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Speech difficulties can be overcome

SPEECH Pathology Week is not just about celebrating the profession.

This year's theme is "Communicate to Participate".

Hobart-based speech pathologist Natalie Leader said activities and events would highlight the impact of communication difficulties on people's lives.

"We know that communication difficulties can have a major impact on health, wellbeing and quality of life," she said.

"Being able to communicate helps to connect with people, build friendships and participate in discussions, decisions, social events and work activities.

"Communication difficulties include problems with speech, hearing, reading, writing and using and understanding language."

Ms Leader said it was up to family and friends to encourage people they knew with speech difficulties to get some help.

■ Devonport-based speech pathologist Claire Stonell will have a stall in the Devonport Mall today, with information and equipment on display. The stall will be open from 11.30am until 2.30pm.