# CURRICULUM VITAE - Dr KELLY ANN WEIR

## CURRENT POSITION

**Director of Allied Health Research (Joint)**
**The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne**
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**Associate Professor & Principal Research Fellow Speech Pathology**
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A/Professor Weir is a certified practicing speech pathologist with over 35 years of clinical, research and academic experience. She has had extensive clinical experience in Australian tertiary hospital centres of excellence (The Royal Children's Hospital Brisbane – now Queensland Children's Hospital with services to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Neonatology Unit, The Mater Children's Hospital Brisbane, and The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne). Kelly has worked in acute settings in both neonatal, paediatric and adult acute and critical care. Her clinical and research specialty centres on the evaluation and treatment of paediatric swallowing disorders across the age span, paediatric feeding disorder (paediatric dysphagia) and feeding tube dependency, interdisciplinary paediatric acute care (including dysphagia and communication in children who are ventilator-assisted or who have tracheostomy tubes), care of children with cerebral palsy/disability, understanding the effects of oropharyngeal aspiration, and instrumental dysphagia evaluation and management across the lifespan. A/Professor Weir has an international reputation in paediatric dysphagia research with invited podium presentations and workshops at international scientific meetings and invited book chapters and journal review articles. Over the past 8 years A/Professor Weir's research interests have expanded to understanding the mechanisms for building research capacity and capability in allied health and other health professionals; and investigating the effectiveness of allied health-led, first contact models of care.

A/Professor Weir leads a program of work developing research capacity and culture within the allied health services at The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne through mentoring clinicians to utilise, participate in and lead clinical research related their disciplines, specialist practice and new models of care. She also supports research capacity across the Melbourne Children's Campus through representation on Research Committees, Strategies, and Education; and building research partnerships with the Melbourne Children's Campus Partners including Murdoch Children's Research Institute and The University of Melbourne.

A/Professor Weir has national and international research collaborations including Gold Coast Health; Speech Pathology and Nutrition and Dietetics Departments, Queensland Children's Hospital; Queensland Cerebral Palsy and Rehabilitation Centre, The University of Queensland; Griffith University, The University of Sydney, City-St Georges University of London; Chailey Heritage Clinical Services, Sussex UK; Chinese University of Hong Kong, and KU-Leuven. Kelly is a member of the Scientific Research Group for the European Society of Swallowing Disorders. She also has professional memberships with a range of associations related to her research including: Speech Pathology Australia, European Society for Swallowing Disorders, European Academy of Childhood Disability, Australasian Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine, Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand, and Palliative Care Australia.

A/Professor Weir has held numerous leadership positions in Queensland Health including clinical Advanced Practitioner positions (HP5) and Acting Director of Speech Pathology positions (Queensland Paediatric Rehabilitation Service and Speech Pathology Department at Royal Children's Hospital, Brisbane). During this time, she led the strategic direction of the RCH Brisbane's Speech Pathology Department and had operational and financial management of approximately 20 staff. A/Professor Weir has undertaken the Emerging Clinical Leaders training (Qld Health Clinical Excellence Division) 2018 and had extensive training in mentorship and peer support. She has mentored staff as part of her clinical positions, successfully supervised Higher Degree Researchers to completion (2 PhD, 1 MPH, 1 MMR and 6 current PhDs); and mentored over 60 allied health staff to build research capacity in investigator-led research at GCHHS.

A/Professor Weir has demonstrated leadership and commitment to professional best practice through working group membership on numerous Speech Pathology Australia clinical guidelines and position papers including:

Neonatal Care Clinical Guideline (2023-2024), Tracheostomy Management Clinical Guideline (2022 and 2013), Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation [NMES] Position Statement (2013), Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing Position Paper (2007), Tracheostomy Management Position Paper (2005), Dysphagia: Modified Barium Swallow Position Paper (2005) and Dysphagia: Invasive Procedures Position Paper (2005), Speech Pathology Practice in Neonatal Care Practice Guideline (2024). Additionally, she co-authored a QLD State-wide Speech Pathology Paediatric Dysphagia Competency Program.

## ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

- Doctor of Philosophy: The University of Queensland: "Oropharyngeal Aspiration and Oropharyngeal Dysphagia in Children: Assessment, Treatment and Relationship with Respiratory Disease." 2015
- Master of Speech Pathology (Clinical Specialist), The University of Queensland, School of Rehabilitation and Health Sciences: "A comparison of clinical and radiological assessments in paediatric dysphagia during the transitional feeding period." 2003
- Bachelor of Speech Therapy, The University of Queensland, School of Speech Therapy, 1989
- Principal Research Fellow – Allied Health, (Conjoint) School of Allied Health Sciences, Griffith University & Gold Coast Hospital & Health Service (2015-2022)
- Senior Lecturer, Paediatrics & Child Health, School of Medicine, University of Queensland (2011- Current)
- Guest Lecturer: Paediatric Dysphagia, Speech Pathology, Griffith University (2012-2022)
- Lecturer: Paediatric Dysphagia, Speech Pathology, The University of Melbourne (2023-current)

## PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Member, Certified Practicing Speech Pathologist, Speech Pathology Australia, 1989-Current
- Member – European Society for Swallowing Disorders; and Research Committee Member
- Member – Scientific Committee, Australasian Academy of Cerebral Palsy & Developmental Medicine (2008-2021)
- Member - Perinatal Society of Australia & New Zealand (Current)
- Coordinator of the Paediatric Dysphagia Interest Group (Australia): 1996-2015
- Portfolio Leader: Scientific Affairs [QLD branch] Speech Pathology Association of Australia 2008-2012

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- Director of Allied Health Research, (Associate Professor), The Royal Children's Hospital & University of Melbourne, 1st February 2023 – 31st January 2028.
- Team Leader – Allied Health Research Team, Allied Health & Rehabilitation Services, Emergency & Specialty Services, Gold Coast Health. October 2019 – November 2022.
- Conjoint Principal Research Fellow: Griffith University & Gold Coast Health. 15th Nov 2015 to 2nd Jan 2023.
- Clinical Lead – Inpatient Care, Advanced Speech Pathologist (HP5), Lady Cilento Children's Hospital, South Brisbane, QLD: Dec 2014-Nov 2015
- Advanced Speech Pathologist – Paediatric Dysphagia & Acute Care (HP5), Royal Children's Hospital, Herston, QLD: 1996-2014
- Project Officer HP5, State-wide Paediatric Feeding & Dysphagia Competency Strategy, AHCETU, Queensland Health, Brisbane, QLD: 11/2009; Mar-June 2010.
- Acting Senior Speech Pathologist (PO4), Queensland Paediatric Rehabilitation Service, Royal Children's Hospital, Brisbane, QLD: 09/2001 - 03/2002
- Acting Director of Speech Pathology (PO5), Speech Pathology Department, Royal Children's Hospital, Brisbane
- Guest Lecturer: Speech Pathology Department, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, The University of Queensland, 1997-2001 (Paediatric Dysphagia Lectures)
- Locum (PO3): Speech Pathology Department, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane QLD: July-Aug 1996
- Speech Pathologist (PO2/PO3): Gold Coast Hospital, Southport QLD AUS: May 1994 - June 1996
- Locum: Speech Pathology Department (PO3), Ipswich Hospital, Ipswich, QLD: Mar-April 1994
- Senior Speech & Language Therapist, Thameslink Healthcare Services NHS Trust, Kent, UK Aug1992 - Jun 1993
- Specialist Speech & Language Therapist, Hinchingbrook Hospital, Cambridgeshire, UK, Jan-Jun 1992
- Speech & Language Pathologist (Grade 1), Hunter Area Health Service, NSW, Sep 1989- Aug 1991

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE & TRAINING:

- Good Clinical Practice Certification

- Experience across the research continuum including protocol design, recruitment, consent, data collection, data management & analysis, writing for publication.
- Experience with a range of research designs including randomised controlled trials, prospective population based observational / cohort studies, randomised cross-over designs, cohort studies, case control studies, retrospective chart audits, mixed methods designs and qualitative designs.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Paediatric dysphagia, feeding/swallowing difficulties and Aspiration lung disease
- Instrumental assessment of swallowing (Videofluoroscopic Swallow Evaluation, Cervical Auscultation, Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing, Ultrasound)
- Treatment of paediatric feeding disorder in children
- Neonatology & Critical Care
- Tracheostomy management (swallowing evaluation; manometric evaluation of speaking valves)
- Communication and swallowing in paediatric developmental disability
- Allied Health led models of care (role substitution models)
- Allied Health research mentoring, research translation and implementation science
- Consumer engagement in health research

