

Speech Pathology 2030 – making futures happen

is a landmark project initiated by Speech Pathology Australia, on behalf of the speech pathology profession, to develop a vision for the future of speech pathology in Australia.

The vision sets out ambitious new directions to make the most of the opportunities and changes happening today and tomorrow. It is organised around eight core aspirations.

COMMUNICATION ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES: The profession will ensure through building communication accessibility, that all people can participate in their community and know that wherever they go they will be treated with dignity and respect.

ACCESS FOR ALL: The profession will redress inequities in service access particularly affecting people in rural and remote communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and those who live an itinerant life.

TIMELY SERVICES ACROSS THE LIFESPAN: The profession will provide timely access to supports for speech, language, communication, fluency, voice, and eating and drinking difficulties and increase understanding in the community and among our professional colleagues about the speech pathology role and the benefits of early intervention and universal, whole-of-population, programs.

CLIENTS AND COMMUNITIES DRIVING SERVICE DELIVERY: The profession will ensure that client and community aspirations, choices and knowledge will guide our clinical practice as well as our research, education, advocacy, capacity building, and policy development. Clients and communities will make their own decisions about services based on the best available evidence.

SKILLED AND CONFIDENT FAMILIES AND CARERS: The profession will ensure families, friends and carers have access to knowledge and support, recognising that their needs are connected to, but also unique and separate from, those of the client. We will invest time to understand each family, their goals, their strengths, their needs and their preferred ways of doing things.

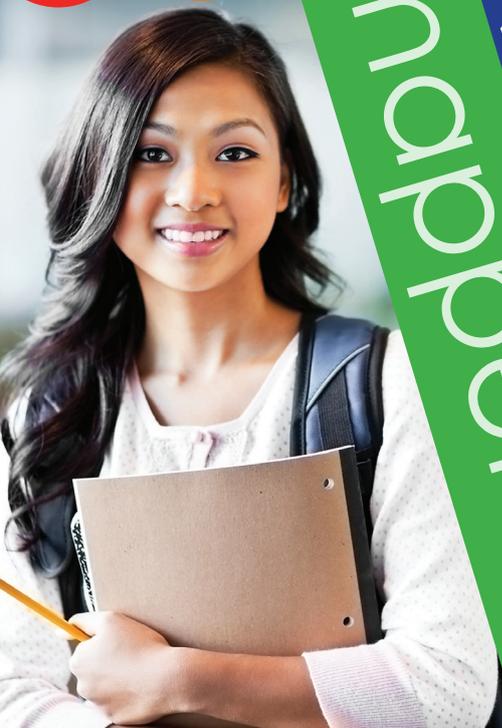
COLLABORATIVE PROFESSIONAL PARTNERSHIPS: The profession will collaborate and partner with a wide range of professionals to deliver highly coordinated and integrated services, recognising how important this is for clients, especially those who have complex needs.

QUALITY SERVICES, INNOVATION AND CONTINUAL PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE: The profession will work to rigorous, enforceable quality and ethical standards to protect our clients and maintain confidence in the profession, and lead the development of new knowledge and technologies.

DIVERSE AND DYNAMIC WORKFORCE: The profession will create, to expand our perspectives and improve our client engagement, a profession as diverse as the community we serve. We will offer opportunities for long, rewarding careers, enhanced by the support and mentorship of our peers.

The profession is aware the future never unfolds in a predictable way. **Speech Pathology 2030** is helping to ready the profession for the challenges of tomorrow. For more information about Speech Pathology 2030 visit www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/SP2030

making futures happen



The vision for the speech pathology profession in Australia

The individuals and organisations contributing to Speech Pathology 2030 share a powerful vision for the profession. The vision sets out ambitious new directions, to make the most of the opportunities and changes happening around us. This vision, and the aspirations that underpin it, also identify where and how we can extend the best of today's leading edge work to benefit the whole community.

As clinicians, researchers, educators, policy advisors, advocates, consultants and community development workers, speech pathologists strive to make communication accessible, and eating and drinking safe and enjoyable, for all Australians. This vision will shape and guide the actions of those who subscribe to it and are motivated to bring it to reality.

By 2030, the right to communicate will be understood by the whole community and be recognised as essential to connection, belonging, participation, and self-determination. Regulated minimum standards will be in place and when implemented across our community will facilitate successful communication for any individual who experiences any type of communication difficulty.

Effective communication will be understood as an essential foundation skill for learning, social interactions, work participation and community connectedness.

The community will be familiar with, trust and value the speech pathology profession. Anyone with communication, or eating and drinking difficulties, will have access to speech pathology services to improve their quality of life – irrespective of their finances, where they live, or their language or culture. We will advocate strongly for those who find it hardest to communicate their hopes and needs.

Communities will be resourced adequately in all areas where speech pathology can make a difference, including early childhood, health, education, aged care, disability, criminal justice, Indigenous services, and services for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Services will be available as early as possible to have the maximum impact on long-term outcomes.

Client and community aspirations, choices and knowledge will guide our clinical practice as well as our research, education, advocacy, capacity building, and policy development. Clients and communities will have the chance to make their own decisions based on the best available evidence about the full range of options. We will be skilled and resourced to provide services respectful of each person's culture, language, life experiences, and preferences. We will provide continuity of support and facilitate smooth transitions between services as needs change and at different life stages.

We will seek to understand the perspectives of the families and friends of people who have communication, or eating and drinking difficulties. We will contribute to building their knowledge, skills, and resources to respond confidently in their relationships.

We will be known for our forward-thinking, innovative outlook. We will seek out, contribute to and become thought leaders in the development of new knowledge and technologies with the potential to improve outcomes in communication, eating, and drinking. We will work closely with other professionals, government, business, and researchers to bring new ideas to fruition.

Our views will be sought to inform education, health, social, aged care and disability policy. We will be known as ready and able collaborators in improving health, educational and social outcomes. Our clinical practice will embrace multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary models that allow boundaries between professional roles to be negotiated based on evidence, need, context, and skills. Our relationships within our profession and with those from other professions will have a strong national and global focus.

Through a strong foundation of research and evaluation across all areas of practice, the social and economic return from speech pathology services will be well-understood. All speech pathologists will confidently and consistently use and contribute to the rapidly growing evidence-base.

Speech pathologists will demonstrate high levels of skill, accountability, and compliance with rigorous quality and ethical standards. We will be strong advocates for our profession and well-positioned to make the best possible contribution to our communities.

Speech pathology will be a career of choice for young people embarking on their first career as well as those building on an established career. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and individuals who have a disability, will join our profession in strong numbers and the gender imbalance in our workforce will be addressed. We will have long, rewarding careers, enhanced by the support and mentorship of our peers.

This is our vision. Together we will make it happen.

