



## Adult Speech Pathology Service Fact Sheet

### What we do

Speech Pathologists (sometimes known as Speech Therapists) have a wide and varied role when working with adult clients. They support adults who have speech, language, communication and swallowing problems resulting from developmental conditions such as intellectual disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down Syndrome and Cerebral Palsy.

Speech Pathologists also work with adults with communication and swallowing difficulties as a result of medical conditions, such as stroke, head and neck cancer, Parkinson's disease and dementia.

Therapists work with individual clients and also with the client's support team which may include family, friends, support workers, employers and other Allied Health and medical professionals, to provide tailored treatment programs to address each client's communication and swallowing needs.

### How we can help

A Speech Pathologist can support clients by:

- Providing an assessment of a client's communication skills, including their understanding of others and the ways they express themselves;
- Providing assessment and management plans to support positive and safe mealtimes;
- Developing the communication skills of those working with and supporting clients, including training in simple language, Key Word Sign, visual aids and other Augmentative & Alternative Communication (AAC) systems;
- Promoting a communication-friendly environment, ensuring information is presented in a way that clients can understand;
- Working with clients directly to provide targeted therapy to address their communication and swallowing difficulties; and
- Trialling different AAC options to support clients to understand others, make choices, communicate and participate fully in their everyday lives

### Why choose Carpentaria?

- Carpentaria has a dedicated team working exclusively with adults. We are able to offer specialist evidence-based support, knowledge and skills;
- Staff are highly experienced in the support and management of complex communication difficulties, including the prescription and implementation of low and high-tech AAC systems;
- Staff are also able to work with clients who have complex swallowing needs, including PEG and swallowing rehabilitation;
- We focus on person-centred support and are committed to providing meaningful input that makes a real difference, maximising the ability for clients to communicate and participate in family and community life;
- We have an excellent understanding of the NDIS and offer a central intake and streamlined service to coordinate tailored and individual programs; and
- We are expanding our Adult Allied Health Team to provide a holistic service with in-house Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy professionals, alongside our Speech Pathology service.



### Further details: