ngoc Thach in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. As a result eight hospitals in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) and two early intervention centres in HCMC and Hue, gained speech therapy departments with qualified speech therapists.

The first speech therapy graduates are helping people with a wide range of difficulties, including: adults who have had strokes, brain injuries and cancer; children with autism spectrum disorders, syndromes, cleft lip and palate, and developmental delays; people with voice disorders, Parkinson's disease, cerebral palsy and stuttering. Our Vietnamese Speech Therapy graduates are trained to support people of all ages across all areas of speech therapy practice. Many Vietnamese people have waited a long time to receive the speech therapy services they need.

Trinh Foundation Australia's Mission

Trinh Foundation Australia's mission is to support Vietnamese people to develop skills in the management of communication and swallowing disorders. TFA supports the establishment of the speech therapy profession in Vietnam by providing education, clinical expertise and resources. In the long term, TFA's work will make sustainable change to improve the quality of life of many people with communication and swallowing disorders throughout Vietnam.

Trinh Foundation Australia's current primary goals are to:

1. Continue to assist with providing training courses in speech therapy in Vietnam.
2. Assist the Vietnamese people to develop and implement a four year bachelor's course in speech therapy.
3. To assist UPNT to develop a Student Training Clinic at their university.
4. Raise funds to supply highly skilled interpreters and translators and run training programs for them.
5. Develop and assist in funding continuing professional development (CPD) programs for graduates.
6. Support the development of speech therapy units in hospitals and schools across Vietnam.

Trinh Foundation Australia's Activities and Outcomes

Trinh Foundation Australia is on track with achieving our project outcomes as the speech therapy (ST) profession is developing in Vietnam. We are achieving our goals through provision of expertise that is not yet available in Vietnam, and support to develop the future capacity for these skills within Vietnam.

The most significant success this year has been completing the first training course and enabling Vietnam to have their first Vietnamese trained speech therapists. A highly successful graduation ceremony was held in September 2012, which showcased the achievements of the graduates who are now able to return to their work place and apply their new knowledge. Their qualification gives them more confidence to manage patients with communication disorders. At the same time the second cohort of trainees commenced their two year program. By June 2013 these students had completed two academic blocks and one clinical education block.

During this reporting period the overall awareness about speech therapy and the benefits to the Vietnamese people continues to grow, through public education and increased media interest as graduates and key partners have been interviewed on Vietnamese national television. This has resulted in growing interest and support for TFA's work.

The inaugural meeting of the Speech Therapy Association of Vietnam was held comprising graduates of the Speech Therapy Training Program and is a significant outcome. Together they will work to raise public awareness of the profession, strive for the future dissemination of knowledge about speech therapy as well as seek professional development opportunities.

Volunteers are the main source of support for TFA's work in Vietnam and in Australia. Dr Sally Hewitt from the University of Newcastle joined the Board in January 2013 and has visited Vietnam for 3 months as part of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the University of Newcastle and UPNT in October 2012. This is the first MOU between UPNT and an Australian university and will enable Australian speech pathology students to work with the students and academics in Vietnam in clinical settings. This will be of benefit to students from both countries and supports TFA's goals.

In Australia TFA is supported by a committed and expanding group of volunteers and we have strategies in place to engage with the increasing number of Vietnamese people who will support our work into the future. Australian volunteers have conducted events, fundraisers, and information

sessions at small community events and larger scale events such as the Speech Pathology Australia conference 2013.

TFA acknowledges the ongoing support and interest of our volunteers and members of the speech pathology profession. The support of our patron, Mr Graham Swift, the former Australian Consul General to Vietnam is gratefully acknowledged. Mr Swift has enabled TFA to strengthen relationships in the diplomatic and expatriate community in Vietnam.

In January 2013 TFA received a new Certificate of Registration from the Vietnamese Government to enable the continuation of our work in Vietnam for next three years.

In May 2013 Speech Pathology Australia (SPA) presented TFA Director Mrs Sue Woodward with the Elinor Wray Award. This is SPA's most prestigious award and was presented at the SPA Annual General Meeting during the national conference on the Gold Coast, Queensland. TFA also hosted a celebratory and fundraising dinner during the conference at a local Vietnamese restaurant, attended by volunteers and supporters.

GOAL 1: Continue to assist with providing training courses in speech therapy in Vietnam

This year TFA realised the first major achievement of our longer term goals with the graduation of the first cohort of trained professional speech therapists in Vietnam. To complete the program the students undertook their final academic block and clinical education sessions and their professional projects were submitted and assessed. A number of these projects will be published as a resource for use in teaching and clinical settings.

