

## Who can refer a client to the Rural Allied Health Speech Pathologist?

Referrals are accepted from Medical Practitioners, other Health Care Professionals or direct from the client or caregiver.

***A referral from a Health Professional is not necessary to access this service.***

Clients who are eligible for a speech pathology service from another agency are not eligible (e.g. ED QLD).



## How else can the Rural Allied Health Speech Pathologist help you?

The speech pathologist provides counselling, advice and information for families and regarding communication and swallowing.

Early intervention and prevention strategies, programs and information sessions are also provided to the community.



### For further information contact:

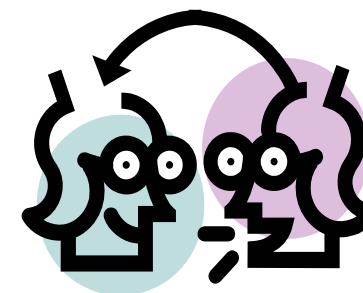
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Queensland  
Government  
Queensland Health

## Sunshine Coast - Wide Bay Health Service District



## Rural Allied Health Speech Pathologist

Servicing:  
Biggenden  
Gayndah  
Mundubbera  
Eidsvold  
Monto

health • care • people

## What is a Speech Pathologist?

A speech pathologist has been trained to assess and treat people who have a communication disability.



Speech Pathologists also work with people who have difficulties swallowing food and drink.



## The Rural Allied Health Speech Pathologist helps with:

- **Language**, particularly people who find it hard to understand or use spoken or written words
- **Speech**, especially people who have difficulty pronouncing sounds (beyond what is expected for their age)
- **Swallowing** – i.e. people that have difficulties with their oral and feeding skills e.g. sucking, chewing, swallowing and drooling
- **Stuttering/dysfluency**
- a hoarse or husky **voice**
- **hearing loss**, including children who are hearing impaired, or adults who become hearing impaired and are finding it difficult to adjust

## When should someone see the Speech Pathologist?

Speech pathology can be of benefit to people with identified or potential communication and feeding difficulties from birth. If concerns are present there is no need to wait until a child reaches a certain age.

Depending on the type of concern, referrals can be made at varying ages.

Examples could include:

- a baby that has trouble sucking or difficulty moving to solids or lumpy foods
- a two year old that is only saying a few words
- a 3 year old that cannot be understood or has trouble producing sentences
- a 70 year old who has started slurring when he talks
- a 30 year old with a husky voice