

## Speech Pathologist

Section / Service	Kurrajong Therapy Plus
Location:	Wagga Wagga/Griffith
Reporting to:	Manager Kurrajong Therapy Plus
Supervises (direct and indirect):	nil
Last reviewed:	March 2020

**About Kurrajong** - Kurrajong is a voluntary charitable organisation offering a broad range of services to babies, children, young people and adults with disabilities (aged 0-65) and their families. Kurrajong is registered as a provider of National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) services and supports.

**Our Vision** - To create open, accessible and inclusive communities for all people.

**Our Attributes** – We care, we are community focused on the needs of people with disability and their families, our services are anchored in the communities we serve, we seek continuous improvement and excellence.

**About the Service** - Kurrajong Therapy Plus provides supports to children, young people and adults with disability and/or complex developmental delays.

Kurrajong Therapy Plus consists of a unique multidisciplinary team of Speech Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Allied Health Assistants, Educators and Aides.

Kurrajong Therapy Plus is a one stop shop for supporting people and their family/carer to assist with learning, development, inclusive community access, specific therapeutic supports and prescription of specialised equipment for all people with disability.

### Position Summary

The primary role of the Speech Pathologist is to support children, young people and adult's ability to communicate and interact with others in their environment.

### Position Key Responsibilities

It is expected that the Speech Pathologist will perform the following activities:

1. Assessment – to be responsible for the assessment of communication and feeding skills development. To provide input to transdisciplinary assessments and complete detailed speech pathology specific reports. Assessment formats may be informal or formal eg, play based or standardised assessments.
2. From the assessment data, set relevant, appropriate and specific therapy goals (in conjunction with family/person's goals).
3. Therapy – to implement therapy using a variety of service delivery options including individual appointments, transdisciplinary sessions, communication groups, home programmes, parent and staff training and input into early learning groups.

## Position description

4. Conduct oral muscular assessment and plan and implement programs to assist in the development of saliva control, speech and feeding skills.
5. Equipment – to prescribe, design, construct and implement alternative and augmentative communication systems, resource families and education settings on how to use these to facilitate communication.
6. Family Centred Practice: to build family capacity to support to their child's development and participation.
7. Person Centred Practice: To build a person's capacity in regards to participation and inclusion respecting the person's values and priorities.
8. Key Worker – to fulfil Key Worker role for allocated caseload. **Refer to Key Worker procedure.**
9. Communication – to participate as an active member of the transdisciplinary team and be able to 'multi-skill' and 'role release' within the team.
10. Liaise – to liaise with other professionals, services and other medical practitioners in relation to the implementation and coordination of programs developed by the family and team.
11. Administrative – to prepare and maintain documentation and correspondence including assessment reports, progress notes, data entry and referral letters and to attend and participate in all appropriate meetings.
12. Consultation – to consult with families and education settings to assist in the implementation of Speech Pathology programs. As required conduct information sessions to other team members, families and other relevant service providers.
13. Professional Development – to attend and participate in relevant professional development workshops and seminars and to keep abreast of current professional issues.
14. Supervision: to participate in regular individual, discipline and team meetings. With supervisor discuss caseload management, provide evidence of clinical reasoning and evidence based practice. At supervision, be accountable for caseload planning, up to date outlook calendar, meeting expectation of 4 clients per day (pro rata) and following Kurrajong procedures.
15. Must maintain the currency of their Membership with Speech Pathology Australia.
16. Other Duties – to perform any other service-based duties as directed by the Manager.
17. Mandatory Reporter - please refer to Kurrajong Child Protection Policy.

The Speech Pathologist will focus on the development of communication and feeding. Areas of emphasis include:

Speech Sounds:	The physical production of sounds.
Receptive language:	The understanding of spoken and written language.
Expressive Language:	The way we communicate a message using spoken and written language.

## Position description

Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC)	The use of alternative or additional methods to communicate. This may include using sign language, communication boards or electronic communication aids.
Pragmatic:	The way we use language to interact with others. It includes eye contact, conversational turn taking, greetings and the purpose of communication (eg. to question or comment).
Fluency:	The smooth rhythm and pattern of speech.
Voice:	The quality and resonance of the sounds produced.
Swallowing/Feeding:	Ability to safely suck, bite, chew and swallow a variety of food textures and fluid.

Priority is given to:

1. Clients with feeding difficulties.
2. Clients with behaviour issues associated with receptive and expressive communication difficulties.
3. Clients with moderate to severe physical/communication needs that require the implementation of Alternate and Augmentative Communication (AAC).

## Position Criteria

### Qualification, Certificates and Licences

1. Degree in Speech Pathology
2. Current member of Speech Pathology Australia (or willing to obtain)
3. Current Class C Drivers Licence
4. NSW Working with Children Check clearance (or willing to obtain)
5. NDIS Worker Screening Check (or willing to obtain before employment)
6. Maintain up to date vaccination against Covid-19 as defined and mandated by the NSW Government Public Health Order (PHO).

### Experience, Skills & Knowledge

1. Relevant experience as a Speech Pathologist or student placements if a recent graduate
2. Ability to prioritise, plan, anticipate risks and problem solve
3. Excellent written and verbal communication skills
4. Understanding of person centred and family centred practice
5. Ability to think creatively and use initiative to work through issues
6. Ability to implement Work Health and Safety, Risk Management and Quality Assurance requirements

**Risk assessed role requirements in accordance with the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Standards**

- NDIS Worker Screening Check
- Working with Children Check
- NDIS Worker Orientation – Quality, Safety and You

**Signed and Accepted:**

Staff Signature: [acceptance\_status]      Date: [acceptance\_date]