Fluency Disorders Clinic

The Flinders University Speech Pathology student clinic provides stuttering and cluttering assessment and therapy services to preschoolers, school children and adolescents with a fluency disorder.

This clinic is run by an experienced Speech Pathology clinical educator who is employed by Flinders University. Speech Pathology students are directly supervised by the Speech Pathology clinical educator to provide individual programs to participating clients. Each student roster lasts for approximately 3-4 months. Clients may see more than one student across their treatment. A written report is provided detailing assessment results and management recommendations.

Clients will be booked in for two initial assessment sessions. These sessions enable us to gather background information and provide you with information and general management strategies while you wait for treatment.

As treatment places become available, clients may be offered individual or group therapy depending on their areas of difficulty.

Treatment is conducted on a weekly or fortnightly basis. Stuttering is a relapse prone disorder, so maintenance sessions are highly recommended. Individual and group maintenance sessions are offered at this clinic.

Services Provided

The Fluency Disorders Clinic provides:

- **Individual** Speech Pathology Assessment directed towards you/your child’s specific communication needs.
- Specific feedback regarding the Speech Pathology Assessment results, focussing on areas of both strength and weakness.
- Joint goal setting between the client and the student clinician to allow the client to have a significant input into the communication program developed.
- **Weekly or fortnightly** individual or group therapy program based on the Speech Pathology assessment results, and identified goals.

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- Written assessment report.
- Provision of a home program to encourage and reinforce progress for the duration of the therapy program.
- Access to fluency services via Skype (telehealth). Skype based assessment and treatment sessions are available for clients of all ages on a weekly or fortnightly basis. Priority for this service is given to outer metropolitan, rural and interstate clients. Local clients may also access this service subject to availability. Referrals for Skype based services must have functional, conversational level English.
- Monthly maintenance groups for adults & adolescents who have completed a smooth speech intensive or individual therapy program.

Research: The Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology regularly conducts research studies into stuttering. If you are interested in being involved in research, contact Michelle Swift on 8204 5942 or email: michelle.swift@flinders.edu.au

When should I seek Treatment?

Treatment is more efficient in children than in adults. Some children recover from stuttering but some do not. If a child is stuttering, it is important for them to be referred to a speech pathologist for assessment.

There are effective treatments available for children and adolescents. These include the Lidcombe Program for pre-schoolers and early school-aged children and smooth speech for adolescents and adults. Evidence shows that the Lidcombe Program is effective in maintaining stutter-free speech in children in normal speaking environments. Actual therapy provided will be individualised for your situation.

When does the Clinic run?

The Fluency Disorders clinic runs during the university semesters. Individual programs run for as long as required for each client until they have made sufficient progress to be discharged from the service. Clients may choose to terminate their program at any time. Clients may be offered a place in the clinic midway through the semester if discharges have occurred during the semester.

Children who choose to access the Flinders University Speech Pathology student clinic will not lose their place on the waiting list for Primary Health based Speech Pathology services, and parents whose children are eligible (under 4 years old) are encouraged to register their name with both clinics.

Semester Dates
The clinic runs on Wednesday and Thursday January - December

Cost of program per client

Initial Assessment Sessions
(usually two per client)
$55 per session (up to 60 mins)

Individual Treatment Session
$40 per session (up to 60 mins)

Group Treatment Session
$25 per session (up to 60 mins)

Maintenance Session
$25 per session (up to 30 mins)

Payment Details
Cash or Eftpos available.
No Medicare or Private Health Insurance rebate is available for this service at this time.

Location [Wednesday only]
Flinders Medical Centre level 6
Dept Speech Pathology & Audiology
Flinders Drive
BEDFORD PARK  SA 5042

Northern Clinic Venue [Thursday only]
Women’s &Children’s Hospital
Ground Floor, Good Friday Building
72 King William Road
NORTH ADELAIDE  SA 5006

For more information
The Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology would be happy to talk to you in more detail about this innovative program.

For registration queries or more information contact
Heather Sanders
on Ph: 8204 5959 or email
heather.sanders@flinders.edu.au

The Fluency Disorders Clinic runs Intensive Smooth Speech Treatment Programs at specific times throughout the year. If you are aged 15 years or older and may be interested in attending, contact the clinic.

If the current clinic format does not meet your requirements and your organisation may be interested in partnering with us to provide fluency services, please contact the Clinical Education Coordinator, Stacie Attrill
Ph: 8204 5942.