## POST-GRADUATE HIGHER RESEARCH STUDENT SUPERVISION:

- Sally Morgan: The SEEM study: Safe, Efficient and Enjoyable Mealtimes: Creating a toolkit for families of children who need assistance with eating and drinking – a multi-method investigation. City University of London. PhD Associate Supervisor. Current.
- Christopher Payten: The Speech-Language Pathology First Contact Assessment Model for Voice Disorders. University of Sydney, PhD Associate Supervisor. Current – completion 2025.
- Coman L, Cardell E, & Weir KA. Improving Videofluoroscopic Swallow Study Interpretation in Radiology Registrars through a Targeted Training Package: A Prospective Cohort Study. Griffith University, PhD Primary Supervisor. Current.
- Ching Yin (Connie) Kwan: Multidimensional Development of Feeding Skills and Pediatric Feeding Disorder Risk: Food Property Exposure, Feeding Independence, and Psychosocial Trajectories in a Longitudinal Study of Hong Kong Infants. The University of Melbourne, Commencing 2026
- Rebecca Murphy: Risk of aspiration for orally feeding infants receiving High flow Nasal Cannula (HFNC) oxygen therapy. City University of London. Commencing Feb 2026.
- Valerie Gent: The impact of feeding difficulties on the lives of children with Autism and their families. Masters of Medical Research. PhD Conferred December 2023, Associate Supervisor.
- Frakking T, O'Grady KA, Weir KA & Chang AB. Can cervical auscultation improve the diagnosis of aspiration in children? QCMRI PhD Scholarship; NHMRC PhD Scholarship, PhD Conferred December 2016. Primary Supervisor.
- Benfer K, Boyd R, Weir K, Bell K, Robinson P & Davies PSW. The relationship between oral motor and gross motor skills in children with cerebral palsy. Qld CP Child: Growth, Nutrition & Physical Activity Study. NHMRC PhD Scholarship; 2011 – 2015. PhD Conferred July 2015. Associate Supervisor.
- Benfer K, Weir K, Bell K, Davies PSW & Boyd RN. The relationship between oral motor and gross motor skills in children with cerebral palsy. An analysis from the Qld CP Child: Growth, Nutrition & Physical Activity Study. Masters of Public Health, La Trobe University, Melbourne in collaboration with QCPRRC, CNRC, QCMRI, & UQ. MPH conferred January 2011. Associate Supervisor.

## PROFESSIONAL REPRESENTATION

- European Society of Swallowing Disorders Research Committee
- Victorian Allied Health Research Advisory Committee
- Children's Hospital Foundation Research Advisory Committee
- Sur-PRE Advisory Committee (International Research Project, MCRI)
- Healthy Trajectories Strategic Advisory Group (RCH, MCRI)
- MCRI Clinical Sciences Theme TAG meetings
- RCH Mental Health Research Strategy Advisory Committee
- RCH Philanthropic Grants Committee

- RCH Clinical Trials Committee
- RCH Research Leaders Committee
- RCH Library Committee
- RCH Consumer Involvement in Research Network
- Member – Gold Coast Hospital & Health Service Research Council (2016-2019)
- Member – Gold Coast Hospital & Health Service Grants Committee & Research Week Committee (2017-2019)
- Proxy - Professor of Allied Health: GCHHS SERTA Committee (2018-2019)
- Member – Griffith University School of Allied Health Research Committee (2017-Current)
- Member – Queensland Health: Health Professionals Research Advisory Committee (2016-2017)

## EDITORIAL / PEER REVIEW EXPERIENCE

- Invited Reviewer for International Medical Journals (2007 – Present): Research in Developmental Disabilities, Biomed Central, Journal of Paediatrics & Child Health, Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology & Nutrition, International Journal of Speech-Language Pathology, Archives of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Dysphagia, Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology, Journal of Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine, Annals of Biomedical Engineering, American Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Speech Pathology Australia Research Grants.

