

A portrait of Renee Taylor, a woman with long dark hair, smiling. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter. The text 'SPEECH LANGUAGE THERAPIST' is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the image. Below it, 'KAIHAUMANU REO Ā-WAHA' is written in smaller, white, sans-serif capital letters.

# SPEECH LANGUAGE THERAPIST

KAIHAUMANU REO Ā-WAHA

Speech-language therapy provides assessment, treatment, support and care for children and adults who have difficulties with speech, communication or with swallowing. Therapists work with parents, carers and other professionals, such as teachers, nurses, occupational therapists and doctors.



Kia Ora **Hauora**  
Supporting Māori into Health

## WHAT IS A SPEECH LANGUAGE-THERAPIST?

Speech-language therapy provides assessment, treatment, support and care for children and adults who have difficulties with speech, communication or with swallowing. Therapists work with parents, carers and other professionals, such as teachers, nurses, occupational therapists and doctors. Some of the people Speech-language Therapists work with are those with Cerebral Palsy, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cleft lip/palate, Parkinson's Disease, Dementia, and Stroke.

## WHERE DO SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPISTS WORK?

Graduates can work for the Ministry of Education (MoE) in schools and homes, the Ministry of Health (MoH) in hospitals, clinics, or in the community, and can also work for Private Practices. Some Speech-language therapists also decide to continue their studies and move into research, or work at the Universities. Speech-language therapists may do some or all of the following:

- assess and treat/manage communication disorders such as dysarthria, stuttering, aphasia
- assess and treat/manage swallowing disorders 'dysphagia'
- help individuals to communicate more effectively and swallow more safely.
- lead group therapy sessions
- educate and advise clients and their families.

## WHAT TRAINING IS INVOLVED?

To be a Speech-language therapist you must gain either a Bachelor of Speech and Language Therapy, or a Master's degree. These are highly regarded degrees with a strong practical focus. You will study a range of subject areas including anatomy, physiology, linguistics and acoustics, and learn to apply theory to clinical practice.

The four- year under-graduate degree available at:

- Massey University
- University of Canterbury

The two-year Master's degree is available at:

- University of Auckland

## WHAT CLASSES SHOULD I TAKE NOW?

Useful subjects include:

- English
- Te Reo Māori
- Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Health

