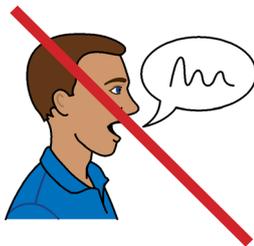


# Communication and swallowing problems after a stroke



A stroke happens when the blood stops going to the brain.



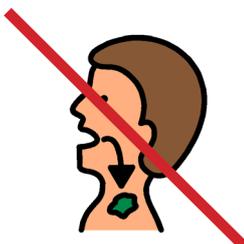
Parts of the brain can stop working properly. This can cause problems

- understanding speech
- speaking
- reading
- writing
- understanding and using body language and gestures.



It can also cause problems with

- thinking
- concentrating
- memory
- socialising
- hearing
- swallowing.

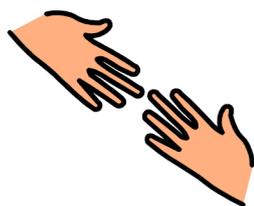




## How many people in Australia have a stroke?

Every 10 minutes, a person has a stroke.

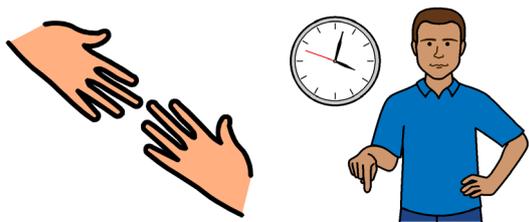
In the next 10 years, stroke will be the main cause of disability in Australia.



## How can you help a person who has had a stroke?

You can

- talk in short, clear sentences
- give the person more time to speak. Do **not** rush the person or finish their sentences
- support the person to do things for themselves.  
Help the person if they ask you
- support the person to communicate for themselves, even if it takes a long time
- think about how the person feels. The person may feel sad and cross.



### When to get help?

As soon as possible.

This can help a person get better after a stroke.

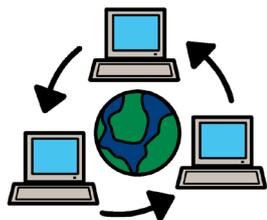


### Where can you get help?

Contact a speech pathologist in your local area.

Speech pathologists can

- do an assessment
- give advice
- give therapy.



### **Find a local speech pathologist**

Speech Pathology Australia

Website [www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)

Click on - Find a Speech Pathologist.



### **How to become a speech pathologist**

You need to do a course at University.

To find out more contact

Speech Pathology Australia

Phone 1300 368 835

Website [www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)

Click on - information for the community.

Scope's Communication Resource Centre wrote the Easy English.  
September 2013 [www.scopevic.org.au](http://www.scopevic.org.au)

To see the original, contact Speech Pathology Australia  
[www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)

Mayer-Johnson LLC says we can use the Picture Communication  
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