



SPTH8840

Advanced Professional Practice

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2026

Department of Linguistics

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Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Rebecca McNeil rebecca.mcneil@mq.edu.au
Credit points 10
Prerequisites SPTH8832
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description In this unit, students will explore the relationships between healthcare policy and funding settings, ethical speech pathology service delivery and practice, and the future of the speech pathology profession. Emerging national and international topics in healthcare will be included to prepare students for future practice and leadership.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Demonstrate understanding of current and projected legal regulations, and federal and state policies, and their potential impact on speech pathology service delivery.

ULO2: Analyse the implications of major health care funding systems for the delivery of speech pathology services in Australia and elsewhere.

ULO3: Explain the ethical application of marketing, branding, and e-media promotion of professional services within speech pathology.

ULO4: Critically evaluate the relationship between individual professional development and leadership systems in healthcare, and how this impacts the development of the speech pathology profession.

General Assessment Information

Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading are contained in the [Macquarie University Assessment Policy](#).

All final grades are determined by a grading committee, in accordance with the Macquarie University Assessment Policy, and are not the sole responsibility of the Unit Convenor.

Students will be awarded a final grade and a mark which must correspond to the grade descriptors specified in the [Assessment Procedure](#) (clause 128).

To pass this unit, you must demonstrate sufficient evidence of achievement of the learning outcomes, meet any ungraded requirements, and achieve a final mark of 50 or better.

Further details for each assessment task will be available on iLearn.

Late Submissions

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (OF THE TOTAL POSSIBLE MARK) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a grade of '0' will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical concern.

For example:

Number of days (hours) late	Total Possible Marks	Deduction	Raw mark	Final mark
1 day (1-24 hours)	100	5	75	70
2 days (24-48 hours)	100	10	75	65
3 days (48-72 hours)	100	15	75	60
7 days (144-168 hours)	100	35	75	40
>7 days (>168 hours)	100	-	75	0

For any late submissions of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, students need to submit an application for Special Consideration.

Word limits

Assessment submissions with excessive word counts will receive a penalty commensurate with the amount the submission has exceeded the word limit stated in the assessment description. Excessive word counts will result in the following penalties:

- From 11 to 20% over the word limit = reduction by one grading band.
- More than 20% over the word limit = reduction by **at least** two grading bands, with further penalties applied at the discretion of the unit convenor.

For example: Word limit = 2000 words; Submission word count = 2240, i.e., 12% over the limit, and therefore a penalty is applied as follows:

- Initial grade = D
- Penalty = reduction of one grading band
- Final grade = C

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
<u>Critical analysis of policy</u>	40%	Yes	04/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
<u>Critical analysis of speech pathology marketing</u>	30%	No	09/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
<u>Critical self-reflection and development planning</u>	30%	Yes	06/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Critical analysis of policy

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 31 hours

Due: **04/09/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

This is a hurdle assessment task (see assessment policy for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

In this assessment, students will be required to discuss and critically appraise current or proposed policy settings relevant to speech pathology practice. Potential sources of policies are Speech Pathology Australia, Australian or international federal and state governments, and other relevant regulatory bodies. Students must demonstrate advanced understanding of the current or possible future effects of the policy settings on speech pathology practice in Australia, and offer a coherent response to the challenges and opportunities presented.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of current and projected legal regulations, and federal and state policies, and their potential impact on speech pathology service delivery.
- Analyse the implications of major health care funding systems for the delivery of speech pathology services in Australia and elsewhere.

Critical analysis of speech pathology marketing

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 23 hours

Due: **09/10/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

In this assessment, students will critically evaluate an example of current speech pathology marketing material that is available in Australia. Students will apply concepts derived from the Speech Pathology Australia Code of Ethics, and other relevant professional guidelines in their evaluation.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of current and projected legal regulations, and federal and state policies, and their potential impact on speech pathology service delivery.
- Explain the ethical application of marketing, branding, and e-media promotion of professional services within speech pathology.

Critical self-reflection and development planning

Assessment Type ¹: Reflection task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 23 hours

Due: **06/11/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

In this assessment, students will identify areas of professional competency requiring further development as new graduate speech pathologists, and how this contributes to the speech pathology profession more broadly. They will also identify and critically evaluate their role in a challenging clinical situation that they have experienced, and discuss what they would do differently in a similar situation in future.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse the implications of major health care funding systems for the delivery of speech pathology services in Australia and elsewhere.
- Critically evaluate the relationship between individual professional development and leadership systems in healthcare, and how this impacts the development of the speech pathology profession.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- [Academic Success](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

Students will participate in 2 hour lectorial classes blending teacher-fronted delivery with small group activities. Students will be expected to engage with learning materials before attending and participate in weekly classes, and then to complete learning activities following class. All scheduled learning activities will occur over the standard 13 weeks of the session.

Technology Used

Active participation in the learning activities throughout the unit will require students to have access to a tablet, laptop or similar device. Students who do not own their own laptop computer may borrow one from the university library.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)

- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

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Inclusion and Diversity

Social inclusion at Macquarie University is about giving everyone who has the potential to benefit from higher education the opportunity to study at university, participate in campus life and flourish in their chosen field. The University has made significant moves to promote an equitable, diverse and exciting campus community for the benefit of staff and students. It is your responsibility to contribute towards the development of an inclusive culture and practice in the areas of learning and teaching, research, and service orientation and delivery. As a member of the Macquarie University community, you must not discriminate against or harass others based on their sex, gender, race, marital status, carers' responsibilities, disability, sexual orientation, age, political conviction or religious belief. All staff and students are expected to display appropriate behaviour that is conducive to a healthy learning environment for everyone.

Professionalism

In the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences, professionalism is a key capability embedded in all our courses.

As part of developing professionalism, students are expected to attend all small group interactive sessions including clinical, practical, laboratory, work-integrated learning (e.g., PACE placements), and team-based learning activities. Some learning activities are recorded (e.g., face-to-face lectures), however you are encouraged to avoid relying upon such material as they do not recreate the whole learning experience and technical issues can and do occur. As an adult learner, we respect your decision to choose how you engage with your learning, but we would remind you that the learning opportunities we create for you have been done so to enable your success, and that by not engaging you may impact your ability to successfully complete this unit. We equally expect that you show respect for the academic staff who have worked hard to develop meaningful activities and prioritise your learning by communicating with them in advance

if you are unable to attend a small group interactive session.

Another dimension of professionalism is having respect for your peers. It is the right of every student to learn in an environment that is free of disruption and distraction. Please arrive to all learning activities on time, and if you are unavoidably detained, please join activity as quietly as possible to minimise disruption. Phones and other electronic devices that produce noise and other distractions must be turned off prior to entering class. Where your own device (e.g., laptop) is being used for class-related activities, you are asked to close down all other applications to avoid distraction to you and others. Please treat your fellow students with the utmost respect. If you are uncomfortable participating in any specific activity, please let the relevant academic know.

Unit information based on version 2026.01R of the [Handbook](#)