



# Trinh Foundation

AUSTRALIA

## Course News

### Train the Trainer at Work



In 2010, Ms Na received a TFA scholarship to attend the inaugural SALT training program in HCMC. Ten years later Ms Na is a great example of the train the trainer model at work as she provides clinical supervision to students from the Da Nang Bachelor program with the assistance of TFA mentor Nisrine El Chouefati via Zoom.

MCNV and TFA are very grateful for the valuable guidance provided by the current technical consultant to the Da Nang Bachelor Program, TFA director Dr Marie Atherton. Marie was also the Program Co-ordinator for the first training program at the University of Medicine Pham Ngoc Thach (UPNT) in HCMC Vietnam between 2010-2012, and therefore one of Ms Na's first teachers.

**[Please click here for inciteful reports](#) from clinical supervisor Ms Na and her mentor Nisrine El Chouefati**



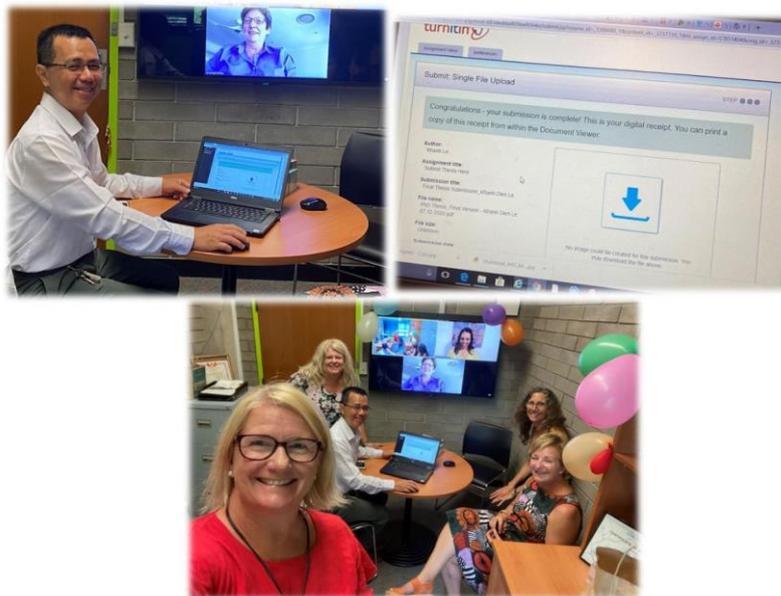
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Clinical practice is an important component of the BSALT and MSALT courses that are part of the SALT in Vietnam Project. TFA manages the program in partnership with MCNV and finance partially supported by USAID.

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## TFA News

### Unforgettable Day for Mr Dien



***Mr Dien submitting his thesis with the support of his Australian supervisors and colleagues***

*Mr Le Khanh Dien recounts how submitting his thesis felt:*

“The date of 7 December 2020 was unforgettable to me; the day I submitted my doctoral thesis in Speech and Language Therapy. I would like to thank first my previous patients for having been a great source of motivation for me to undertake this challenging program. Then, I would like to show my deep gratitude to the University of Newcastle - a prestigious university in Australia - for the full scholarship in my four-year doctoral program. I also desire to give my sincere thanks to Trinh Foundation Australia for the financial support in the first two years. Being the first person in the health system in Vietnam to complete a doctorate in the field of Speech and Language Therapy, I hope I will have favourable support to contribute my knowledge and skills to promotion of the quality of life for people with communication and/or swallowing disorders and development of Speech and Language Therapy at my hospital and in Vietnam.”

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## Vietnamese Language Screener Training Package Finalised



**Tài liệu tập huấn  
Bộ công cụ sàng lọc ngôn ngữ Việt**



Được xây dựng bởi Sarah Verdon, Ben Phạm,  
Macushla Josling, Leda Greenwood, Jamie  
Freeman, Shiona Suzuki và Emily Marshall

Dr Sarah Verdon and Dr Ben Phạm have finalised the training package for the Vietnamese Language Screener (VLS). The package is based on the work of a group of students from Newcastle University who undertook a clinical placement in Vietnam. The package includes important information about developmental language disorders, accurate assessment using the VLS and instructions for how to score and interpret children's language data. The first training session was held with two MSALT students from Central Vietnam who are collecting normative data using the VLS as their Masters research project. The training package will be rolled out in the future to interested speech therapists and others who use the test in Vietnam (such as special educators) in online and face to face training sessions. This training will ensure that professionals are confident in their ability to administer, score and interpret the test and will also ensure that use of the test is consistent across Vietnam.