All of the 18 students completed the program and have returned to their home institutions to implement speech therapy clinics and services in their local areas and promote and develop speech therapy practice with their colleagues. This includes working at 8 hospitals and 2 early intervention centres in Ho Chi Minh City and Hue.

The model of teaching has prioritised linking academic subjects to practical implementation as the students learn. The program was highly successful and its unique combination of academic learning and hands on training in clinical settings, supported by Australian speech pathologists and educators, has provided the students with skills and knowledge to lead the development of speech therapy services in Vietnam. Evaluation of the program outcomes is being undertaken to provide advice for the second course and to inform development of the proposed undergraduate program.

The graduation ceremony was a wonderful occasion that celebrated the achievement of each graduate. Attendees included our patron Mr Graham Swift and the AVI in-country manager Mr Claude Potvin. It was also an occasion to welcome the second cohort of students who have enrolled in the postgraduate program. Two students in this cohort are from Hanoi, and TFA has provided scholarship funding for a student from Hue, which will greatly assist the spread of speech therapy to other parts of the country.

By June 2013 the 17 students undertaking the second postgraduate training course completed two academic terms and one clinical education block and assessments had been finalised. Volunteer clinical educators from Australia assisted with the first clinical education block with these students, between January and March 2013 and Australian academics presented lectures and tutorials and provided advice for the students' research and professional projects during the academic terms.

TFA has a range of strategies in place to further promote speech therapy in Vietnam, including continuing to fund the supply of learning resources and textbooks for the course and providing

advice and expertise in curriculum development. A new initiative is the development of a *Speech Therapy Glossary of Terms for Vietnam*. This is a major resource that TFA aims to distribute to hospitals and centres throughout the country and to use in future course work and clinical settings. The Glossary will address the major issue with interpreting and translation of speech therapy terms.

TFA facilitated an MOU with UPNT and the University of Newcastle who are now in negotiations to work out ways they can effectively collaborate, not just for the current cohort, but also to assist in the continuing professional development of new graduates.

Extending training to other locations

TFA also responded to requests from Hanoi Medical University (HMU) which has expressed interest in establishing a speech therapy course. Mr Graeme Swift facilitated a meeting with the new Australian Ambassador's support that took place at the Australian Embassy in Hanoi. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed to progress this work, beginning with a series of short courses in speech therapy at Hanoi Medical University and Hanoi National Education University. This will be a key milestone in extending speech therapy training and services in Hanoi.

Personnel

In August 2012 Ms Elizabeth (Libby) Brownlie commenced a two year term as Program Coordinator, through AVI. Ms Brownlie is an Australian speech pathologist with a background working with people with a disability and Augmentative Alternative Communication which is a great asset to TFA's work. The previous coordinator, Ms Marie Atherton has continued to support Libby as she has settled into the role. A second program coordinator position remained unfilled. This gap was filled by a number of three month volunteer placements that were ably provided by Ms Lorna Quietsch and Ms Caitlin Stewart and funded by TFA.

Ms Mandy Mui a speech pathologist from the UK also volunteered from September to December 2012 and particularly assisted with organising clinical training for the second student cohort. Ms Mui also speaks Vietnamese which was very valuable and confirmed the significant need for experienced interpreters and translators to support the academic program and clinical practice. Subsequently Ms Simone Maffescioni has accepted the second AVI position and is due to start in August 2013.

Appointed in February 2012, Ms Nguyễn Mai Hoàn Thành as Office Manager and Senior Interpreter, continued to provide great assistance to the UPNT staff as well as to TFA throughout the year.

During the year Dr Ngoc Dung the Director of the ENT Hospital in Ho Chi Minh City was appointed Rector of UPNT. TFA is working with Professor Dung to ensure the courses are meeting their objectives and will help us to progress the work required for the Bachelor program and the speech clinic at the University. Professor Dung is our champion in Vietnam and has a great understanding and advocacy for the Project and our goals and we look forward to continuing to work with her towards our shared goals.

Fourteen academics visited Vietnam to teach specialist subjects and 17 speech pathologists went to Vietnam as clinical educators– all volunteers. TFA also provided paid interpreters, liaison, financial and professional support for all visiting specialists. Four Australian mentors have also been working with student groups, over Skype and email, to support development of resource books as students' final professional projects.

GOAL 2: Assist the Vietnamese people to develop and implement a four year bachelor's course in speech therapy

There is a growing awareness of the need for qualified speech therapists in Vietnam, and an increasing interest in expanding the profession. To continue running Vietnamese speech therapy courses will require Vietnamese leaders who have higher qualifications in speech therapy. TFA is actively supporting students in their applications to obtain higher qualifications at universities both in Australia and the USA. Successful completion of these courses will provide Vietnamese academics to lead undergraduate programs in the future.