## PUBLICATIONS:

- 100 peer reviewed journal publications (Medline Indexed), 1 Book Chapter, Google Scholar: H-Index 30, Citations: 2,869, Average Field-Weighted Citation Impact score 1.55.
- ORCID: 0000-0002-5042-1925 (https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5042-1925)

## CURRENT SELECTED RESEARCH PROJECTS:

- How do we develop allied health research capacity and culture in a quaternary children's hospital? Weir KA, Willcox J, O'Kearney E, Gardiner K, Gilbertson H. (UoM, RCH, MCRI).
- Customer-directed mealtime services for people with cerebral palsy across the lifespan: What do they need and when do they need it? Weir KA, Moshovis L, Blackmore B, Cooper M, Telo R, Langdon K, Wilson A, Gibson N, Frakking T & Ware R. (RCH, UoM, Ability WA, Telethon Kids Institute, UQ).
- The SEEM study: Safe, Efficient and Enjoyable Mealtimes: Creating a toolkit for families of children who need assistance with eating and drinking – a multi-method investigation. Morgan S, Hilari K, Mulligan K & Weir KA. (City University London/GCHHS/GU).
- Enhancing access to ENT for patients with dysphonia; Speech Pathology first contact assessment. Payten, CL, Eakin J, Stewart V, Smith T, O'Neill J, Madill C, & Weir KA. (GCHHS/GU/USyd)
- External validation of a classifier for the detection of aspiration in children. Frakking TT, Chang AB, David M, James S, Humphries S. (UQ, GU, UoM).
- Barriers and facilitators to orally feeding infants receiving high flow nasal cannula oxygen therapy: a cross-sectional mixed methods study in the United Kingdom. (UoM, GCHHS, UK)
- What do Australian Speech Pathologists include in their protocol for Videofluoroscopic swallow studies in children? Weir KA, Frakking TT, Julie Bettle & UoM MSpPath Student group.
- Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing in Children – An international survey. Weir KA, Crossley S-L, Molamphy A, Stewart A, Miles A & UoM MSpPath students. Independent studies project.
- Implementation and evaluation of a Paediatric Emergency Advanced Practice Physiotherapy Model of Care. Forsang A, Fenton F, et al, Weir KA. (RCH, UoM, MCRI).
- Does the use of manometry compared to traditional clinical evaluation improve prediction of speaking valve tolerance in non-ventilated children with a passy-muir speaking valve? (RCH, UoM, MCR, Griffith University).
- Implementation of an innovative speech pathology service in the Children's Cancer Centre of a tertiary children's Hospital. Crossley S-L, Downie P, Radford C & Weir KA. Monash Children's Cancer Centre & Speech Pathology, Queensland Children's Hospital, University of Melbourne & RCH Melbourne)
- Determining resting energy requirements of inpatients with anorexia nervosa via use of indirect calorimetry. Stern A, Gilbertson H, Whitelaw M, Pang K, Yeo M & Weir K.
- Delivering best practice end-of-life care' Training Package for Regional Allied Health Professionals. Weir, KA, Radford C, Gill K, Herbert A, Delaney A, Standen J, Moloney S, Noyes A, Hong T, Broadbent & Mickan S. (GCHHS/GU/CHQ)

- Oral Feeding and Aspiration Risk in Infants & Children receiving high flow nasal cannula oxygen respiratory support – Clinical Trial. Weir KA, Reilly S, Grimwood K, Hong T, Chauhan M, Moloney S, Canning A, Fairhurst R, Ware R & Frakking T. (GU/GCHHS/Metro North).
- SOFTT: Successful Oral Feeding Teat Trial: Comparison of 2 teats for preterm infants >24 weeks gestational age, in the Special Care Nursery. Canning C, Oorloff R, Hong T, Chappell L, Ware R & Weir KA (GCHHS/GU).
- Establishing a regional paediatric videofluoroscopic swallow study (VFSS) clinic via telehealth to improve outcomes for Sunshine Coast children with oropharyngeal dysphagia. King S, Corness J, Buonomo L, Smith A, Ware R & **Weir K** (GU/GCHHS/CHQ/UQ).
- Improving videofluoroscopic swallow study interpretation in radiology registrars through a targeted training program: Survey of Practice. Coman L, Weir KA, Cardell E, Richards J, Huang T, Mahon A, Lawrie M, & Ware R. (GCHHS/GU/USyd)
- A benchmarking survey of speech pathology practice in paediatric oncology services across Australia. Crossley S-L, Radford C, Downie P, St John A & Weir KA. (Monash Children's Hospital, Monash University, UoM).

## REFEREES:

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