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## Mentoring Program a Success



The 2020 Beyond Border's Mentoring Program finished in December. Pandemic, floods and time differences did not get in the way of another successful year of mentoring. 5 mentors, 13 mentees and 5 interpreters took part in this year's program and the program's feedback was very positive. Our mentors from Australia, the UK and US, reported once again enjoying connecting with Vietnam and its speech therapy profession. A theme that continued to emerge through this year's program was the competency and determination of Vietnamese speech therapists to develop their clinical and reasoning skills.

The program will recommence mid-2021. Mentors are matched to Vietnamese speech therapists with similar caseloads and areas of interests.

If you are interested email [volunteers-tfa@trinhfoundation.org](mailto:volunteers-tfa@trinhfoundation.org) for more details.

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## Public Education Posters

A key focus area decided upon at the 2020 TFA strategic planning meeting was to increase our public education about speech pathologists, speech pathology services and communication disorders in Vietnam.

One way that we have been doing this is through the development of posters that can be shared both in hard copy and on social media that contain information about developmental speech and language milestones and about the speech pathology profession.

See these examples:



It is hoped that these posters will raise awareness of the importance of early identification of communication needs and encourage the access of speech pathology services in Vietnam. They will soon be available in both English and Vietnamese.

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## Australian Volunteers Day



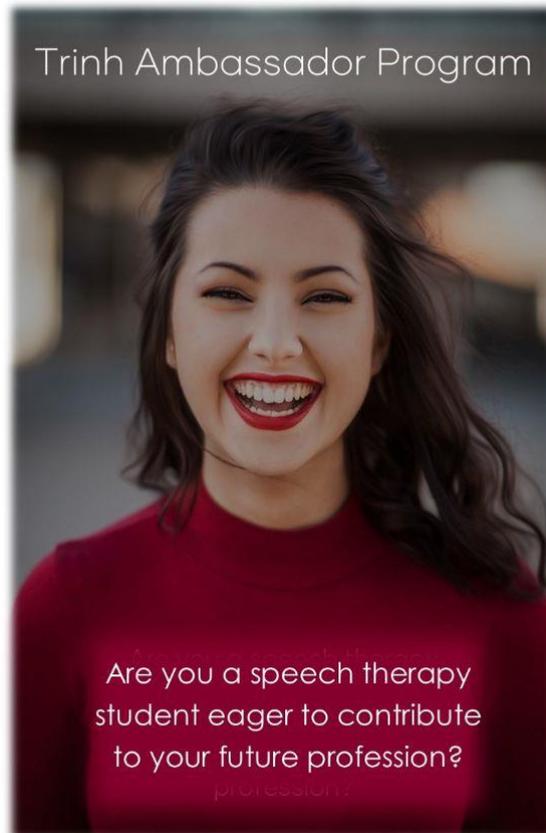
TFA directors Marie Atherton and Sue Woodward joined our partners at Australian Volunteers International (AVI) to celebrate 'Australian Volunteers Day' on December 5. The on-line celebration reflected on how, despite 2020 being such a challenging and unexpected year for all international projects, the circumstances provided a huge opportunity to learn, adapt and now reflect on what was able to be achieved. There was valuable sharing of other program, volunteer experiences, who like TFA volunteers, have continued to progress through innovation tenacity and mutual support.

TFA's partnership with AVI now exceeds 12 years and has been responsible for enabling the long-term placement of amazing volunteers both in HCMC and Da Nang. We look forward to further strengthening this partnership in the years ahead.

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# Supporting TFA

## Ambassador Program Launched



Trinh Foundation Australia is excited to announce its 2021 Ambassador Program!

In response to the constant interest from speech therapy students to support the speech therapy profession in Vietnam, TFA has developed its Ambassador Program for soon-to-be speech therapists. This exciting volunteer program offers the opportunity to develop resources for Vietnamese Speech Therapy programs, and participate in community and social networking and fundraising campaigns.

Eligibility for this role:

- Enrolled in an undergraduate or Master's degree in Speech Pathology
- Excellent communication skills and confidence as a public speaker
- Excellent organisational skills
- Reliable and professional demeanour
- A personal and friendly manner
- Flexibility to be called upon when needed
- An ability to use your own initiative and to work unsupervised.

If this opportunity sounds like something you would be interested in, contact us today [volunteers-tfa@trinhfoundation.org](mailto:volunteers-tfa@trinhfoundation.org)

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Whilst volunteering in Vietnam has been put on hold for the moment, if you are interested in volunteering in the future or would like to find out more about volunteering, please email Carla at [volunteers-tfa@trinhfoundation.org](mailto:volunteers-tfa@trinhfoundation.org)



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*Trinh Foundation Australia is proud to be a partner for Project J594 Vietnam Speech-Language Program with Global Development Group. GDG (ABN 57 102 400 993), an Australian DFAT approved Non-Government Organisation [NGO] carrying out quality humanitarian projects with approved Partners*

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