

SPEECH PATHOLOGY CAREER SNAPSHOT

Fast Facts	
 Unavailable Weekly Pay ?	
 9,500 workers Employment Size ?	
 Very strong Future Growth ?	
 Very high skill Skill level rating ?	
 Lower unemployment Unemployment ?	
 57.0% Full-Time Full-Time Share ?	
 33.9 hours Average full-time ?	
 34 years Average age ?	
 91.2% female Gender Share	

Source: [Job Outlook, June 2019](#)

Speech Pathologists diagnose, develop strategies and treat people of all ages who have difficulty with speech, language, and/or swallowing for various reasons. They also work with communities to prevent or minimise the effects of communication and swallowing problems.

Speech Pathologists work from an integrated and holistic framework that acknowledges and addresses the complexity and far-reaching impacts of a communication and/or swallowing disability on a person's daily functioning. They critically evaluate the best treatment approaches for clients based on robust scientific evidence in order to optimise outcomes.

Speech pathologists engage with a variety of service delivery models

through which they are able to provide assessment, intervention, consultation, collaboration and advocacy.

Speech pathologists provide services across all of the following domains: advocacy, clinical services, consultation, education, prevention, population health, and research for communication and swallowing disorders across the lifespan.

More on Speech Pathology as a discipline is available in this [video](#) by Speech Pathology Australia.

Employment Settings

Speech Pathology graduates are employed in many different settings, including the following:

- Private practices
- Schools and other education settings
- Early intervention and childcare centres
- Hospitals
- Aged care facilities or community centres
- Rehabilitation centres
- Community health services
- Mental health services
- Juvenile justice
- Specialist centres
- Universities and research centres

For more information on Speech Pathology as a career view this [video](#) by Speech Pathology Australia.

Registration/Accreditation

[Speech Pathology Australia \(SPA\)](#) is recognised by the Department of Education and Training as the assessing authority for speech pathologists in Australia, and accredits speech pathology degree programs in Australia.

This accreditation is based largely on proof that graduates from the program have achieved entry-level standards specified in the **competency-based occupational standards (CBOS)** with a range of different types of clients.

The Association is a member of the National Alliance of Self Regulating Health Professions. 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).

New graduate members of the Association are **provisional Certified Practising Members**.

For all members (including new graduate members), **Certified Practising Speech Pathologist (CPSP)** membership is the requirement to obtain Medicare, NDIS and Private Health fund Provider Number status.

Membership or eligibility for membership is also the requirement for most employers.

As a **provisional Certified Practising Speech Pathologist** member, the following must be completed (preferably in the 1st year after joining as a CPSP):

- 200 hours clinical practice
- Minimum 12 hours Professional Self Regulation (PSR) activity related to mentoring, peer support, or clinical supervision
- The free online SPA Evidence-Based Practice package
- The free online Ethics Education package

As a **provisional Certified Practising Speech Pathologist** member:

- You can join the Early Career Facebook group (amongst many others) for support from SPA and their peers



- Receive access to WorkPlace PLUS – they provide initial free advice to SPA members around HR and employment issues e.g. they can answer questions about contracts
- You can call the Senior Advisors with any questions related to professional practice (e.g. going to work in private practice, getting a Medicare provider number) and there are many professional practice resources on the SPA website
- You can place résumés and look for jobs on SPA's Career Centre
- Receive access to Clinical Guidelines and Position Statements as well as Speechbite and other SPA documents e.g. Principles of Practice, Parameters of Practice
- Receive access to the SPA Mentoring Program
- (e.g. going to work in private practice, getting a Medicare provider number) and there are many professional practice resources on the SPA website



BOOST YOUR PROSPECTS



Explore your options, clarify your career goals



Build your networks



Gain course relevant experience



Fine tune your job application skills



Show initiative, engage in extra-curricular activities and stand out

For further ideas, access the [JCU Career Action Plan](#)

Volunteering

Volunteering can give you more exposure to areas of professional interest, such as working with children, refugees, seniors, people with disability, defence personnel, educational settings, or give you a taste of what it is like to work for a healthcare outlet like large hospital.

It's also an opportunity to show your work ethic, develop transferable skills such as communication, collaboration etc. demonstrate your values and caring behaviours, give back to the community, grow your professional and community networks and demonstrate extra commitment to future employers and clients.

Hospital systems

- [Townsville Hospital Foundation](#)
- [Mater Health Services](#)

Community

- [Choice Passion Life](#)
- [Cootharinga](#)
- [Australian Aphasia Association](#)
- [Volunteering North Queensland](#)
- [Seek Volunteer](#)

Employability

Your course provides a safe environment to develop your **clinical knowledge and skills** specific to being a Speech Pathologist.

It also teaches you the **transferrable skills** required to be effective in the workplace, such as working in multidisciplinary teams; high level communication skills like teaching/demonstrating, coaching and building rapport; accurate report writing; time management; and developing good working relationships with patients' families, amongst other things.

A combination of technical and transferable skills demonstrated through **extra-curricular experiences** and **workplace-related experiences** within your course make you more employable in the eyes of employers.

Enterprise and Innovation

Health care is the fastest growing industry in Australia and innovation can improve service delivery as well as develop new technologies to assist in better diagnosis and treatment for patients.

To read more about future trends in healthcare, see [The Medical Futurist](#) and [Careers with Health](#) online magazine.

Enterprising mindset is not limited to setting up and managing your own freelance Speech Pathology practice.

It also means seeing problems and difficulties as an opportunity to generate and test ideas aimed at addressing the problem. This often leads to process improvements at work and developing new ways of delivering the service. Employers are usually highly impressed with evidence of enterprising qualities.

JCU offers a range of free online courses on entrepreneurship, for example: [Developing an Enterprising Mindset](#) or [Lynda.com](#): e.g. Guy Kawasaki on Entrepreneurship; Small Business Secrets; Entrepreneurship Foundations; etc.

Identifying Opportunities

A range of websites list opportunities for Speech Pathologists:

- [Speech Pathology Australia's Career Centre](#)
- [Queensland Health](#)
- [Queensland Government Graduate Portal](#)
- [Hays Healthcare](#)
- [Medacs Healthcare Australia](#)
- [Health Care People](#)
- [Your World Healthcare](#)
- [Seek](#)
- [Glassdoor](#)

For part-time, course relevant and graduate job listings go to JCU's online job board [CareerHub](#).

Job opportunities are often posted on employer websites, for example [Kinnect](#), [Allied Connect](#), [NWRH](#), along with their LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter feeds.

Use your Networks

Keeping in touch with placement supervisors and staff will ensure you're informed of job openings when they occur, or sometimes before they are advertised.

Use LinkedIn

Investigate [JCU Alumni LinkedIn](#) profiles to identify career pathways and current and past employers of JCU Speech Pathology graduates.

Follow employers of choice and **industry bodies** to ensure you don't miss their updates and job listings, e.g. Queensland Health, Queensland Department of Education and Training, Alliance Rehabilitation, Speech Pathology Australia.