

Speech pathologists

Creating futures by changing lives!

Communication is a basic human right

Each year Speech Pathology Australia hosts Speech Pathology Week to make Australians aware of those in our community who have a communication or swallowing difficulty.

More than 1.1 million Australians have a communication or swallowing difficulty that impacts on their quality of life. Every day speech pathologists are **creating futures** by changing lives for Australians with communication and swallowing difficulties.

During Speech Pathology Week give a voice to those who have a communication and swallowing difficulty. Join the conversation on social media by using #SPweek

Find a speech pathologist?

You do not need a referral to see a speech pathologist. To find a speech pathologist, speak with your GP or child health nurse, or use the Find a Speech Pathologist search on the Speech Pathology Australia website: www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/find



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SpeechPathologyWeek2016

Speech Pathology Week

7 - 13 AUGUST

What is a speech pathologist?

Speech pathologists study, diagnose and treat communication disorders, including difficulties with speech, language, reading and writing, stuttering and voice.

They work with people who have communication and swallowing difficulties that:

- Arise from premature birth, or may be present from birth (e.g. cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome, fragile X syndrome, Autism Spectrum Disorder, hearing impairments and cleft palate); or
- occur as a result of physical, intellectual or sensory disability or a mental illness; or
- emerge during early childhood (e.g. speech and language disorders, stuttering, difficulties learning to read and write); or
- occur during adult years (e.g. traumatic brain injury, stroke, head/neck cancers, neurodegenerative disorders such as motor neurone disease); or
- develop in the elderly (e.g. dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease).

People who experience difficulties swallowing food and drinking safely can also be helped by a speech pathologist.

Where do speech pathologists work?

Speech pathologists work in a variety of settings, including public and private hospitals; early intervention; child care and education settings; community health and rehabilitation centres; corporate organisations; correctional and juvenile justice facilities; disability services; universities; mental health services; residential accommodation; private homes; private speech pathology clinics and aged care facilities.



About SPA

Speech Pathology Australia is the national professional association for speech pathologists in Australia. The Association supports and regulates the ethical, clinical and professional standards of the profession, as well as lobbying and advocating for access to services that benefit people with communication and swallowing difficulties. Membership is open to applicants who meet the Association's eligibility requirements. The Association is recognised by government as the professional body representing speech pathologists in Australia.



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SpeechPathologyWeek2016



**Speech
Pathology
Australia**

1/114 William Street,
Melbourne Victoria
1300 368 835

Learn more about Speech Pathology Week
www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/week

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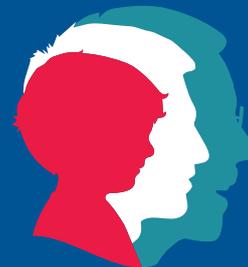
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