The implementation of an undergraduate course in speech therapy is a longer term goal that we are working towards with our partners at UPNT and at other universities including in Hanoi and Hue. To this end TFA have met with these organisations to discuss the possibility of supporting the development of courses in the north of the country.

GOAL 3: Raise funds to supply highly skilled interpreters and translators

TFA pays the wages of a skilled interpreter/ translator/ assistant based at UPNT to support the program there (Ms Nguyễn Mai Hoàn Thành)

We also provide paid interpreters and translators for all specialists who work with Vietnamese speech therapy students and graduates in academic and clinical training programs, and provide support for administrative and travel costs.

The production, printing and distribution costs of the *Glossary of Speech Therapy Terms*, and the other resource booklets arising from the students' research projects is also being supported by TFA, for use in Vietnam and in Australian Vietnamese speaking communities. Future plans include training courses for interpreters and translators with a specific focus on the needs associated with the speech therapy profession.

In Australia, volunteers continue to lead our fundraising projects. The success of our projects in Vietnam is heavily reliant on their work. Some key fundraising initiatives in the past year have included:

- Major fundraising event: Trivia night hosted by Rotary Club of Gosford City in November 2012.
- Raffle, items sold and special events at the Speech Pathology Australia conference, Gold Coast, May 2013 (complimentary booth in the trade exhibition provided by SPA and staffed by a small team of TFA volunteers)
- Celebration of TFA's 5th birthday on 27 March 2013, with events around Australia and in Vietnam to raise awareness of our work, and to raise some funds.
- Volunteer run events, fundraisers, and information sessions at small community events and service clubs.

GOAL 4: Develop and assist in funding continued professional development programs for graduates

Continuing professional development is critical for the learning and growth of individual graduate speech therapists and as a means to embed speech therapy as a profession in Vietnam, which is managed and taught by Vietnamese speech therapists. TFA is committed to the ongoing professional development of the graduates and is providing funding and opportunities for this to be established,

TFA support speech therapy graduates to continue to expand their professional networks and opportunities for development and Australian speech pathologists and students regularly visit Vietnamese speech therapists in their workplaces, expanding professional connections.

Graduates have increasing involvement in supporting student clinical education placements in workplaces in HCMC and Hue and Vietnamese speech therapists work alongside experienced clinical educators from Australia, in sessions at UPNT and at their own workplaces.

Graduates have continued to meet to develop the Speech Therapy Club of Vietnam, which aims to become the peak professional body for Vietnamese speech therapists. These meetings have been supported by staff at UPNT and professional development opportunities have been provided by visiting lecturers and academics, supported by TFA. A working MOU is in place with UPNT to collaborate on this goal. This a major activity for the in-country Clinical Coordinator who will continue to work with graduates on this strategy.

The 'Glossary of Speech Therapy Terms' and 'Communicating with people with aphasia: A guide for families and carers' were developed by students of the first speech therapy training course, as final year projects. These resources will be valuable tools for Vietnam's first speech therapists and give Vietnamese people access to important information that has not previously been available in their language. Another resource about swallowing is soon to be released, and in the future TFA will publish further booklets that will be produced by the second cohort of speech therapy students.

TFA is committed to supporting opportunities for graduates to visit Australia to learn about speech therapy practice and to attend conferences and other professional development activities. The University of Sydney Hoc Mai Foundation-sponsored visits to Australia by students Mrs Xuan and Mr Dien, organised by Director Professor Lindy McAllister and Ms Chris Sheard of the University of Sydney.

TFA were successful in making an Australian Leadership Awards Fellowship (ALAF) application in conjunction with Sydney University for several representatives of UPNT and HMU to come to Australia to learn about how to write an Undergraduate Program as well as visit Speech Pathology Australia to learn more about how a professional association can operate.

Other support for continuing professional development activities and sustainability planning include:

- helping to identify an appropriate student to undertake a two year masters program in Australia
- providing teaching opportunities for new graduate speech therapists
- identifying funding sources to allow several graduates to attend the Asia-Pacific Speech Therapy Conference in Taiwan and co-present a paper on their stuttering research
- sponsoring students from Danang to participate in further training
- applying for AusAid funds under the ALAF program to advance discussions with Hanoi Medical University on establishing a course.

