

1,000 hours - What counts?

Requirements for Eligibility for Practising Membership Category

- 'Practising' as defined in the Constitution means: engaged for a period determined by Council in the activities of speech pathology as a practitioner, administrator, educator, researcher or any combination of these and receiving remuneration for those activities.
- Applicants who graduated more than five years before application for Practising membership must provide evidence of a minimum of 1,000 hours paid employment as a speech pathologist in the immediate past five years.
- Applicants who have graduated within the last 3 years must demonstrate they have worked an equivalent of at least 200 hours per annum in speech pathology practice since graduation.
- Those who cannot demonstrate above must provide evidence of successful completion of the Speech Pathology Australia Re-entry Program.

What counts as Speech Pathology practice and how do I demonstrate 1,000 hours

If the practitioner is an employee, a position description (showing hours of employment), letter from employer, statutory declaration or similar documentation can be produced to verify the 1,000 hours worked.

- The general rule is that client related activities direct or indirect should count towards 1,000 hours of speech pathology practice.
- All non-contact activities which support service to the client and the maintenance of the practice should be countable but should not be in excess of 50% of hours counted.
- Direct contact includes work with the client and/or the client's significant others (e.g. parent, spouse, carer, medical practitioner, teacher).
- Travel time which is directly related to client contact or practice maintenance (e.g. a home visit or school visit, collection of work material for the client) is countable. Travel for professional development or to and from work is not countable.

For those practitioners who are not employees i.e. in private practice; a statutory declaration outlining and attesting to meeting the above will be accepted.

Please remember if you are a non-practising member, evidence of 1000 hours in the immediate past five years will need to be provided and approved before your membership can be upgraded to a 'practising' member status.

