

To Speech Pathology Australia  
From (Mrs) Noel R Moore

I am writing in my capacity as Neil Moore's wife: you are welcome to decide whether my comments are/are not relevant, but I do have considerable experience as a Senior Coach with disabled clients in Riding for the Disabled (NSW), and thus experience with many people who have problems with speech. Neil made remarkable progress recovering his speech after his stroke and would, I believe, continue to improve, with continued "professional" attention.

I find that rarely will a "client" accept advice or instruction from a wife, or in fact from any member of their own family, and I feel that continued "professional" instruction could in a case such as Neil's still have been beneficial. There is a fairly fragile patient-carer or patient-wife relationship which is not conducive to acceptance of "advice"! The relationship between a professional consultant and the "client" is obviously quite different.

As the result of many discussions I have had with other "carers" who are also husbands or relations of clients with aphasia I believe that there is a significant number of people suffering from speech difficulties, who would have had more successful recovery after experiencing strokes if they had been able to access treatment from a qualified and experienced speech pathologist very early in recovery and continuing on for a more significant period.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Noel R Moore  
B. Agr.Sc (Melb)