

LDA Awards 2020

LDA was delighted to present two awards – albeit remotely – at the LDA AGM that was held on November 2020. Thanks are due to the Awards Committee for their work in organising the awards and their presentation. The awards were presented by Dr Nicole Todd, Convenor of the LDA Awards Committee.

The **Rosemary Carter Award** is presented to an outstanding LDA Consultant Member who has contributed to the field of learning difficulties through work with students, their advocacy for students and their families, and through education of the wider community. An important criterion is demonstrable efforts to address equity issues by making their services more accessible to disadvantaged families. In 2020 this award was presented to **Kristin Anthian**.



Kristin, a past member of LDA Council, holds a Masters degree in special education, early intervention and inclusion, and is accredited with InSpEd and CERI and IDA as a Structured Literacy Dyslexia Interventionist. Kristin has worked in education for over 30 years, both in the classroom and in learning intervention and consultancy roles with a wide variety of organisations. This work has included teaching of indigenous students and the identification of preschool students at risk. She was involved with the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) in reviewing special provisions for VCE students with learning difficulties, and she speaks regularly at schools and conferences. She became the lead author of *Snappy Sounds* in 2019, a whole class systematic synthetic phonics program. Currently Kristin works

as a private practitioner and in schools in the western suburbs of Melbourne, providing learning support to students who are experiencing difficulties with the acquisition of skills in reading, writing, spelling and maths. She is passionate about employing an evidence-based approach to assisting students with learning difficulties, and has contributed greatly to the LDA Consultant networks over this past year.

The **Mona Tobias Award** is presented in recognition of an outstanding contribution to the field of learning difficulties in Australia. This contribution may be in the area of leadership, research, practice or teacher and community education. In 2020 this award was presented to **Dr Bartek Rajkowski**.



Bartek is a Speech and Language Pathologist with extensive experience in the assessment, identification and remediation of reading and spelling difficulties, and is the director of Adelaide Speech Pathology Services. Following his doctoral research, Bartek developed a passion for helping teachers improve their knowledge of research into reading and reading difficulties, as well as their knowledge of the structure of the English language. He regularly presents his workshops to audiences around Australia and to speech and language pathology students as a casual lecturer at Flinders University. He is also the creator of *Reading Doctor* – a popular suite of evidence-based interactive teaching tools. He is a prominent advocate for students with learning difficulties and has been involved with various lobby groups, including the team which helped persuade the government to

implement the Year 1 Phonics check. He is a wonderful friend to LDA and has so much to offer us, particularly as we re-design our website. We are very grateful to have him on Council.

Both Kristin and Bartek, in true 2020 style, presented animated and interesting webinar-style speeches in acceptance of their awards. Kristin's presentation was titled: *Going Virtual – Learning Support in Lockdown*, and Bartek's presentation was titled: *Aspiring to be a more effective teacher*. We hope to publish summaries of their presentations in the next LDA Bulletin.

Congratulations to the recipients!