



New Therapy Format for Speech Pathology

WIMMERA Health Care Group, Horsham is trialling a new speech therapy format for children this year.

Chief Speech Pathologist Louise Mason said that demand for paediatric outpatient speech services is increasing and the service is trialling a new format to meet growing demands.

“Wimmera Health Care Group provides the only community health outpatient Speech Pathology service to people living in Horsham and surrounding areas. Last year we had over 1,700 paediatric outpatient speech therapy

appointments and numbers are continuing to grow” she said.

“Historically, we have mainly offered individual therapy services for children, with some end of year school transition group sessions, however, last year we had a period where we were short staffed, resulting in increased waiting times for assessment and therapy services. To combat the increase in demand for services, we decided to offer three group therapy sessions at the end of the year.

Ms Mason said that the three groups - School

Readiness, Phonemic Awareness and Early Language sessions were very successful. “We received a great deal of positive feedback from parents with feedback such as:

My child benefited immensely and it was wonderful to meet with other children and families, The School Readiness Group helped with my child’s confidence and was great preparation for next year; and

After spending a couple of years in individual therapy, I found group therapy was beneficial to expand my sons’ social interaction skills when

working in small groups” she said.

“With this positive feedback in mind and the phonemic, language, social skills gained by children who participated in the groups last year, we have decided to trial more group sessions in 2011, as well as continuing to offer individual therapy sessions.

For further details in relation to changes in Speech Pathology services, parents and carers should contact Louise Mason, Chief Speech Pathologist or their treating Speech Pathologist 5381 9333 during office hours.



• Sound Therapy – Senior Speech Pathologist Louise Mason practices speech sounds with Gemma Walker whilst sister Karli looks on.