Libby Coy

Libby Coy completed a Bachelor of Applied Science, Speech Pathology, in 1979 at Sturt College of Advanced Education, South Australia. Her strong interest in ‘closing the gap’ is based on over thirty years’ experience working as a speech pathologist for government health and education services with various Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory, New South Wales, and South Australia.

In the early years, her focus was on ear health and the effects that middle ear disease can have on the language-learning development of Aboriginal children. Over time this has expanded to include the effects of all aspects of health and wellbeing on Aboriginal child language-learning development.

Libby has actively pursued—both in and outside of employment—the development of a respectful understanding of Aboriginal community, culture and world view; including cultural awareness and training workshops, and travelling through Country with Aboriginal leaders. Her experiences have built a strong understanding of both the positive and adverse factors that influence Aboriginal child development and family engagement with health and education services.

Libby currently works as a speech pathologist on the Murray Mallee Community Health Service’s Children and Families team, based in Murray Bridge, South Australia. In 2011, she was successful in her submission to utilise Communities for Children FHCSIA funding to facilitate local implementation of Aboriginal child well health checks as recommended in the SA Aboriginal Health Care Plan 2010 to 2016. This project continues.