

Position Description

Position Title	Grade 1 Speech Pathologist
Position Number	30006217
Division	Community and Continuing Care
Department	Speech Pathology and Audiology
Enterprise Agreement	Allied Health Professionals (Victorian Public Sector) (Single Interest Employers) Enterprise Agreement 2021-2026
Classification Description	Speech Pathologist Grade 1
Classification Code	VP4-VP7
Reports to	Manager Speech Pathology and Audiology
Management Level	Non Management
Staff Capability Statement	Please click here for a link to staff capabilities statement

Bendigo Health

With more than 5,000 staff and volunteers and covering an area a quarter of the size of Victoria, Bendigo Health, is an expanding regional health service offering the advantages of city life combined with the beauty and freedom that comes from living in a regional area.

Bendigo Health is a 700 bed service that treats more than 45,000 inpatients, triages more than 65,000 emergency attendees and welcomes more than 1,600 new born babies in a year. In addition more than 15,000 operations are performed in our operating theatres and more than 100,000 occasions of services are provided in our clinics to outpatients.

The organisation provides services in emergency, maternity, women's health, medical imaging, pathology, rehabilitation, community services, residential aged care, psychiatric care, community dental, hospice/palliative care, cardiology, cancer services and renal dialysis to the people of the Loddon Mallee region.

With our main campus based in Bendigo, our services extend throughout the Loddon Mallee with sites in areas such as Mildura, Echuca, Swan Hill, Kyneton and Castlemaine.

Demand on services is increasing rapidly with Bendigo being one of Victoria's fastest growing regional cities.

Our Vision

Excellent Care. Every Person. Every Time.

Our Values

CARING – We care for our community

PASSIONATE – We are passionate about doing our best

TRUSTWORTHY - We are open, honest and respectful

All staff at Bendigo Health should have, or aspire to the personal qualities, knowledge and skills as described in the Bendigo Health Staff Capabilities Statement. Refer to link at top of page.

The Community and Continuing Care Division

The Community and Continuing Care Division provides a broad range of high-quality, person-centred care programs and services to consumers in inpatient, outpatient, and community settings. Each service within the division is designed to ensure holistic care and improve the overall well-being of our patients and communities.

The Community Services team is dedicated to enhancing the health and wellbeing outcomes of the communities in the Loddon Mallee with six regional offices. This team includes: Aged Care Assessment undertaken on behalf of My Aged Care; Community Allied Health; Community Care; Carer Support and Community Nursing & Home Care.

The Continuing Care team delivers high-quality services across the Loddon Mallee region including: Dental Care; Chronic Disease Management; Outpatient Rehabilitation; Support for People Transitioning Home; Diabetes Management and Geriatric Management and Assessment.

The Allied Health team provides comprehensive, high-quality care across the continuum, including expert services in: audiology, dietetics, exercise physiology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, podiatry, psychology, social work, speech pathology and allied health assistants who work with these disciplines.

The Geriatric Medicine Team includes Geriatricians, Rehabilitation physicians, Palliative care physicians, registrars and junior medical staff. The Team work across inpatients, outpatients and home settings.

In addition, the Community and Continuing Care Division holds the professional portfolio of Chief Allied Health Officer. The Chief Allied Health Officer and allied health discipline managers provide professional governance for all allied health across Bendigo Health.

The Allied Health team at Bendigo Health comprises over 400 staff including Audiology, Dietetics, Exercise Physiology, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Psychology/Neuropsychology, Social Work, Speech Pathology, Spiritual Care and Allied Health Assistance. Allied Health clinicians work in a very broad range of roles and are valued in the contribution they make to the multi-disciplinary team.

The Speech Pathology and Audiology Department

The speech pathology department provides high quality clinical services in almost all areas of Bendigo Health (BH). At BH you will find speech pathologists working on the inpatient units in community health paediatric outpatients, specialist clinics (adults and paediatrics), outpatient rehabilitation, community allied health, Victorian Paediatric Rehabilitation Service (VPRS) transitional care and residential care. Speech pathologists at BH work with infants, children, adults and elderly in a range of clinical settings. We work with patients and their families/carers to achieve the best possible outcomes for the people we work with.

Speech pathologists assess, treat and manage dysphagia, communication and cognition across the lifespan and continuum of care applying evidence based practice. Speech pathologists working on the inpatient wards service most clinical areas including a small service to the paediatric ward and the special care nursery. Speech pathologists provide assessment, intervention, education and management for a range of disorders of swallowing/feeding, speech, language, voice and cognition. Specialist clinics outpatients provides assessment and short term speech pathology management of adults with a laryngectomy, dysphagia or dysphonia.

Community health speech pathology provides single discipline services to children aged 0-6 years (pre-school entry). Services are provided in both the individual and group context. Infants and children can receive short term assessment and management of feeding difficulties via specialist clinics.

