



Speech Pathology Australia

Certified Practising Speech Pathologist

Professional Self Regulation (PSR) is a program available to members of Speech Pathology Australia in the categories of Practising, Non Practising, Full-time Postgraduate Student, and Re-entry membership, including Fellows and Life members. PSR provides a framework for acknowledging participation in activities which update and extend professional knowledge and skills. Speech pathologists meeting the requirements of the program earn Certified status, thereby demonstrating to clients and their families, employers, colleagues and the public that they have a continuing commitment to updating and extending their professional practice abilities.

Why do we need PSR?

- It provides stakeholders with a measure of the profession's commitment to high quality service provision.
- It reflects the expectation that speech pathologists maintain currency of professional knowledge.
- It provides an objective means of recognising speech pathologists committed to ongoing learning and development.
- It fulfils a mandate from members of the Association.
- It allows the profession to experience the benefits of accreditation programs in maintaining professional standards.
- It reflects the Association's Code of Ethics (Speech Pathology Australia, 2000) that binds each member of the Association. It requires members to 'strive to continually update and to extend our professional knowledge and skills' and to 'maintain and extend our competence'.

What are the benefits for members who participate in PSR?

- Meeting the requirements of the program gives members the right to use a Certified title and post nominals.
- PSR provides a means to structure, recognise and reward participation in professional development activities.
- Members receive formal acknowledgement of their commitment to continuing professional development.
- PSR provides an objective measure in the area of continuing professional development.
- Certified status is a criterion listed in the Association's online Practitioner search.
- Certified Practising Speech Pathologist status is a criterion recognised in the Mutual Recognition Agreement.

How does the PSR program work?

- A diverse range of professional development activities are recognised. Activities must be relevant, extend the member's knowledge and skills and be related to the individual's PSR plan. (Refer overleaf for further information on activities.)
- To maintain Certified Practising Speech Pathologist or Certified Speech Pathologist status, the participant must accrue a minimum total of 60 points in three years, with a minimum of 15 points each year.
- Activities are recorded on PSR plan and log forms, with an annual total of points being submitted with renewals.
- The cycle of the program begins at the start of the calendar year, 1 January, and concludes on 31 December of the third year.

Opting in to or continuing in PSR is included in the membership fee and is a straightforward process.

PSR is viewed as an integral member benefit and an essential component of our profession's demonstration of its commitment to maintaining and extending knowledge and skills. Therefore, participation in PSR does not attract an additional fee; that is, for members in membership categories eligible to participate in PSR, the membership fee includes the option of opting in to or continuing in PSR.

Where do I go for further information?

You can go to the Association's website to view the PSR booklet, or contact the PSR Coordinator at National Office.

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Activity types recognised in PSR and their points value are outlined below:

Independent study (Code IS)

- Active reading, watching videos and internet-based learning including e-learning packages = *1 point per article/website; 3 points per book; 1 point per video watched or e-learning package undertaken of 3 hours or less and 2 points per video or e-learning package of longer than 3 hours.*
- An extra point can be earned if this is followed by a presentation of a summary of the material in written or spoken format to a group of colleagues in person, via telephone conferencing or by videoconferencing = *1 point per item presented.*
- Self-study packages available through the Association = *6 points per self-study package.*
- Critical appraisals of evidence relevant to clinical management = *2 points per appraisal.*
- Rating a paper for the speechBITE™ website = *1 point per paper.*
- Administering new assessments = *2 points per new assessment.*

Attendance at conferences, seminars and expositions (Code C/S)

- Attendance at conferences and seminars arranged through Speech Pathology Australia or through other organisations that offer lectures or presentations with opportunity for only brief discussion or question time = *1 point per hour of attendance at a presentation.*
- Attendance at relevant expositions = *1 point per expo attended.*

Attendance at workshops and special interest groups (Code W/S)

- Attendance at workshops and other events arranged through Speech Pathology Australia or other organisations that offer opportunity for discussion, practical skill development and active interaction, including workshops, listservs or web-based discussion, videoconferences or videoteleconferences = *1 point per hour of attendance.*
- Attendance at special interest groups = *1 point per hour of attendance.*
- Completion of training to become a speechBITE™ rater including attendance at the workshop and successful completion of the rater's accuracy test = *6 points.*

Teaching or presenting at a workshop or conference, to community groups, to other professionals, to client and carer groups (Code T/P)

- Teaching as part of or additional to the participant's usual work activities, provided that it enhances the presenter's competencies by meeting the requirements of the individual's personal continuing education plan and is not a repeat presentation = *3 points per hour of presentation time.*
- Development of website information = *2 points per website page to a maximum of 6 points.*
- Development of written information = *2 points per article or chapter.*

Participation in research activities and quality improvement activities (Code R/QI)

- Actively engaged in planning, designing, implementing and documenting a research or quality improvement activity, including publication of research articles or texts = *6 points for completing project or 2 points for planning and design stage, 2 points for implementation stage and 2 points for documentation stage.*

Student supervision (Code S)

- Supervision of undergraduate speech pathology students in a clinic = *3 points per third and fourth year speech pathology student per placement; 1 point per first and second year speech pathology student.*
- Supervision of re-entry speech pathologists and postgraduate students = *3 points per re-entry speech pathologist or postgraduate student.*
- Supervision of other students such as allied health assistants = *1 point per non-speech pathology student per placement.*

Mentoring, peer support and staff supervision (Code M)

- Participants form a professional relationship which involves active, ongoing one to one discussion and support that extends the professional practice skills of the mentor / mentee, peer or supervisor / staff member. Contact can be via direct contact, email, phone or video link-up = *1 point per hour of contact.*

Participation in Association (Speech Pathology Australia) activities (Code A)

- Active participation in Association business such as Councillor, portfolio member, Branch executive member or editorial committee member for Association publications = *6 points per year or pro rata points as appropriate. (To claim points as a portfolio member or Branch executive member the participant must demonstrate active involvement as reflected in attendance at the majority of relevant meetings and actively undertaking tasks.)*
- Active contribution to position paper or article published in the ACQ or the Journal, including as a reviewer = *2 points.*
- Active involvement in reference groups, task groups and forums = *2 points.*

External study (Code ES)

- External study refers to formal courses leading to a further qualification from a university or other tertiary institution. The course must be linked to the professional goals and responsibilities of the participant. Study can be by distance education as well as by attendance at classes. Proof of successful completion of the course may be required = *Completing study towards a degree or diploma: 12 points for full-time study; 6 points for part-time study; 3 points per single subject.*

Mastering technology (Code T)

- Developing knowledge and competence in use of medical/allied health technological procedures, computer-based equipment, computer programs, audiovisual equipment, videoconferencing and teleconferencing equipment related to professional practice = *2 points per clinical technology mastered; 1 point per non-clinical technology mastered.*

Other (Code O)

- Activity types not outlined above that are relevant, extend the member's professional competence and are related to the participant's PSR plan = points must be determined in consultation with the PSR Coordinator.
- Active role in organising special interest groups or private practice associations = *2 points per year or pro rata points as appropriate.*
- Active involvement in Speech Pathology Week = *1 point.*
- Reviewer for other than Association journals = *2 points.*