

## **CONTACT DETAILS:**

If you have any questions, please contact your Speech Pathologist:

Name: .....  
Contact Number: (02) 9649 8941  
Between 8:30am and 4.30pm, Mon-Fri.<sup>1</sup>

# **St. Joseph's Hospital**

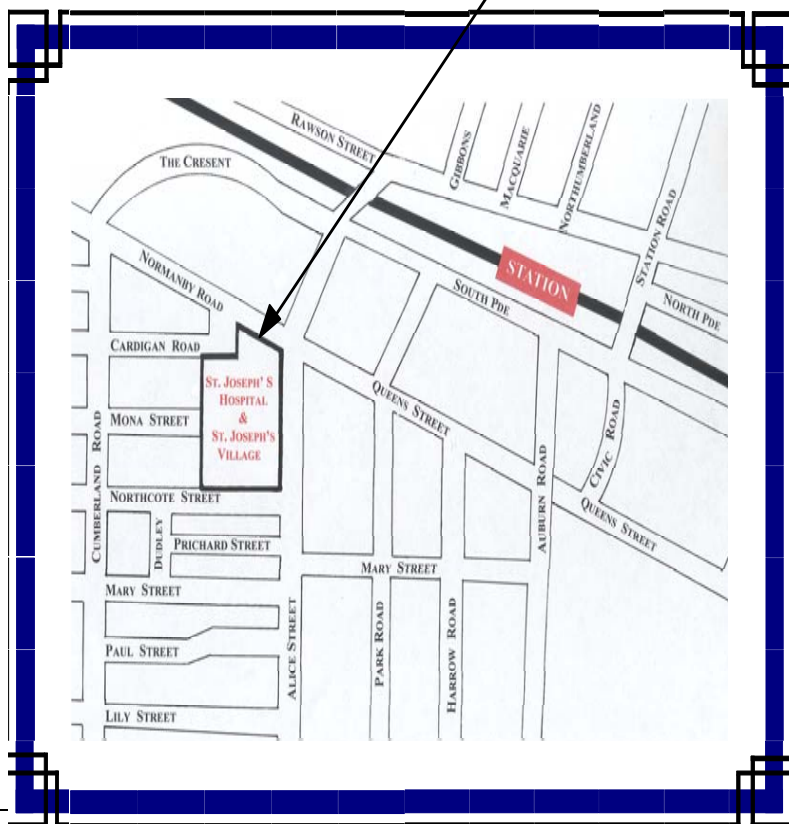
## **Speech Pathology**

Information for patients and carers



***Under the Care of the Sisters of Charity Health Service***

### **St Joseph's Hospital**



<sup>1</sup> Developed by the Speech Pathology Department at St Joseph's Hospital Auburn, and Sponsored by the "SWAHS Service of Excellence in Diversity Health Care Team".  
December, 2004

## **SPEECH PATHOLOGY SERVICES**

Speech Pathology services are offered to adults who have communication and/or swallowing difficulties, on an inpatient and/or outpatient basis. These difficulties can result from a range of conditions, such as:

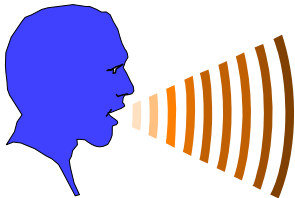
- stroke
- head injury
- cancer
- dementia
- motor neurone disease
- multiple sclerosis
- and parkinson's disease.

The Speech Pathology department also has a 'student unit' which provides clinical training to Speech Pathology university students, under the close supervision of qualified Speech Pathologists.

## **THE ROLE OF A SPEECH PATHOLOGIST**

The Speech Pathologist manages communication impairments and may do the following:

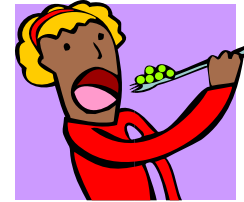
- Evaluate the function of muscles used when speaking.
- Assess the patient's ability to express themselves, understand, read or write.
- Suggest ways that the family can help the patient communicate.



The Speech Pathologist also assesses the patient's ability to swallow foods and drinks and will look at:

- Muscle function while swallowing.
- Ability to swallow foods and drinks with different textures.
- The effectiveness of different swallow exercises.

This aims to reduce the risk of foods and/or drinks going down the wrong way into the lungs, which may cause choking or eventually lead to pneumonia.



## **THERAPY**

Depending on the assessment results, patients may be seen for therapy to assist recovery and to help compensate for changes in communication or swallow ability.

Interpreters will be used if English is not the patient's and/or carer's first language.

Therapy is most effective when:

- achievable therapy goals are determined
- appointments are attended
- and recommendations are followed