

Speech Therapy Questionnaire for CleftPALS families (past and present)

This questionnaire is entirely anonymous. The following questionnaire has been designed to gather information and opinions from our CleftPALS community regarding the system for Speech Therapy. The systems around Australia vary from state to state, and some need government assistance. In order to effectively lobby the government to include benefits for speech therapy in the Medicare Cleft Scheme, we need your help to properly assess the situation and present your issues.

Please help us by filling out the following questionnaire and returning it to your State Committee.

Section 1:

In which state do you live? _____

How old is your child now? _____

Did your child require Speech Therapy? Yes / No

If No, Thanks for your time. There is no need for you to continue. However, if you have some comments or opinions about the system in your state, please add those in the *Additional Comments* section at the end.

If yes, for how long did he/she attend? _____

At what age(s) did he/she attend? _____

Were the speech difficulties directly related to the cleft? Yes / No

Did he/she require surgery (like pharyngoplasty) to rectify the speech difficulties? Yes / No

Did you use the public system or private system for speech therapy?

Public => Did you have to wait to commence speech therapy? **Yes / No**

If so, how long? _____

If there were a Medicare benefit available at the time, would you have considered a private speech therapist? **Yes / No**

Private => Do you have private health insurance? **Yes / No**

If Yes, did your private health insurance help with the cost of speech therapy? **Yes / No**

What was the annual maximum benefit? \$ _____

Both

Section 2: Tick all that apply to your situation.

We chose the private system because:

- My child's needs were immediate and we didn't want to wait.
- My child's needs were not directly related to the cleft, so cleft experience was not necessary.
- We believed our child would get the best treatment.
- It was more convenient
- Other (Please Explain) _____

We chose the public system because:

- That's what we could afford
- My child's needs were directly related to the cleft, so cleft experience was necessary.
- Because we were more comfortable dealing with the professionals in the cleft clinic.
- We believed our child would get the best treatment.
- It was more convenient.
- Other (Please Explain) _____

Section 3: Respond to these statements by circling the most appropriate option

I am happy with the treatment my child received.

Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

I was satisfied with the public system for Speech Therapy.

Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

My child received Speech Therapy when needed.

Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

My child received speech therapy for as long as needed.

Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

My child received speech therapy when we could afford it.

Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

My child's speech therapy put financial strain on the household.

Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

My child could have benefited from more speech therapy.

Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

Section 4 :

The Medicare Cleft Dental Scheme is valid for cardholders until they reach the age of 28. If we were successful in obtaining a similar scheme for Speech Therapy, what age limit do you think would be reasonable and appropriate for our children? (Please circle)

5 10 15 20 25

Please provide reasons for your choice:

Section 5: Additional Comments

Do you have any additional comments you would like to make about Speech Therapy for children with cleft conditions?

Post to CleftPALS, PO Box 475, Lane Cove 1595

Thank you for your time.