Speech pathologists may be employed to work in a range of programs at BH, see program information for more detail,

Audiology provides high quality services as part of the outpatient specialist clinics service providing diagnostic audiology across the lifespan. However, the primary clinical caseload in the clinic is paediatrics. The audiology service provides specialist diagnostic hearing assessments including;

- Pure tone audiometry (including visual reinforcement and play audiometry)
- Speech audiometry (speech discrimination assessment)
- Impedance audiometry
- Site if lesion auditory brainstem response
- Diagnostic infant hearing tests
- Otoacoustic emission

The speech pathology and audiology team are focused on continuous service improvement, research, teaching and learning to ensure high performing clinicians so our patients receive excellent care. The team are committed to student education and have strong relationships with university partners taking many students each year.

The Position

All staff at Bendigo Health should have, or aspire to the personal qualities, knowledge and skills as described in the Bendigo Health Staff Capabilities Statement and the Allied Health Grade Level Capabilities: Grade 1 Allied Health Professional. Please refer to links provided to these documents.

The Grade One Speech Pathologist is responsible for the provision of Speech Pathology Services within a designated clinical caseload, appropriate to their level of experience and competency. Grade One level Speech Pathologists are required to display autonomy of practice, whilst also contributing constructively to the multidisciplinary team.

The purpose of this position is to:

- To provide best practice client centred clinical care within the designated caseload in inpatient acute, subacute services, and paediatric community health outpatient services as part of a grade 1 rotation program
- To support other speech pathology work areas as required
- To support and participate in the ongoing improvement of our team and services
- Where required, Allied health clinicians may be rostered to work on weekends and public holidays

Responsibilities and Accountabilities

Key Responsibilities

The key responsibilities and duties of the Grade 1 Speech Pathologist include, but are not limited to:

Key Responsibilities	Demonstrated by
1. Provision of care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work independently within approved scope of practice to provide safe, evidence-based care according to organisational policies and protocols, taking responsibility for the quality of care at point of care within scope of practice • Use clinical reasoning to ensure timely and responsive management of referrals and waitlists and support the fair distribution of workloads in collaboration with the team as required • Document in the medical history consistent with relevant Bendigo Health procedures and departmental requirements • Complete required program reporting and statistical records for client – related and other activities within specified timeframes • Consult with or escalate concerns, risks, clinical complexity and barriers to supervisor and senior staff • Demonstrate sound knowledge and sensitivity to ethical and cultural issues and vulnerable population groups and integrate this into practice-
2. Collaborative practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work collaboratively with clients, their families and other stakeholders to establish a client focused multidisciplinary management plan, consistent with professional standards of practice and evidenced based practice • Work collaboratively with the multidisciplinary team to deliver safe client-focused care, liaising with health professionals and agencies internal and external to Bendigo Health regarding clinical management where necessary • Provide clinical handover to ensure client care is maintained • Facilitate the smooth transition of clients through the health care system, collaborating and liaising with relevant services to ensure continuity of care for individual clients and their families.
3. Quality, innovation and improvement	<p>Innovation and change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with clients and colleagues to develop practical and creative solutions to workplace problems • Contribute to an innovative and evidence based approach to Allied Health service delivery by recognising areas for improvement, and suggesting new ways of working to improve team functioning and effectiveness. <p>Quality improvement and research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the attainment and sharing of professional clinical expertise through the participation in quality and/or research activities as directed and supported by senior clinician/clinical supervisor/manager • Contribute to translating evidence into practice, through identifying clinical practice gaps, implementing and evaluating evidence based care • Assist in the development of relevant department business and quality plans, policies and protocols, informed by best available evidence, data analysis and client feedback. <p>Safety and risk management</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out compliance and improvement against the key elements of quality, safety and accreditation requirements as directed • Observe safe working practices and as far as able, protect own and others' health and safety • Contribute to quality and safety activities such as risk management, clinical audits and benchmarking auditing processes to ensure consistency with Bendigo Health procedures and departmental requirements.
4. Professional conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills • Recognise issues that may lead to conflict, constructively addressing issues as they arise, and escalate for advice and resolution, in line with Bendigo Health procedures and values • Display professionalism and well-developed interpersonal skills • Demonstrate understanding of own personal and professional limitations and escalate as required • Adhere to profession specific standards of professional practice • Actively participate in relevant meetings, working parties and portfolios as required • Work with operational and professional managers, or their delegates, to ensure that adequate time is allocated for non-clinical responsibilities such as participating in clinical supervision, education, quality improvement and research, delegated portfolios, and attendance at meetings and committees.
5. Learning and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with students and other allied health clinicians (such as Allied Health Assistants) with guidance from senior clinicians/clinical supervisor as required • Participate in clinical supervision in accordance with the Allied Health Clinical Supervision protocol • Demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning and evidence based practice through participating in professional development for self and supporting the knowledge and skill development of other professional groups, with guidance from senior staff as required • Reflect on clinical practice to identify strengths and learning areas requiring further development • Complete all mandatory and required training and professional development requirements.

