

Parkinson Voice Project Awards 2019 SPEAK OUT!® & LOUD Crowd® Grant to Colleen Kerr, Optimal Speech Pathology

*Australian Speech Pathologists amongst international
grant recipients
for voice treatment in Parkinson's Disease.*

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Richardson, Texas — Parkinson Voice Project, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, recently named **Optimal Speech Pathology** as a recipient of its **2019 SPEAK OUT!® & LOUD Crowd® Grant Program**. Of the 149 grant recipients, five are international clinics. Colleen Kerr and the Optimal SP team are thrilled to be leading the way with implementing innovative treatments to preserve the voices of people with Parkinson's Disease in Australia.

This grant program honors Daniel R. Boone, PhD, a world-renowned speech-language pathologist and voice expert who recognized in the late 1950s that individuals with Parkinson's could improve their communication if they spoke with "intent." Parkinson Voice Project's highly effective speech therapy program is based on Boone's teachings and combines individual therapy (SPEAK OUT!®) with ongoing group therapy (The LOUD Crowd®) to convert speech from an automatic function to an intentional act.

Grant recipients include hospitals, university speech therapy clinics, private practices, and non-profit Parkinson's organizations. In June 2019, Grant recipients travelled to Dallas, Texas to receive further training and resources and discuss implementation plans in their local areas. Optimal Speech Pathology now have four clinicians trained in SPEAK OUT!® and The LOUD Crowd® approaches and have successfully launched two LOUD Crowd® groups in the Sydney metropolitan areas with plans to expand these to regional areas later this year.

"Up to 90% of people with Parkinson's are at high risk of losing their ability to speak, and aspiration pneumonia caused by swallowing issues accounts for 70% of the mortality rate in this patient population. Awarding these grants has substantially increased access to quality speech treatment to those living with Parkinson's," said Parkinson Voice Project's Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Samantha Elandary.

ABOUT PARKINSON VOICE PROJECT:

Parkinson Voice Project is the only 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in the world solely dedicated to helping individuals with Parkinson's improve their speech and swallowing.

Parkinson Voice Project developed the SPEAK OUT!® & LOUD Crowd® program. The vision of the organization is to replicate its two-part therapy approach across the globe to help individuals with Parkinson's preserve their speech and swallowing abilities. More than 1600 speech-language pathologists have been trained to date, including clinicians in Australia, Canada, Finland, Greece, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Israel, and New Zealand.

To find out more about these therapy approaches in Sydney Australia contact Optimal Speech Pathology on m. 0403 903 822

<https://www.ParkinsonVoiceProject.org>

