Development of an integrated digital educational resources to enhance and sustain speech pathology telepractice services across Australia

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BACKGROUND

- Rapid transition to telepractice during COVID-19 was challenging for many clinical services
- Evidence based telepractice models exist for a range of speech pathology (SP) services
- Surveys of speech pathologists have highlighted accessible information and training is required to support service implementation and sustainability (Hill & Miller, 2012; Raatz et al., 2020)
- Speech Pathology Australia has prioritised the development of a suite of educational resources to support SP telepractice services

AIM

To develop integrated digital training resources that provide speech pathologists across Australia with the tools to design, develop, implement and sustain their telepractice services

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- Lead by two project officers, national working party and advisory group
- Comprising 25 speech pathologists with clinical, research and academic expertise in telepractice
- Resource content and structure guided by –
  - ✓ Recent practice survey results
  - ✓ Current published literature and evidence based practice
  - ✓ Professional telepractice service experience
  - ✓ Digital and eLearning methodology
- Speech Pathology Australia supported publication of resources on the *Learning Hub* – the Association's digital learning platform

SPEECH PATHOLOGY AUSTRALIA DIGITAL TELEPRACTICE RESOURCES

KEY DOCUMENTS

POSITION STATEMENT

- Provides summary of clinical and workplace factors involved in the delivery of SP telepractice services
- Information for consumers, employers, policy makers, and external stakeholders

Integrated into digital learning modules

PRINCIPLES OF PRACTICE

Guidance for speech pathologists on:
- Evidence base for SP telehealth models
- Service establishment & implementation including -
  - ✓ Design and scope of service
  - ✓ Professional, ethical and legal factors
  - ✓ Key stakeholders and training
  - ✓ Choosing technology to match services
  - ✓ Communication and documentation
  - ✓ Service evaluation

TELEPRACTICE PORTAL

Section 1 - Service development & implementation

- Foundation education modules on how to do design, implement and evaluate a telepractice service
- Set-by-step online program with practical workbook and case studies
- Supported by key readings, documents, websites
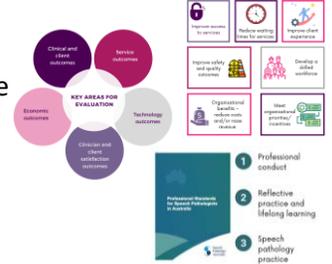
Section 2 – Delivering speech pathology telepractice services

- Practical resources on delivery of SP telepractice services for a range of client groups
- Includes –
  - Key readings & documents
  - Websites and online training
  - Audio-visual demonstrations
  - Adaptable services templates

CONCLUSION

Integration of theoretical and practical educational resources within a digital platform will support speech pathologists to enhance and sustain telepractice services across Australia

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