Required Capabilities for Allied Health

Further to the key responsibilities outlined in this position description, Allied Health staff are required to demonstrate the capabilities outlined in the Bendigo Health Allied Health Grade Level Capabilities.

Generic Responsibilities

Code of Conduct - The Victorian Government's Code of Conduct is binding on all Bendigo Health staff. Contravention of a provision in the code may constitute misconduct and/ or regarded as a breach of the employee's employment agreement and will be dealt with under the organisations Counselling and Disciplinary Action Policy.

Compliance with policies and procedures - All Bendigo Health's policies and procedures are set out in its clinical and managerial policy manuals located on the intranet under PROMPT and in hard copy. All staff must ensure they comply with policies, procedures and standard ways of work practices when carrying out their work. Any breach in compliance may result in disciplinary action.

Occupational Health and Safety - Every staff member has the responsibility to take reasonable care of their own health and safety and the safety of others, to cooperate with Bendigo Health's OH&S policies and to participate in appropriate safety education and evaluation activities. All staff are expected to participate in reporting any health, safety and wellbeing issues. Any breach in compliance may result in disciplinary action.

Infection Control - Every staff member has the responsibility to minimise incidents of infection/ cross infection of residents, staff, visitors and the general public. All staff must adhere to the policies and procedures as set out in Bendigo Health's infection control manuals. Any breach in compliance may result in disciplinary action.

Confidentiality - All information concerning Bendigo Health, its patients, clients, residents and staff should remain strictly confidential. Any unauthorised disclosure of such information may result in disciplinary action.

Quality Improvement - Bendigo Health is dedicated to improving the quality and safety of health services by providing care within the following domains of quality: Consumer Participation, Clinical Effectiveness, Effective Workforce and Risk Management. As a result, we apply the concept of the quality cycle for all our quality activities, initiatives and projects thereby ensuring the best possible care and treatment results are achieved. The underlying principle of the cycle is that an activity is not complete until evaluation shows that it has been effective and reached the desired outcome. As a Bendigo Health employee you have a responsibility to participate in and commit to ongoing quality improvement activities using the framework of the NSQHSS (National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards).

Diversity – Each person has a right to high-quality health care and opportunities regardless of diversity factors, which might include aspects such as cultural, ethnic, linguistic, religious background, gender, sexual orientation, age and socio-economic status. Every staff member has a responsibility to recognise and respect diversity. Inclusiveness improves our service to our community and promotes engagement amongst staff.

Employees are required to carry out lawful directions outlined above or delegated to them. The work to be performed is set out in this position description and, where relevant, any professional standards and codes of conduct and ethics issued by the relevant professional association.

Key Selection Criteria

Essential

1. A degree in Speech Pathology or equivalent tertiary qualification with the ability to satisfy the requirements of the Bendigo Health Allied Health Credentialing and Professional Standards document, including evidence of eligibility for membership of Speech Pathology Australia (SPA) and SPA Professional Certification
2. Demonstrated knowledge of assessment and intervention of children aged 0-6 years with communication needs and knowledge of paediatric feeding is desirable

3. Demonstrated knowledge of adult dysphagia assessment and intervention, including understanding of instrumental assessments of dysphagia
4. Demonstrated knowledge of the assessment and intervention of adult voice, communication and cognition
5. Demonstrated commitment to lifelong learning through ongoing professional development
6. Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively with multidisciplinary teams to deliver safe consumer-focused care
7. Demonstrated ability to work autonomously with effective organisation and time management skills to manage clinical and non-clinical priorities and meet timeframes
8. Demonstrated effective oral and written communication skills with the ability to interact effectively and appropriately with patients, carers, staff and the community

Mandatory Requirements

National Police Record Check A current and satisfactory National Police Record Check must be completed by all new staff prior to commencement at Bendigo Health.

Immunisation As a health provider dedicated to providing quality client care, we all need to be aware of the critical importance of infection control. Each staff member has a responsibility to comply with Bendigo Health's Staff Immunisation Policy and various infection control policy and procedures. All staff are required to provide evidence of vaccinations prior to commencement at Bendigo Health

Working with Children Check Bendigo Health has a responsibility to provide a child safe environment. This position is a defined "child-related role" at Bendigo Health. As such you must maintain a valid working with children check. In addition you will be required to assist Bendigo Health in providing a child safe environment by participating in any training or reporting required to ensure the protection of children in our care.

All Bendigo Health sites, workplaces and vehicles are smoke free.

This position description is intended to describe the general nature and level of work that is to be performed by the person appointed to the role. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and skills required. Any elements of this document may be changed at Bendigo Health's discretion and activities may be added, removed or amended at any time.