



Speech Pathology

Merri Community Health Services speech pathologists are involved in the assessment and management of communication and swallowing problems.

Services provided

Speech Pathologists provide services to individuals experiencing difficulty with:

- Speech and language
- General communication
- Swallowing
- Cognition
- Voice.

These difficulties can occur for many reasons, including stroke, degenerative disease (e.g. Parkinson's disease, Motor Neurone disease), head injury, surgery, dementia, voice impairment or hearing loss.

Difficulty with communication can affect a person's ability to interact with family, friends and work colleagues and to complete everyday tasks requiring speech and language. Speech pathologists are able to assist with the communication needs of individuals and families, to manage difficulties and promote independence.

Swallowing difficulties can have a very serious impact on a person's health with the potential to cough, choke, lose significant amounts of weight or suffer multiple chest infections. Swallowing difficulties can cause great discomfort and embarrassment. They need to be thoroughly assessed and carefully managed.

The Speech Pathologist will assess an individual's communication or swallowing and will make recommendations accordingly.

Who can use these services?

- Speech pathology services are available for individuals who are frail aged, have a disability or have a long term illness
- Referrals for speech pathology can be made by individuals (self-referral), carers, health professionals including doctors and other service providers
- Interpreters are available as required.

How much does it cost?

Session fees are \$12.50 per session, \$8 per session for Health Care Card and Pension Card holders.

Services are available at:

- 93 Bell Street, Coburg
- Some services are provided in the home as appropriate

For further information and appointments:

- Phone Service Access on (03) 9388 9933