

Speech pathology is a self-regulated profession

Speech Pathology Australia (SPA) frequently receives enquiries from the public regarding whether or not speech pathologists need to be registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

This document aims to provide general information on speech pathology as a self-regulated profession and the implications for consumers, prospective employers of speech pathologists or for third party providers and insurers.

If you have further questions relating to this document, please do not hesitate to contact Speech Pathology Australia on 03 9642 4899 or 1300 368 835 or office@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au

Are speech pathologists required to be registered with the Australian Health Professions Regulation Authority (AHPRA)?

- No. Speech pathology is not part of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme and as such speech pathologists are not required to be registered with the Australian Health Professions Regulation Authority (AHPRA).
- At this stage, there is no plan for the government to include speech pathology in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

How do consumers, employers, or third party providers or insurers ensure individual have the credentials to be working as a speech pathologist?

- Speech pathology is what is called a self-regulated profession which in effect means that membership of Speech Pathology Australia (the Association) is the only way of ensuring that speech pathologists have the necessary level of training and recency of practice to be working as a speech pathologist in Australia.
- SPA is a part of the National Alliance of Self-Regulating Health Professions (NASRHP).
- A robust self-regulation program is in place to govern and monitor the ethical, clinical and professional practice of members of the Association

What is Speech Pathology Australia?

Speech Pathology Australia is the national peak body for the speech pathology profession in Australia representing over 8000 members.

- Speech pathologists pay an annual fee to be a member of the Association.
- There are different member categories: Certified Practising, Not Certified, Non Practising, Full-time Postgraduate Student, Student, and Alumnus.

Speech pathologists who are working should join as Certified Practising members of the Association.

- To be a Certified Practising member of the Association a speech pathologist must have obtained the appropriate qualification from an Australian accredited university course.
- If the speech pathologist has trained overseas, there is an approval process for ensuring that they have met the same criteria as SPs trained in Australia.



- To maintain Certified Practising membership, the speech pathologist must demonstrate that they have met requirements for both a specified minimum number of speech pathology practice hours plus professional development activities on each renewal.

What are the minimum requirements then if I am engaging, employing or contracting a speech pathologist?

SPA recommends the following minimum requirement if you are engaging, employing or contracting a speech pathologist. The speech pathologist must:

- be a Certified Practising member of the Association,
- have current (and an adequate level of) Professional Indemnity insurance, and
- have the necessary provider numbers for providing Medicare or Private Health fund rebatable services,
- be an approved provider if providing FaHCSIA funded services, and
- have a Police Check or the necessary Checks (i.e., Working With Children Check) as required.

For more detailed information see the document: [Employing or Engaging a Private Speech Pathologist](#)

What does Certified Practising Speech Pathologist mean?

- Speech pathologists who meet the annual requirements of the Association's Professional Self Regulation (PSR) program earn Certified Practising Speech Pathologist status.
- The speech pathologist is required to accrue a minimum number of points each year in different activity types and in activities related to clinical practice.
- This provides an objective means of measuring and acknowledging a speech pathologist's commitment to continuing professional development.

How do I check if a speech pathologist is a Certified member of Speech Pathology Australia and has CPSP status?

Certified Practising Speech Pathologists can be identified in the following ways:

- The speech pathologist's membership certificate states they have met the requirements of the program and are eligible to use the title Certified Practising Speech Pathologist (CPSP) for the period stated on the certificate.
- CPSP status is a requirement to be listed in the search results on the Association's online directory [Find a Speech Pathologist](#)
- You can phone Speech Pathology Australia on 03 9642 4899 or 1300 368 835, or email office@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au

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