

**You don't need a referral to see a speech pathologist.**

To find a speech pathologist, speak with your GP or child health nurse, or use the Find a Speech Pathologist search on the Speech Pathology Australia website.

**[www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/find](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/find)**



**Speech pathologists** study, diagnose and treat communication disability, including difficulties with speech, language, reading and writing, stuttering and voice.

They work with Australians who have communication disability that may:

- emerge during early childhood e.g. speech and language disorders, stuttering, difficulties learning to read and write; or
- arise from premature birth, or may be present from birth e.g. cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome, fragile X syndrome, Autism Spectrum Disorder, hearing impairments and cleft palate; or
- occur as a result of physical, intellectual or sensory disability or a mental illness; or
- occur during adult years e.g. traumatic brain injury, stroke, head/neck cancers, neurodegenerative disorders such as motor neurone disease; or
- develop in the elderly e.g. dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease.

2020  
Speech  
Pathology  
Week

Communicating  
with Confidence

www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/week

Speech Pathology Week (**23-29 August**) is the opportunity to make all Australians aware of those in our community who have a communication disability. Speech pathologists work to ensure everyone is **communicating with confidence**.



Speech  
Pathology  
Australia

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Only **38%**  
of people with  
communication  
disability participate  
in the workforce  
compared with  
**80%** without  
communication  
disability.\*

**Every day, speech pathologists work with Australians to provide them with the confidence to communicate.**

Only **38 per cent** of people with communication disability are participating in the workforce compared with **80 per cent** of people without communication disability.

Communication disability is largely invisible. Unseen and out-of-sight.

Australians with communication disability cannot maximise their educational, health and social outcomes, without the intervention of a speech pathologist.

Speech pathologists work to ensure everyone is **communicating with confidence.**

\*Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Australians Living with Communication Disability*, [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

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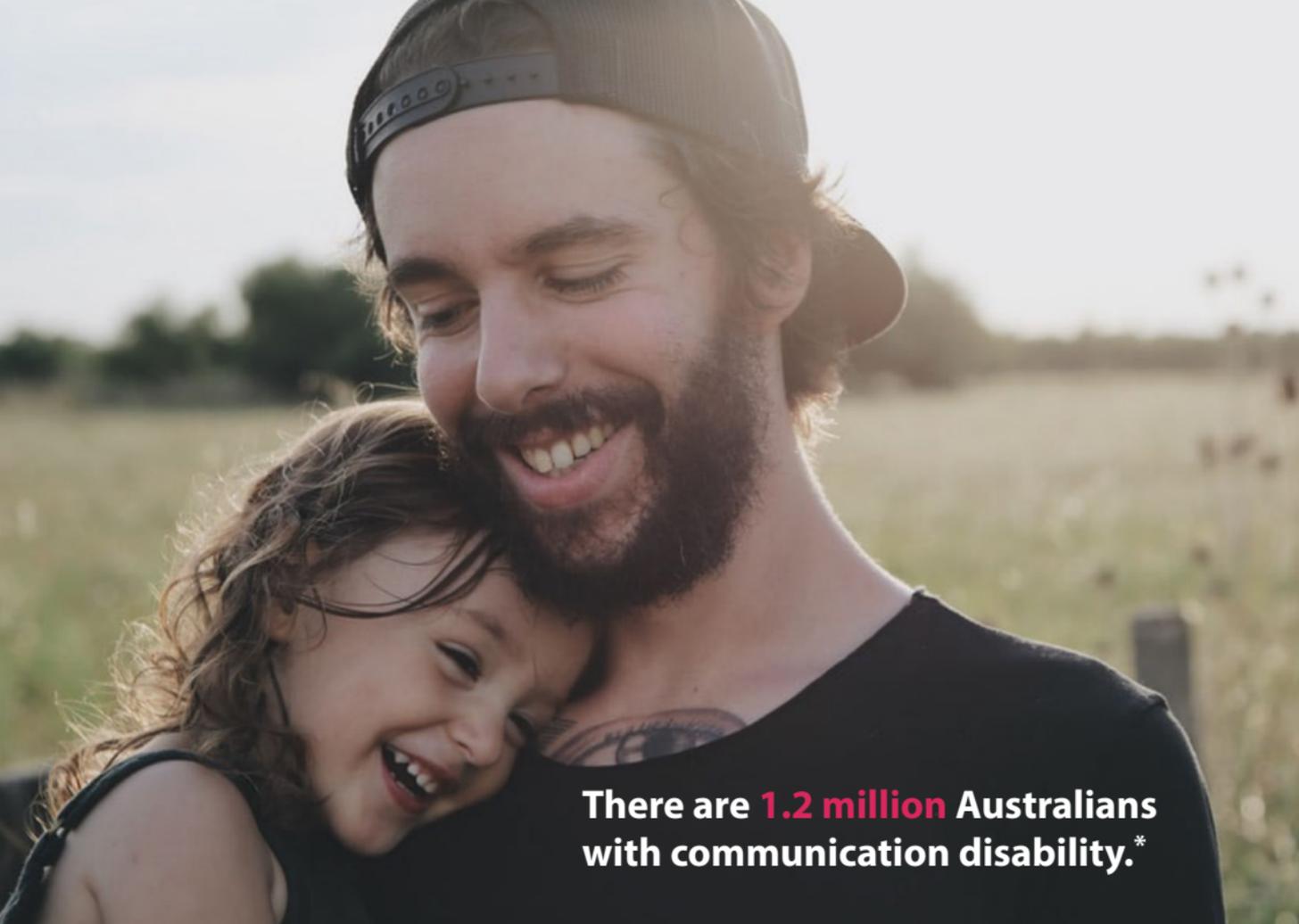
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There are **1.2 million** Australians  
with communication disability.\*

## There are 1.2 million Australians with communication disability.

Every day speech pathologists work with these Australians to provide them with the **confidence to communicate**.

Communication disability is largely invisible. Unseen and out-of-sight.

Communication disability takes many forms. It may be present at birth (e.g. cerebral palsy, hearing impairments and cleft palate), occur as a result of physical, intellectual or sensory disability or a mental illness, emerge during early childhood (e.g. stuttering) or during adult years (e.g. stroke, neck/head cancers), or develop in the elderly (e.g. dementia, Parkinson's disease).

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**YOU  
CAN  
NOT ALWAYS  
SEE COMMUNICATION  
DISABILITY**

Communication disability is **invisible** to most Australians. Unseen and out-of-sight.

**There are 1.2 million Australians with communication disability.**

Every day speech pathologists work with these Australians to provide them with the **confidence to communicate.**

Communication disability is largely invisible. Unseen and out-of-sight.

Australians with communication disability cannot maximise future educational, health and social outcomes, without the intervention of a speech pathologist.

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