

Communication impairment is more common than you think...

- Children with autism, Down Syndrome, and Cerebral Palsy often begin their life with a communication impairment
- 20% of four year old children have difficulty understanding or using language
- 14% of 15 year olds have only basic literacy skills
- 28% of teachers take time off work each year because of voice problems
- At least 30% of people post-stroke suffer loss of language (aphasia)
- 85% of those with Parkinson's disease have voice, speech and/or swallowing difficulties
- 13,000 Australians use electronic communication aids to get their message across
- Children with a language impairment are six times more likely to have a reading problem than children without
- 46% of young Australian offenders have a language impairment
- There is a high correlation between communication difficulties and poor mental health
- Three in every 1,000 newborns have hearing loss, which without intervention can affect their speech, language and literacy. Indigenous children have three times more hearing problems than non-Indigenous children

