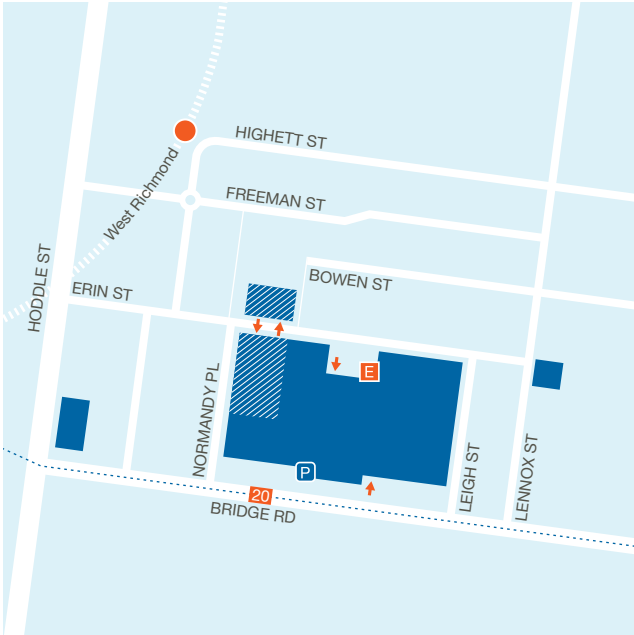


## For more information

Speak to an Epworth Rehabilitation Speech Pathologist at one of the locations below.

### Epworth Rehabilitation Richmond



### Epworth Rehabilitation Brighton



### Epworth Rehabilitation Camberwell



## Epworth Rehabilitation

Excellence. Everywhere. Everyday.

### Rehabilitation Services

Epworth Rehabilitation Richmond  
89 Bridge Road  
Richmond Vic 3121  
Phone 03 9426 8726  
Fax 03 9426 8734

Epworth Rehabilitation Camberwell  
888 Toorak Road  
Camberwell Vic 3124  
Phone 03 9805 4125  
Fax 03 9591 9249

Epworth Rehabilitation Brighton  
85 Wilson Street  
Brighton Vic 3186  
Phone 03 9592 9144  
Fax 03 9593 1276

### Acute Services

Epworth Richmond  
89 Bridge Road  
Richmond Vic 3121  
Phone 03 9426 8726  
Fax 03 9426 8734

Epworth Freemasons  
166 Clarendon Street  
East Melbourne Vic 3002  
Phone 0488 200 447

[www.epworth.org.au](http://www.epworth.org.au)

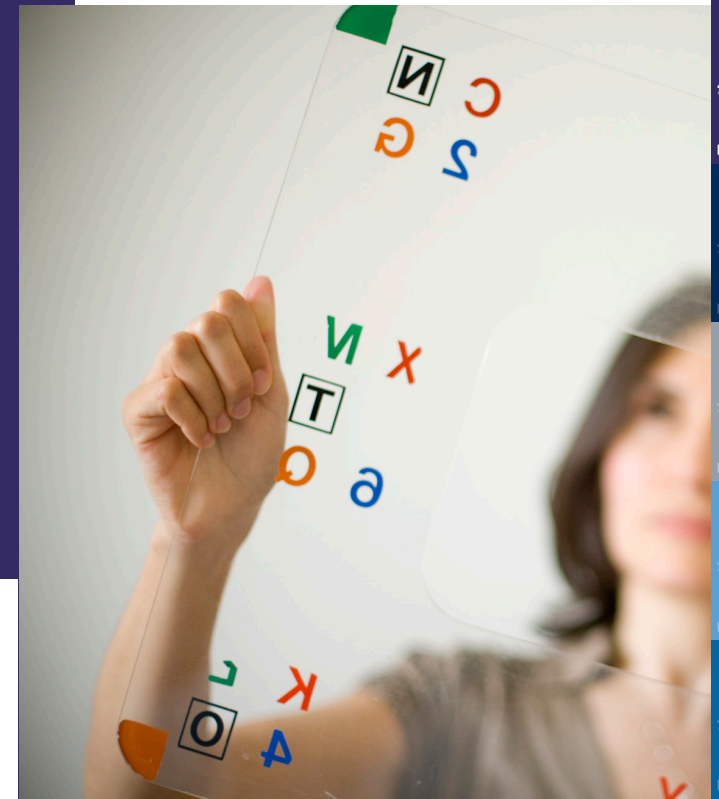
Revised August 2010



## Epworth Rehabilitation

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# Dyspraxia



**This information is for people who are interested in dyspraxia or who need to communicate with a person who has dyspraxia.**

**If you have difficulty reading or understanding this information, please ask your Speech Pathologist for assistance.**

## What is dyspraxia?

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Dyspraxia (or apraxia) is the impairment of motor planning skills due to damage to the brain. Dyspraxia results in difficulties planning and coordinating voluntary muscle movements to form sounds or words.

The muscles used for speech and swallowing may function normally, however the messages involved in planning, coordinating and sequencing muscle movements are disrupted.

A person with dyspraxia will attempt to speak, but their brain sends an incorrect message to their mouth, tongue and lips. For example, a person may be trying to say 'Blue' but it comes out 'Fru'.

Sometimes the person knows exactly what they want to say, but they may be unable to use any speech at all.

## Causes of dyspraxia

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Conditions that can cause dyspraxia include:

- Stroke; blockage of blood supply or bleeding in the brain
- Trauma to the brain; usually as a result of an accident, infection or toxic substance
- Brain tumours.

## Effects of dyspraxia

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A person with dyspraxia may experience difficulty with:

- Planning the muscle movements for speech, eating and swallowing
- Finding the correct mouth position to make speech sounds
- Making smooth transitions between sounds and words
- Speaking fluently in conversation without hesitations or breaks.

## Treatment of dyspraxia

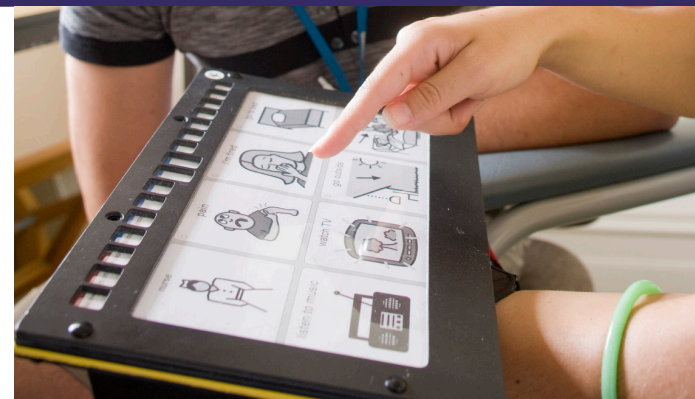
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Treatment of dyspraxia is dependent on the specific difficulties the person is experiencing.

Treatment usually involves slowly learning and practising the mouth movements for eating or speaking, and coordinating movements more smoothly.

There are various communication aids such as white boards, picture boards and electronic talkers that may help a person with dyspraxia convey their message.

These aids may be used in the short and long term and are usually implemented with the help of a Speech Pathologist.



## Communicating with someone who has dyspraxia

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### General Tips

- Reduce background noise and distractions
- Ensure the person is wearing their glasses and hearing aid if appropriate
- Include the person with dyspraxia in conversations
- Encourage and accept all attempts at communication
- Always check to see if both communication partners are talking about the same topic.

### When you are listening

- Make sure you are looking at the person
- Allow the person plenty of time to speak
- Encourage the person to use gestures, such as hand movements or facial expressions.