GOAL 5: To develop a Speech Therapy Student Clinic at the University of Medicine Pham Ngoc Thach

UPNT has identified the need for an onsite training clinic for students and for continuing professional development of the graduates to support the future progression of the current training program. It is intended that this clinic will be fully operational by February 2015, in readiness for the Bachelor Program. TFA is developing a specific MOU with UPNT that identifies TFA's specific roles in assisting with the establishment of the clinic, which include assisting with the planning of the clinic, sourcing

volunteer Clinical Supervisors; providing resources; supplying translators and interpreters as required; and establishing a workable service delivery model.

GOAL 6: Support the development of speech therapy units in hospitals and schools across Vietnam

Through support of graduate Vietnamese speech therapists (currently 18) TFA is beginning the process of expanding the accessibility of speech therapy to the Vietnamese people in various areas of the country.

When the second cohort of 15 students graduates in October 2014 Vietnam will have 33 postgraduate qualified speech therapists. As part of their training, these speech therapists establish clinics in their workplaces, with clinical education support from visiting specialists. There will be 15 hospitals, schools and early intervention centres in Vietnam with speech therapy departments staffed by qualified Vietnamese speech therapists. The second cohort of students will also extend the geographical area where speech therapy services are available in Vietnam. Graduate speech therapists will then work in Ho Chi Minh City, Hue, Hanoi, Lam Dong, and Ba Ria.

Patron

Mr Graeme Swift

Australian Consul-General, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, 2009 – 2011

Directors

Professor Lindy McAllister PhD, MA (Hons) (Sp Path), BSpThy Life Member SPAA
Professor and Associate Dean of Work, Integrated Learning, Faculty of Health Sciences
The University of Sydney

Mrs Sue Woodward DipSpThy

Speech Pathologist, Private Practice, Central Coast, NSW
Conjoint Fellow in Speech Pathology, University of Newcastle

Dr Aziz Sahu-Khan BDS, MDS, MRACDS(Orth)

Orthodontist, Private Practice, Charlestown, NSW
Consultant Orthodontist John Hunter Children's Hospital Cleft Lip and Palate Clinic, New Lambton,
NSW

Dr Alison Winkworth

Speech Pathologist.

Adjunct academic, School of Community Health, Charles Sturt University, Albury NSW.
Consultant, First Impression Feedback Pty Ltd

Dr Sally Hewat PhD, BAppSci (Sp Path) CPSP (from July 2012)

Head of Speech Pathology Program,
Faculty of Education and Arts, The University of Newcastle, NSW

Secretary / Public Officer

Dr Peter Woodward BDS, MDS, MRACDS(Orth)

Orthodontist

Voluntary Executive Officers

Advisor for Training Course

Ms Marie Atherton (Speech Pathologist), Grad Dip Neurosciences
Speech Pathologist Previously: Course Co-ordinator for Speech Therapy Training Course at
University of Medicine Pham Ngoc Thach, HCM City, Vietnam

Translator / Interpreter and Advisor in Cultural Affairs

Ms Huyen Nguyen BA

Advisors in Administrative Matters

Kieran and Bronwyn Coop BA

Staff

Elizabeth Brownlie

B.App.Sc.SpPath

Speech Pathologist volunteer through AVI Program Coordinator in Vietnam

Ms Trâ`n Thục Hân

Administration assistant/interpreter/translator based at UPNT

Jan Tochowicz

Australian based Administrative Assistant

Volunteers

Lecturers

Louise Brown (Adult Dysphagia)
Janella Christie (Cleft Lip and Palate)
Dr Pamela Dodrill (Paediatric Dysphagia)
Dr Sally Hewat (Stuttering)
Dr Diane Jacobs (Paediatric Language Disorders)
Sharynne McLeod
Felicity Megee (Head and Neck Cancer)
Christine Sheard (Communication Disorders of a Neurological Origin)
Simone Griffin and Sophie Kerr (Autism)
Dr Nguyen Thi Bich Thuy, Dr Le Tran Quang Minh, Ms Duong Phuong Hanh and Ms Leah Labrador
(Audiology/Aural Rehabilitation)
Joanne Walters
Dr Alison Winkworth (Voice)
Dr Gail Woodyatt (Complex Disability)

Clinical Education

Emily Armstrong
Georgina Bong
Jenna Butterworth
Nicolas Cummins
Leanna Fox
Martha Karagannis
Cliona Angelino-Kearnes
Eva Lee
Alexis McMahon
Mandy Ngo
Lorna Quietsch
Acacia Rogers
Sarita Slater
Amanda Scott
Lan Vy Tu
Catherine Turland
Elizabeth Weston
Maureen Wilson