

What you need to know when applying for Certified Practising membership

To be eligible to join as a Certified Practising member of Speech Pathology Australia you must have:

- an accredited Australian entry level speech pathology qualification or successfully completed an Overseas Qualification Assessment with Speech Pathology Australia within the previous two years;
- met the requirements for speech pathology practice hours; and
- fulfil the Professional Self Regulation (PSR) requirements to earn Certified Practising Speech Pathologist (CPSP) status.

Certified Practising membership is required for Medicare and Private Health Fund Provider number applications. This is renewed annually and is reflected in the membership certificate.

Speech pathology practice as defined in the Association policy 2.03 (Practising Membership) means: “engaged for a period determined by The Board in the activities of speech pathology as a practitioner, administrator, educator, researcher or any combination of these”. (Subject to provision of documentation and approval, practice hours accrued through engagement in a philanthropic capacity as a speech pathologist within Australia or overseas in formal recognised volunteer programs may be recognised.)

The following would be considered to count towards hours of speech pathology practice.

Practitioner

Direct client related activities are countable, including:

- Work with the client
- Work with the client's significant others (e.g. parent, spouse, carer, medical practitioner, teacher).
- Engagement in a philanthropic capacity as a speech pathologist in formal recognised volunteer programs (subject to approval). *Refer to the SPA Position Statement Volunteering in Speech Pathology (2016).*

Non-direct client related activities count towards hours of speech pathology practice if they support service to the client; however, **they should not be in excess of 50 per cent of hours counted.** These include:

- Report writing and session preparation.
- Maintenance of the practice.
- Travel time which is directly related to client contact or practice maintenance (e.g. a home visit or school visit, collection of work material for the client).
- Professional development related to speech pathology practice. (Travel for professional development or to and from work is not countable.)

If the practitioner is an employee, documentation can include an outline of the 'practising' hours, along with a position description (showing hours of employment). A letter from the employer, statutory declaration or similar documentation can be used to verify the hours worked.

For those practitioners who are not employees (i.e. in private practice), a statutory declaration outlining the hours of speech pathology practice and attesting to meeting the above will be accepted.

For those applying for approval of hours earned in their capacity as a speech pathologist in a formally recognised volunteer program within Australia or overseas, supporting documentation must be supplied which contains information on the following:

- Auspicing body for the role.
- The position including responsibilities, role, reporting and governance.
- Hours involved.
- Documentation can include the Position Description, agreement, terms of engagement that outline the above for the purposes of SPA determining if the volunteer position meets the criteria to be recognised as a formal volunteer role.

Administrators / Managers

Administrators / Managers' activities are countable towards hours if the role involves significant clinical supervision of speech pathologists and the management of speech pathology service delivery, and/or where the position is significantly in and/or related to speech pathology.

Documentation can include the Position Description and/or a letter from employer outlining role and responsibilities and relevance to speech pathology.

Educators and researchers

Educators and researchers' activities are countable towards hours in discipline-specific or inter-professional teaching and research settings where the position is significantly in and/or related to speech pathology.

Documentation can include the Position Description and/or a letter from employer outlining role and responsibilities and relevance to speech pathology.

Contact us

For further information, refer below or contact the Speech Pathology Australia National Office by telephone 1300 368 835 or email on <membership@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au>.

For further information refer to the ready-reckoner below or contact Speech Pathology Australia



Having completed an accredited Australian entry level speech pathology course, are you now applying to join Speech Pathology Australia as a Certified Practising member?

When did you complete your Accredited Australian entry level speech pathology course?

Five or more years ago?

Between three and five years ago?

Within the last three years?

Can you provide evidence of a minimum of 1,000 hours of speech pathology practice within the previous five (5) years?

Can you provide evidence of a minimum of 200 hours of speech pathology practice since you completed your course?

You retain eligibility to join Speech Pathology Australia as a Certified Practising member with Provisional CPSP status predicated on you agreeing to undertake PSR activities, including prescribed requirements to achieve full CPSP status.

Yes

No

Have you undertaken any practice within the last three (3) years?

Have you worked for a minimum of 1000 hours in your speech pathology career in the past fifteen (15) years?

Yes

No

Yes

No

Have you done professional development in the past year?

Did you complete your course within the previous ten (10) years?

Yes

No

Yes

No

Have you undertaken a minimum of 200 hours within the previous ten (10) years?

Yes

No

You are eligible to join as a Certified Practising member of Speech Pathology Australia with full CPSP status if you have met PSR requirements for the preceding year.

You may join as a Certified Practising Member with full CPSP status predicated on agreeing to undertake PSR activities, including the *SPA Ethics Education and Evidence Based Practice Resources*.

You must undertake and provide evidence of successful completion of the Speech Pathology Australia **Re-entry Program** to be able to join as a Certified Practising member (Refer Policy 2.09). Contact National Office for further information if you need to enquire about undertaking Re-entry.

You are **not** eligible for the Re-Entry program nor Certified Practising or Non Certified membership of Speech Pathology Australia.