



## Spotlight on role of speech pathology

The vital role speech pathologists play in the community will come under the spotlight throughout Speech Pathology Week this week.

Greater Western Area Health Service speech pathologist Vanessa Henry said the week is designed to showcase the profession and highlight how timely specialist intervention can assist individuals and their families.

She said speech pathologists are experts in the area of speech, language, stuttering, voice and swallowing difficulties, who assist people at any stage of their life - from birth to old age.

“Speech pathologists assist people with early language development, sound production, stuttering, understanding spoken language, using spoken language, feeding skills and voice quality,” she

said.

She said the theme of the week is ‘Feeding and Swallowing: It’s No Choking Matter’.

“Speech pathologists play a vital role in helping people who have swallowing disorders, known as dysphagia. People with dysphagia have difficulty swallowing food, liquid and/or saliva,” she said.



Speech pathologist Vanessa Henry (right) with Danelle Kim, Chantelle Allan, Kylie McQuillan, Jenna Richardson, Sophia Woods, Paula Trevor, Sarah Langford and Meg Redway.