

Who has Complex Communication Needs?

A severe communication impairment can arise from a developmental problem such as developmental delay, autism, cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome or learning disability. It can also arise from acquired problems such as a stroke, head injury or degenerative disease. In some cases the communication impairment can be compounded by other sensory-motor difficulties such as hearing or visual loss or disturbance. In most cases, the person with a CCN experiences communication frustration, challenging behaviors and difficulties interacting. In many cases a team, holistic approach to the difficulties will be needed. Options works closely with other allied health professionals to determine with you the best way to deliver a service and design a communication program.

Want to Know More? There are workshops and publications to help.

Publications and workshop training are available to help people learn more about complex communication methods, communication partner training and speech development. Jane is proud to announce that early in 2009 the first two of her books will be available. These publications are available from Options and concern the Introduction to Non-Spoken communication and Facilitated Communication.

About the Therapists at Options

Jane and Brooke are based at the Options Clinic in Petrie where all administration and appointment scheduling is carried out by our administration officer, Jenni Holder. All your enquiries regarding appointments, administration or clinic work should be directed to the Petrie Clinic and via Jenni.

Jane is the director and principal speech therapist. She qualified in London, UK and worked in Wales, England and Canada before moving to Australia in 1979. She has a Masters Degree in Applied Linguistics and specialisation skills in augmentative communication. Jane has her Cert IV in Training and assessment and was awarded Master Trainer in FCT at a recent conference in the USA.

Brooke is currently completing her Ph.D. in Speech Pathology with her dissertation in Aphasia (loss of speech and language arising primarily from a stroke). Brooke brings to Options experience in General Hospital and acquired language difficulties, in addition to her experience with developmental disabilities.

Lee-Anne Grosvenor is my Senior Speech Language Pathologist and works at the Eight Mile Plains Clinic, Brisbane. She has experience in acquired and developmental disabilities as well as lecturing speech pathology students at the University of Queensland.

Options

Communication Therapy & Training Centre Pty. Ltd.

ACN 090 446 638

ABN 48 090 446 638

Providing local and outreach therapy services to people with severe communication impairments.

Clinics at: Petrie and Eight Mile Plains

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Speech Language Therapists:

Jane Remington-Gurney (Director)

Lee-Anne Grosvenor and Brooke Grohn

Options' therapists have training and experience with augmentative communication methods and are PROMPT trained. Both Jane and Lee-Anne are FCT Instructors. Jane is able to offer outreach services to most areas in the state as well as interstate. Lee-Anne is able to provide out of clinic visits in the Brisbane south area.

About Options...

I formed Options in 1998 as a private speech therapy business to provide services primarily for people of all ages who have complex communication needs. Since its inception it has grown to become a leading agency for people who need some form of communication to augment their speech and also to teach or re-learn how to speak.

All the therapists at Options are trained in the major tools for communication interventions, such as sign language, PROMPT, Social Stories and Facilitated Communication Training. They also have many years experience with assistive technology, early intervention, rehabilitation and communication program planning. The therapists at Options are employed not only because they have skills and experience but because they have a passion and commitment for their work.

Options is a private sector agency and as such all fees have to reflect a cost which will pay the running costs of the business, keep the staff up to date with their professional development and provide state of the art intervention. For fees to remain comparable with other private practitioners there has to be a fee for missing appointments and a booking fee to secure the initial consultation. There are always people on our waiting list so please help us to arrange the best style of therapy to suit your needs.

Fee Schedule:

All therapy fees are based on current private practice fee schedules. We have staff and overheads to pay and receive no government subsidy for our services. There are therefore no concessions.

Initial Consultation	\$200
Extended session 1 hr	\$130
Extended session 45 mins	\$ 95
Short session 30 mins or less	\$ 65

Hourly rate for all work is calculated at \$130 per hour. This includes travel, report writing and attendance at meetings. Payments can be made by cash, cheque or credit card. There is a \$2.00 surcharge for credit card payments. Please note that to secure your initial consultation you need to make a non-refundable booking fee of \$100. This payment is deducted from your scheduled consultation. Failure to attend a scheduled appointment without notice incurs the cost of the scheduled appointment. Cancellation of an appointment with less than 12 hrs notice incurs a charge of 50% of the scheduled fee.

Funding Private Therapy:

Funding for therapy may be available for you through the Medicare Extended care Plan, the helping Autism Funding or private health funds.

How Much Therapy Will I Need?

This is not easy to estimate but a general rule is that it will take at least six sessions for the student (child or adult) to get into the routine of coming for therapy. Follow through activities outside the clinic are important for generalization of skills. Therefore, you or a consistent communication partner should come into sessions with the student. You will need to bring something to record your sessions in or a USB to save the clinic work onto. Families and people supporting the student often like to attend an Options' workshop. This can help to provide additional information to enable the student be as supported as possible. Meetings to discuss the students' progress and needs are held every term or on request for planning purposes.

How Do I Make A Referral?

A medical referral is not required unless you re-claiming part of your fees from a recognized scheme which requires this. A summary report will be sent to the referring person after your initial consultation.

Mission Statement

To advocate and demonstrate that not being able to speak does not necessarily mean that a person has nothing to say. Communication is a gift that should never be taken for granted.