



Young speech pathologists give Aussies a voice

SPEECH pathologists in Young will raise awareness about their work with Australians who are unable to speak or have severe speech difficulties, as part of this year's Speech Pathology Week from 24 to 30 August.

This year, Speech Pathology Week is themed, 'Communication: More than just words,' and will focus on the communication options available for people who have severe speech difficulties.

Local speech pathologist, Fiona Moore, said it is crucial to give Australians with speech difficulties a 'voice' to be able to share their needs, thoughts, opinions, ideas and emotions.

"People who have complex communication needs often have problems making themselves understood and understanding what is being said. This can lead to social isolation and extreme frustration for many people," she said.

Conditions that can lead to complex communication needs include cerebral palsy, autism, stroke, brain injury, intellectual disabilities and hearing impairment. The conditions vary in severity and duration.

If you are concerned about a friend or family member who might have a complex communication need, encourage them to visit a speech pathologist or consult their local GP, who can provide a referral.

In Young, Boorowa and Harden, children requiring speech pathology can be seen by contacting Young Community Health Centre on (02) 63828 796. All adults over the age of 18 can be seen by contacting Mercy Care Centre on (02) 63828 444.