



Speech pathology service in Ceduna

Ceduna is now the home of a fully qualified speech pathologist, and she is keen to offer her knowledge and experience to local children (and adults) to help them develop their communication skills.

A speech pathologist works with those who experience difficulty in communicating, and can be met with by referral, or via direct contact.

Alison McDonald has been living in Ceduna with husband Ashley and her three children for about 12 months, but only recently decided to return to her profession after some time off.

She has more than 16 years of clinical experi-

ence in speech pathology, working with adults and children in health care, education and private practice.

"I'm really passionate about education," Mrs McDonald said.

She has worked at both the Ceduna Area School and Crossways Lutheran School during her time in Ceduna, and is a firm believer in early development and education.

Mrs McDonald home schools her own children, who are aged six, 10 and 13.

So what exactly does a speech pathologist do?

Speech pathologists help identify and treat people who are at risk

of speech, language and communication difficulties.

Communication difficulties can take many forms, and some speech pathology services may be required if an individual experiences some of the following difficulties:

- If they are slow to start talking and develop a range of words and grammar to build sentences.

- If they have difficulty in trying to make themselves understood.

- If they have trouble relating to others (developing social skills).

- If they have trouble speaking fluently.

- If they say some

words incorrectly.

- If they have trouble listening and following directions.

- If they have trouble learning to read, spell or re-tell a story.

Initial speech pathology assessments cost around \$90.

Mrs McDonald's service is called West Coast Speech Pathology, and she can be contacted on 0458 987 974.

She works from her home, at 20 Hambidge Street, Thevenard.

Alison is a member of 'Speech Pathology Australia', is registered with Medicare and is an eligible provider for primary health care plans.



CRUCIAL SERVICE: Fully qualified speech pathologist Alison McDonald is now offering her services to the people of Ceduna and districts. Speech Pathology services are covered by private health funds - potential customers should check if they are covered with their private health insurer.