

## **REFERRAL TO OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

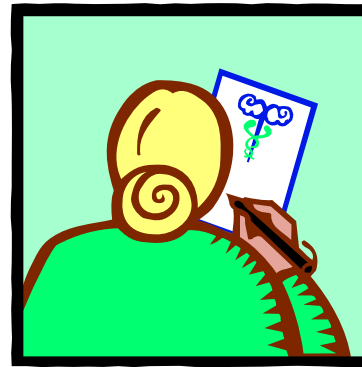
Your speech – language therapist will attempt to work collaboratively with other health professionals involved in treating your case. At times it may be necessary for the practitioner to contact others to discuss your treatment plan. Your consent will be obtained before this occurs.

You may also be referred on to another health professional e.g. your GP, OT or a counsellor for additional testing, advice or treatment which is outside the scope of speech – language therapy.

## **CANCELLATIONS AND MISSED APPOINTMENTS**

In the interest of other patients requiring appointments we require at least 24 hours notice if you wish to cancel. This allows us to offer your appointment time to another patient.

If you do not attend your appointment and fail to notify us you will be charged a cancellation fee. This will be 50% of the scheduled fee. Discretion will be used in cases of emergency and where appointments are rescheduled.

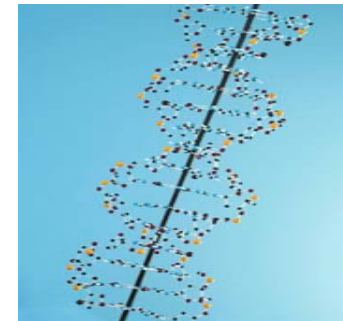


## **HEALTH FUNDS**

Health funds rebates are available through Medicare and selected private health care funds. Please refer to your health fund policy for details of what services you are covered for.

## **Speech – Language Pathology**

**RISHENDA GOODWIN**  
BSc. (SHS), BA (Dip. Psych.)



This leaflet is designed to answer the questions of those of you who have either booked in or are considering booking for a Speech - Language Therapy consultation. It will help you to best prepare for your appointment.

*41 Havelock St West Perth  
Ph: (08) 9226 1239  
Fax: (08) 9226 1259*

**MON: 1:30-5:30  
TUES; 9:30 – 12:30  
WED: 1.30 – 5:30  
THURS; 1:30-5:30**

One in seven Australians has some form of communication difficulty. That means that they have problems understanding what they read or what others are saying to them or difficulty making themselves understood in conversation or in writing.

Speech pathologists assess and treat people who have a communication of feeding difficulty. Treatment encompasses all aspects of communication including speech, writing, reading, body language voice, understanding and expression. Treatment for feeding difficulties may include management of swallowing solids, drinking and chewing.

For example, Speech - Language Pathologists may be seen working with;

- Cleft palate babies
- Young children whose speech is difficult to understand
- People who stutter
- School children who cant follow instructions in class
- Stroke patients
- A teacher with voice loss
- Head injury patients
- Patients who cant eat following stroke or head injury
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### **WHAT HAPPENS IN A CONSULTATION?**

An initial consultation usually takes one hour and a follow up appointment can take up to 45 minutes or be as short as 15 minutes.

After a discussion about your concerns formal or informal testing will be conducted to determine the areas in which speech therapy may assist you or your child.

Any recommended therapy will then be discussed with you and a mutually agreed plan for treatment established.

### **SPEECH – LANGUAGE THERAPY**

Speech pathologists work in a variety of ways including the provision of individual therapy, group therapy, working in the classroom, and providing home based programs. In addition they may provide resources and advice directly to families and other professionals.

They often work as part of a multidisciplinary team often integrating with early intervention groups, aged care services and school therapy teams.

### **FOLLOW UP APPOINTMENTS**

Some patients require only a single follow up appointment while others need to be seen regularly over the course of months. This will depend on the nature of your case and your response to treatment. You will need to discuss the estimated time frame needed to treat your case with your practitioner.

Appointments may be weekly, monthly, 3 monthly or twice yearly depending on your needs.

### **FEE SCHEDULE**

#### **INITIAL CONSULTATION**

**Approx. 1hour \$130**

#### **SHORT CONSULTATIONS / FOLLOW UP APPOINTMENTS**

**Approx 15 MINS \$50:** suitable for quick follow-ups & phone consultation after initial appointment.

**Approx. 30mins \$90:** suitable for standard follow-ups

**Approx. 45mins \$110** suitable for extended follow ups

**Email and Letter consultations:** replying to written or email consultations requires time, research and case note recording and may attract a fee depending on the amount of time involved and the nature of the query.

**Phone consultations:** Telephone advice that involves more than 5 mins discussion and requires research or case note recording may also attract a fee depending on the time involved.