SLPs can support Deaf/HI students using a variety of service delivery models

SLT support to Deaf/HI students may consist of any of the following:

- Assessment of communication skills
- Verbal and/or written reporting about the student's strengths and weaknesses
- Classroom-based therapy support
- Support to teachers in the development of a specific student’s class program
- Individual and/or group therapy support
- Support to the EAP process
- Support in the development of an Individual Education Plan
- Consultation and collaboration with parents/carers and school staff about a student’s abilities, needs and/or therapy support
- Development of specific programs and resources
- Support to the school in the development of programs for students with special needs in communication
- Provision of training to staff and/or parents
- Liaison with other agencies (for example, Australian Hearing, Queensland Health, Hear and Say Centre.)

Students benefit most from SLT support when consistent follow-up of their program occurs in the classroom and at home.

Signed parent/guardian permission is required before any SLT support can be provided to students.

How do Deaf/HI students access Education Queensland speech-language therapy support?

Typically, the class teacher initiates the SLT referral process. He/she brings the student to the attention of staff responsible for managing support services in the school. Therefore, it is important that you discuss any concerns you may have about your child’s communication skills with your child’s class teacher.

If appropriate, a request for SLT support is made through agreed regional/school-based processes.

Each SLP is responsible for providing support to a number of educational facilities. The SLP visits each facility at predetermined intervals for specified time periods. Regional and/or school-based processes determine how the SLP’s time in the school is used to support students.

The processes for accessing SLT services may differ from one local area to another. For information regarding SLT services in your local area contact the speech-language pathologist-in-charge (SLPIO) in your education region or the SLP who supports your child’s school.

For more information on SLT services in your local area contact:
Speech-language pathologists are members of an educational team

Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) working for Education Queensland are part of the education team that can provide support to Deaf/Hearing Impaired (HI) students.

SLPs work with parents/carers, teachers and other school support staff so that any speech-language therapy (SLT) services:
- focus on assisting students to achieve educational outcomes
- are delivered as part of the student’s educational program

Speech-language therapy services for Deaf/Hi students

Education Queensland SLPs may provide support to any Deaf/Hi students attending:
- state primary schools and affiliated special education units and classes (SEUs and SECs)
- state secondary schools and affiliated SEUs
- special education developmental units (SEDUs)
- special schools
- early special education programs (children aged 0–3 years)

The role of SLPs in Education Queensland

SLPs assist schools to determine the educational needs of and develop appropriate programs for students with communication difficulties that impact on learning in the classroom.

SLPs have specialist knowledge related to:
- speech sound production
- understanding language
- using words and sentences to convey ideas
- how language is used as a tool to interact socially with others

Students who have difficulties in any of these areas can be considered to have special needs in communication.

Special needs in communication may impact on the ability to achieve at school. Learning in the classroom relies on understanding and using spoken and written language. Well-developed speech and language skills are essential for the development of reading and spelling skills.

Some Deaf/Hi students will have special needs in communication. These students may access the services of their school’s SLP. SLPs work in conjunction with other school staff and caregivers to help these students develop skills in the areas of:
- communication
- language
- learning
- literacy

The Education Adjustment Program (EAP)

Education Queensland supports students with disabilities through the Education Adjustment Program (EAP). EAP identifies the educational adjustments a school provides in order to meet the teaching and learning needs of students with disabilities. Comprehensive information about EAP is available on Education Queensland’s website.

Many Deaf/Hi students enrolled in Education Queensland’s facilities or programs will have their education needs managed under the EAP process.

However, students do not need to be diagnosed with a disability, nor do they need to be managed under the EAP process to receive SLT support.