



Department of  
Education

# **North Metropolitan Speech Pathologists in Schools Pilot Program**

## About The Pilot

The North Metro Speech Pathologists in Schools (SPiS) Pilot Program gives schools the opportunity to employ a DOE speech pathologist (SP) to work with their staff, students and community. SPiS speech pathologists work on-site at schools, being embedded into the school staff. SPs are employed, managed, trained and supported through the Program however, reducing the administrative burden to the school and ensuring quality service provision.

**How does SPiS fit with other services?** The services provided through the SPiS pilot program complement and fill the gaps left by existing DOE & external services, to work towards no child falling 'between the cracks'.

**How is it funded?** Schools use their one-line budget to pay for the service.

**Who can use the service:** The program is currently available to DOE schools in the north metropolitan region, with the North Metropolitan Director of Education having authorised the pilot program.



## Benefits

- ✓ **Integrated** Tier 1, 2, and 3 services across the school
- ✓ SPs are trained in **evidence based practice** in schools
- ✓ **Quality** of service maintained by the LDC
- ✓ Access to SP services for **students who might otherwise not be able to access support**

## Services

- ❑ **Identification, assessment and diagnosis** of students with difficulties
- ❑ **Upskill and build staff capacity** through professional learning sessions, consultations and collaborative planning
- ❑ Supporting educators **side by side in class**
- ❑ Support setting up and implementing a **Response to Intervention Model** (RTI)
- ❑ Setting up **intervention groups** and training/supporting EAs to run them
- ❑ Providing **direct tier 2/3 intervention**
- ❑ **Referrals** to external agencies, including CDS, NDIS and LDC
- ❑ Program and assessment **development/review support**
- ❑ **Parent workshops** and support
- ❑ **In-class modifications and support** recommendations and modelling
- ❑ Support for staff to **implement support strategies** in class that have been recommended by external healthcare providers (e.g. external SPs)

*Flexible service delivery to meet changing needs of the school across the areas of language, literacy, speech sounds & AAC*

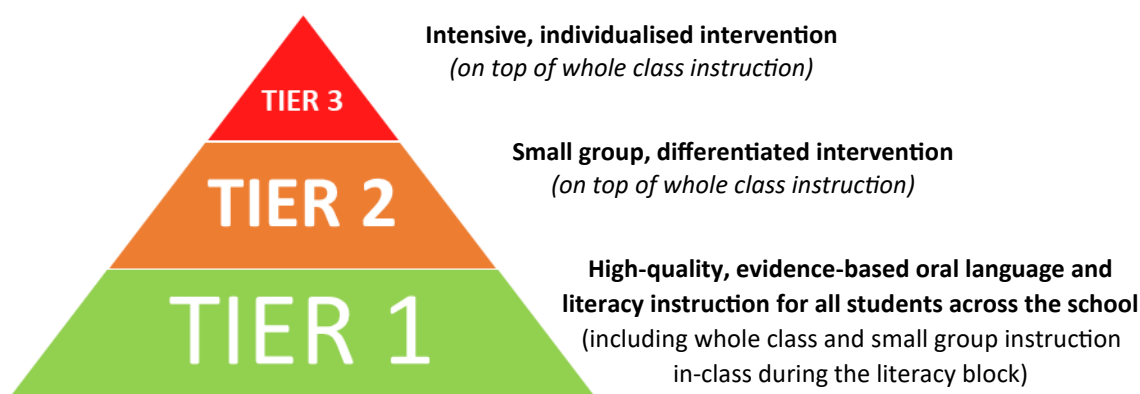


## LDC Support

- ✓ Provision of a speech pathologist
- ✓ Induction and training
- ✓ Collegiate support
- ✓ Performance development
- ✓ Human resource management
- ✓ Resources
- ✓ School support and service review

## Response to Intervention Model

The SPiS service is based on the Response to Intervention (RTI) model (also part of MTTs), which is a best practice model for the provision of speech pathology services in schools. This model is delivered within the context of the most effective, evidenced based teaching and learning practices, and prescribes multiple tiers of service provision:



The SPiS program provides services across all tiers of intervention, with particular focus on:

- ✓ Working closely with educators to upskill them and support the delivery of **high-quality, evidence-based assessment and instruction for all students within Tier 1.**  
*This forms the foundation for effective tier 2 and 3 support to then be provided.*
- ✓ Where possible, **tier 2 intervention** is prioritised over tier 3 intervention.  
*This is to broaden the impact of the SPiS service in the limited SPiS time available.*
- ✓ **Upskilling educators**/other parties supporting the school (e.g. volunteers) to provide quality tier 2/3 intervention.  
*This is important because intervention needs to be delivered intensively to be most effective – often more intensively than the number of days a week schools have an SP.*

Schools have the ultimate choice about which services they would like to use their SP for.

**ONE** in **FOURTEEN**  
people have **DLD.**



For **more information** about the Speech Pathologists in Schools Pilot Program:

Please visit <https://wp.me/Pbdn0U-1dE> .

*Alternatively, contact Cindy Stirling (North Metro Coordinating Senior Speech Pathologist)*

**Ph: 9218 1600**

E: [Cindy.Stirling@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Cindy.Stirling@education.wa.edu.au)



## Sign up

Interested schools are able to apply for the Pilot at any point in the year. Schools are appointed a SP based on suitability, availability and date of request.

As **demand is very high**, schools are advised to apply as early as possible.

The program is currently approved until the end of 2024, with hope for an extension beyond this.

***Read the Program terms of service and sign up here:***

<https://forms.office.com/r/HHwPT879hT>

That's **TWO** students in every mainstream class with **DLD**.