



Experts crack the secrets of speech

Rebecca Lollback

IT was a rewarding moment for speech pathologist Sarah Hyde when a patient talked for the first time in more than two years.

Ms Hyde said: "This woman had an aneurism. But then one day she spoke. She said 'scissors' and 'mum'.

"We were in shock – her mum just started crying.

"It was an amazing moment and it made us realise that communication is so important."

Next week is Speech Pathology Week, and Alice Springs' seven pathologists – and one student – will be promoting awareness.

Judy McNee has worked at the

hospital for more than six years and said she has seen "some real triers".

She said: "Some people really give speech pathology a go. But there are the failures, let's admit it.

"But I remember one guy about six years ago, he'd had a stroke, but he recovered and ran in the Masters Games. Now he comes back to Alice Springs for every Games – he'll be here again this year."

The pathologists said helping people improve their communication skills was important work.

Lisa Campbell said: "We work with people who have problems

which affect the way they communicate.

"Parents often pick up problems their children might be having and bring them in to us at the Community Health Centre.

"The earlier a speech impediment can be picked up, the better."

During Speech Pathology Week, the pathologists will be visiting schools to talk to students about career options.

There will also be information stalls at the hospital and the Community Health Centre.



Speech Pathologists Megan Crowe, Judy McNee and Clare Kelly are excited about Speech Pathology Week