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MEDIA RELEASE

Speech Pathologist Courtney Muckert is 'Creating Futures'

As a senior speech pathologist and program coordinator at AEIOU Foundation, Courtney Muckert is creating brighter futures for children with autism and their families.

"It's such a fulfilling job," Courtney says. "Working with children all the time; it's rewarding to celebrate all the successes, big and small. We really are making a difference."

Courtney will join thousands of professional colleagues across Australia to raise awareness about how they are creating futures during Speech Pathology Awareness Week, which runs from 7 – 13 August.

Courtney, who completed her degree in speech and language pathology at the University of Queensland, was inspired to work at AEIOU Foundation while listening to the organisation's founder and chairman James Morton deliver the keynote address at her graduation ceremony.

"I had not heard much about AEIOU, but listening to what he had to say certainly sparked my interest. Throughout my studies, the target population I was interested in was people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and I had a real preference for working in paediatrics."

"I was fortunate to be employed as a speech pathologist at AEIOU Toowoomba straight out of university, and then moved to the Camira centre, before coming to Nathan," Courtney says.

In her role, Courtney works as part of a transdisciplinary team, alongside behaviour analysts, occupational therapists and educators. This collaborative approach allows for each child's individual program to be implemented across all scopes of practice, and in one location.

"Working within AEIOU Foundation's transdisciplinary model really does produce positive outcomes for the children. It's key to our success and has changed the way I practice," Courtney explains.

"Before I was part of this team, I was quite rigid in my approach. Now, I am open to the opinions of other disciplines and it is an asset to me. It's a holistic approach to improve a child's functions across many levels."

While Courtney's career progress has been rapid, it has been achieved through determination, dedication and a commitment to stay abreast of the latest evidence based practices.

"Speech pathology really opens the pathway for communication," Courtney explains. "That not only helps the child, but it has a real flow-on effect for the family. At AEIOU, we use many strategies to encourage a child to communicate, including keyword or adaptive signing, PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System) and technology. "Seeing children transition from non-verbal to communicating with their families is so rewarding. I really appreciate the challenges parents of a child with autism go through. I have a real passion for what I do."

To find out more about the AEIOU program, please visit www.aeiou.org.au, or call 1300 273 435.

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ABOUT AEIOU Foundation:

AEIOU Foundation is a leading provider of early intervention for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Our evidence-based therapy and education program is family focused and provides every child with the best opportunity to gain vital independence and achieve their full potential. Operating from nine locations, AEIOU enrolls children aged 2 to 6 years.

For more information about AEIOU Foundation visit www.aeiou.org.au.
