

As part of the ESRC-funded *Born Talking* seminar series (<http://www.borntalking.org/>) we are pleased to announce the following seminar:

Professor Sheena Reilly

Murdoch Childrens Research Institute (MCRI) and University of Melbourne

**“Have birth cohort studies contributed to understanding child speech and language development?
The whole is greater than the sum of its parts”**

Julian Study Centre 3.02, University of East Anglia, 5:30-7pm, Monday 11th May 2015

Details to be confirmed. Event is free but booking is essential.

RSVP to Dr Jan McAllister j.mcallister@uea.ac.uk

Abstract: The speech language and communication skills developed in the first five years of life, and consolidated throughout the child’s schooling, play a critical role in determining life opportunities. Historically, knowledge about speech and language development has been derived from descriptions of single or groups of clinical cases and hypothesis driven experimental methods designed to identify and understand deficits or prove/disprove theories. Consequently, therapeutic approaches have been influenced and informed by this body of work. Clinical approaches have largely responded to children that have been referred, thereby responding to the needs of individuals who present to clinics, but not necessarily to the wider population. This presentation will focus on the contribution made by longitudinal population studies to our understanding of children’s Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN). In particular the talk will focus on how clinical and population studies differ and what we have learned from ground-breaking epidemiological studies.



Professor Sheena Reilly is Associate Director of Clinical and Public Health at the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute (MCRI) and Professor of Speech Pathology at the University of Melbourne’s Department of Paediatrics. She is an inaugural Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences, Fellow of the Australian Academy of Social Sciences, the UK Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and Speech Pathology Australia.

Sheena’s research program at MCRI brings together a diverse group of researchers in a set of complementary studies that focus on common childhood speech, language and literacy problems. She has been responsible for the generation of a substantial body of original research in childhood communication disorders and swallowing problems, as evidenced by her publications and the impact these have had on clinical practice relative to her discipline and field.

Sheena is the lead investigator on an NHMRC funded Centre for Research Excellence in Child Language (\$2.5 million) and is a senior scientist on the recently funded Cooperative Research Centre, the HEARing CRC (\$28 million). Sheena has taken a leadership role in evidence-based practice in speech pathology and is committed to ensuring that services for children with communication disorders are underpinned by the best available evidence. She has challenged the speech pathology profession to critically examine their practice and, from the early stages of her research career, worked to ensure that her research findings are translated into practice and policy.