

Media Release

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SPA welcomes reappointment of Federal Health Minister

Speech Pathology Australia (SPA) has welcomed the reappointment of Nicola Roxon as Federal Health Minister.

SPA National President Chris Stone said, "Minister Roxon has a strong and long-term commitment to health reform and understands the important role Allied Health Professionals play within the health system.

"Her deep understanding of Australia's health care needs will serve the country well as our health system faces the challenges of chronic disease, an ageing population and adequate service provision in the coming years.

"We look forward to continuing to work with Minister Roxon to ensure ongoing and meaningful health reform, and are delighted she has been reappointed.

Ms Stone said it was important that the Government continued to consult with health professionals of all types – including allied health professions like speech pathology – to ensure Australia's health system is comprehensive and multidisciplinary.

"The government is in a unique position to transform our health system into a strong, integrated model that best supports the health needs of all Australians.

"To ensure this, it is essential that the system is predicated by comprehensive and multidisciplinary care. This can only be achieved by in-depth consultation with all health disciplines, including allied health professionals.

"Speech pathologists are an integral part of services right across the continuum of care – this includes involvement in primary health care teams as well as being essential within acute and rehabilitation services. It all goes back to the critically important notion that Australians must have access to the right practitioner in the right place and at the right time.

"Speech pathologists are one of the many 'right practitioners' Australians have a right to access and we look forward to continued discussion with the government as to speech pathologists' role in the transforming health system."

Ms Stone also stated she looks forward to further discussion on the proposals contained in SPA's election platform including the profession's call to be included in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme and a commitment to a National Inquiry into the social and economic impact of communication and swallowing disorders.

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For more information or comment, please contact:

Joanna Wood

03 9642 4899 / 0430 633 234

marketing@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au

