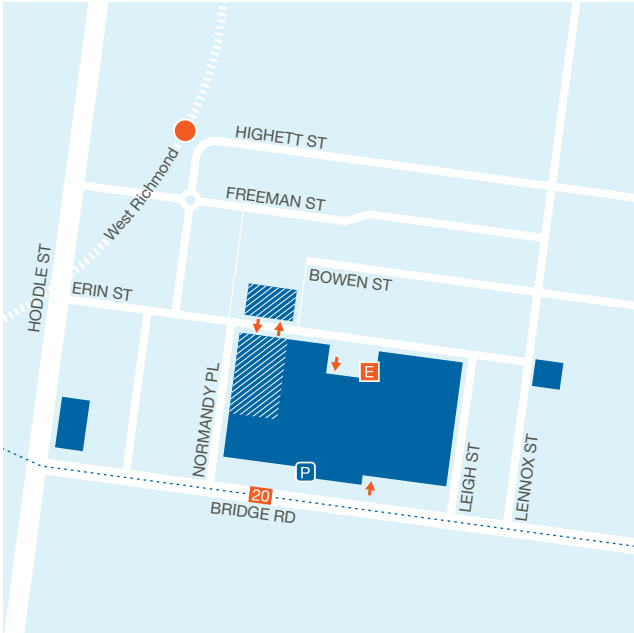


## For more information

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)

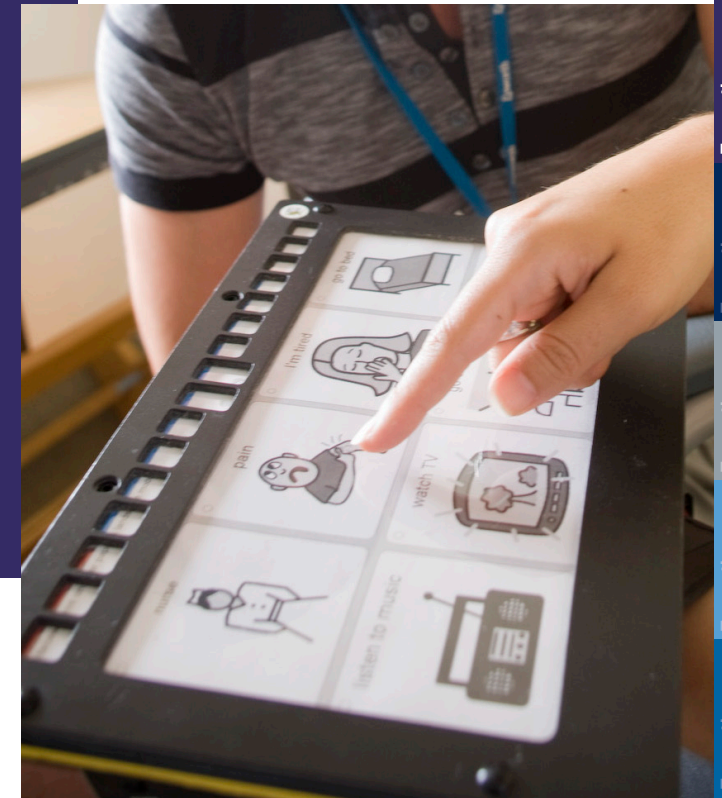
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## Epworth Rehabilitation

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# Dysarthria



**This information is provided for people who are interested in dysarthria.**

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

## What is dysarthria?

Dysarthria is the permanent or temporary impairment of speech skills due to brain or nerve damage. It results in slow, weak, imprecise and/or uncoordinated movement of the muscles used for speaking.

Conditions that can cause dysarthria 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
- Degenerative diseases; e.g. motor neurone disease, Parkinson's disease
- Brain tumours.

Dysarthria can often occur with other difficulties such as Dysphagia (a swallowing impairment) and Dysphasia (a language impairment).

## Effects of dysarthria

Difficulties that may be experienced by a person with dysarthria include:

- Slurred speech
- Slowed speech
- Unclear or distorted speech sounds
- Difficulties controlling speech volume, speaking too loudly or too softly
- Reduced intonation or pitch when speaking
- Nasal or breathy speech.

## Treatment of dysarthria

Your Speech Pathologist can provide exercises to improve your rate of speech, articulation, breathing and speech clarity.

Therapy involves exercise to help improve the strength of the speech muscles or to make speech sound natural.

There are various communication aids such as white boards, picture boards, electronic talkers and voice amplification devices that may help the person with dysarthria convey their message.

### General Tips

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



### When you are listening to someone with dysarthria:

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

### If you have dysarthria and are talking:

- Speak slowly
- Over-exaggerate sounds to make them clearer
- Use simple language - avoid complicated words or long sentences
- Draw, write or gesture to add more meaning to spoken words.