



**Stroke victim Liz Dutton (centre) is on the mend thanks to speech pathologists Liz Swift and Jade Cartwright. Picture: Will Russell**

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# Liz was left speechless

By **KATE EMERY**

IT is a year ago that Liz Dutton arrived at hospital with a severe headache, dizziness and speech so slurred she could not tell anyone what was wrong.

"It was awful," she recalls.

"I could hear everything going on but do nothing.

"I could only answer questions with one blink for yes, or two for no," said Ms Dutton who is living testament to the

role speech pathologists can play after undergoing months of therapy since her stroke a year ago.

This week the theme for Speech Pathology Week is Feeding and Swallowing - It's No Choking Matter. The aim is to raise the awareness of the importance of speech pathologists in helping dysphagia patients.

After months of treatment Ms Dutton has learned to eat and drink on a modified diet and is getting closer to lead-

ing a normal life.

Senior Speech Pathologists Jade Cartwright, from Royal Perth Hospital, and Liz Swift, from Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, have been involved with Ms Dutton's treatment.

Ms Swift said most people were surprised to hear that speech pathology involved helping patients eat and swallow, not just to regain speech.

For details visit: [www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au).