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HEALTH

Happenings

By Whyalla Hospital & Health Services Speech Pathologist - Cleve campus

Speech Pathology week

Communication disorders affect one in seven Australians, say local speech pathologists

Speech Pathologists play a vital role in supporting people with "language for life".

Speech Pathologists in Whyalla will help launch Speech Pathology Week on Sunday 23 July, held each year to celebrate the speech pathology profession and its vital role in supporting Australians with communication difficulties. This year's theme 'Language for Life,' explores the importance of communication through all stages of life.

"One in seven Australians have a form of communication disorder, which can make simple daily activities, such as ordering lunch, paying a bill or buying a bus ticket, both frustrating and difficult," said local speech pathologists.

Children and adults with communication difficulties may suffer mental health issues and behavioural

problems, display poor self-esteem and can struggle to manage social relationships and sustain employment.

Ranging in duration and severity, communication disorders involve problems with speech, using and understanding language, voice, fluency, hearing, reading and writing.

Disorders can be hereditary, occur in childhood or happen as the result of stroke, neurological disease or serious injury.

"Speech Pathology Week provides an opportunity to raise awareness of our work helping local people with language difficulties" said Whyalla speech pathologists.

As part of Speech Pathology Week, Speech Pathology Australia will announce its 'Book of the Year' award. The award is based on the book's appeal to children, as well as its ability to promote interaction, communication and literacy development.

For further information visit www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au

Language for life ...
Speech Pathologists
Lisa Campbell, Kellie
Porter, Erica Bulman
and Michelle Carr-
Swift.

