



Raising awareness of speech pathology

SOCIAL isolation and frustration are just some of the impacts people with communication difficulties can experience, say speech pathologists Julianne Gill, Shannon Clift and Susan James.

The trio is raising community awareness of Speech Pathology Week which runs from August 23 to August 29.

This year Speech Pathology Week's theme *Communicate To Participate* highlights how communication difficulties can impact on day-to-day life.

Communication difficulties include problems with speech,

hearing, reading, writing and using and understanding language.

Julianne says communication difficulties can impact people at any stage of their life.

Communication difficulties in children are often associated with premature birth, hearing impairment, cerebral palsy and autism.

A person can also develop problems later in life as the result of stroke or degenerative disease.

Speech pathologists help to improve a person's speech and language skills.

For those who have more severe disorders, techniques including picture boards, gestures and signing assist them to participate in everyday interactions.

If you are concerned about a friend or family member who might have a communication difficulty, encourage them to visit a speech pathologist or make inquiries at their local educational or health service.

nrm For more information about Speech Pathology Week 2009 visit www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au



HELPING OTHERS: Speech pathologists Shannon Clift and Julianne Gill with a client