

Professor Loretta Giorcelli – OAM

Dr Loretta Giorcelli trained as a primary/special education teacher in Queensland in the late 1960s and has taught profoundly deaf students with a range of disabilities, at pre-school, primary and secondary levels in segregated and integrated settings in both the United Kingdom and Australia. She worked as a teacher, consultant and school principal in Queensland and London schools before accepting a position as the NSW Director of Special Education and Equity Programs (Aboriginal Education, Migrant Education, ESL, Early Childhood Education, Disadvantaged Schools etc). She has also lectured at the tertiary level at the University of NSW where she established the Certificate of Learning Disabilities and the Certificate of Integration Studies. She has a Bachelors Degree in Education, a Masters Degree in Education, a Masters Degree in Special Education and a PhD (Linguistics and Communication Disabilities) from the University of Illinois (USA). Dr Giorcelli has also worked as a consultant for the United Nations, a government advisor in Cyprus and for the Australian Government on overseas development projects in Papua New Guinea. She co-edited "Accepting the Literacy Challenge" (Scholastic) with Dr Alan Watson in 2000 and has contributed reviews and chapters to an extensive range of texts and monographs since 1979. From 2004 – 2007 she was involved in one of the largest national projects investigating the inclusion of students with disabilities in regular classrooms in Australia. Results are available on www.dest.gov.au/schools/losd.