

Accessing Private Speech Pathology- Fact sheet for parents and carers.

Central Coast Local Health District (CCLHD) provides speech pathology services to children living within the Gosford and Wyong local government areas. Waiting times exist due to the high demand for services.

Can I remain on the waiting list for speech pathology services with CCLHD while my child is attending private therapy?

Yes. As public health waiting times can be lengthy, parents may wish to consider pursuing private therapy whilst waiting for services with CCLHD.

How do I find private speech pathology services in my area?

1. Looking up the Speech Pathology Australia website
<www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/> and selecting 'Find a Speech Pathologist'.
2. Looking up 'Speech Pathology' in the phone directory.

Can I get assistance with the cost of private speech pathology?

Your child may be eligible for a Chronic Disease Management Plan (formally known as Enhanced Primary Care Plan). This plan provides for a part rebate on the cost of private sessions for up to five allied health sessions per calendar year, per child. You can discuss this option with your General Practitioner.

If you have private health insurance, discuss rebate options for speech pathology with your health insurance company.

What questions should I ask the speech pathology service to select the one most appropriate for my child?

- "Are you a member, or eligible for membership with Speech Pathology Australia?"
- "What level of experience do you have with my child's type of communication /swallowing delay?" (E.g. difficulty with speech sounds, using words, understanding language, reading/writing, stuttering, feeding etc)
- "Do you have experience with my child's age group?"
- "What services do you offer?" (E.g. clinic, home based, school visits, group therapy)
- "Am I able to access rebates through the Chronic Disease Management Plan or private health insurance when seeing you?"