



## AGOSCI 13th Biennial Conference

17-20 May 2017

The Grand Hyatt, Melbourne, VIC Australia



# KEYNOTE SPEAKER ANNOUNCEMENT

The organising committee are pleased to announce the following three keynote speakers as part of the fantastic 2017 Conference Program!



**Cathy Binger** Cathy Binger, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, is an associate professor at the University of New Mexico who specializes in augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). She has been a speech-language pathologist for over 20 years and has expertise in building functional communication skills with individuals who use AAC. Dr. Binger is an active researcher who develops and evaluates the effectiveness of intervention programs designed to enhance the language skills of children who use AAC. Her work also focuses on developing partner instruction programs – that is, programs designed to teach educators and families how to communicate more effectively with children who use AAC. In addition to her research, Dr. Binger teaches a graduate course in AAC. Dr. Binger has co-authored two books and two book chapters on AAC and has published numerous research articles in both peer-reviewed journals and clinician-oriented newsletters. Currently, Dr. Binger is planning a large research project designed to teach preschoolers to build complete sentences using AAC.

**Fiona Given** is the president and founding member of AAC Voice, a non-profit social and advocacy association formed to raise community awareness, acceptance and support for people with complex communication needs who use AAC.

Fiona completed her Arts/Law degree at Macquarie University in 2003. During her time at university, Fiona developed a keen interest in the disability rights movement. She has served as board member of People with Disability Australia and a member of the NSW Disability Council. Fiona has also worked at the NSW Crown Solicitor's Office, and as policy officer at the Australian Centre for Disability Law. Fiona is currently working as a General member (community) of the Guardianship Division of the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal.



**Jacinta Douglas**, Professor at La Trobe University, is the Summer Foundation Research Chair (Living Well with Brain Injury) and leads the theme 'Building the evidence base for participation and inclusion' at La Trobe University's Living with Disability Research Centre.

Jacinta has qualifications in the disciplines of speech pathology and clinical neuropsychology. She has extensive research and clinical experience in rehabilitation of adults with acquired brain injury. Jacinta's research interests involve evidence-based practice, cognitive-communication disorders and living well with acquired brain injury. Her work focuses on measurement of perceived social communication deficits (the La Trobe Communication Questionnaire), coping with communication breakdown, self concept following acquired brain injury and community inclusion of people with brain injury. Jacinta is a Fellow of the Australasian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment and the Speech Pathology Association of Australia and is founding co-editor of the journal Brain Impairment.

