



Government of South Australia

Department of Education and
Children's Services

“Taking it to the Highways & Skyways”

Working with local services to support children with CCN in regional communities

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Introduction



Our Roles

- Department of Education and Children's Services – Murray and Mallee Region



DECS Service Model

- Context of preschools and schools
- Consultative service
 - Supporting and training school staff
 - Individual casework
- Early years focus



Our Roles

- Novita Children's Services:
Regional Services
 - Therapy, equipment and support for children 0-18 years with a physical impairment who live in regional areas
- Visit regional areas approximately four times a year.



Novita Service Model

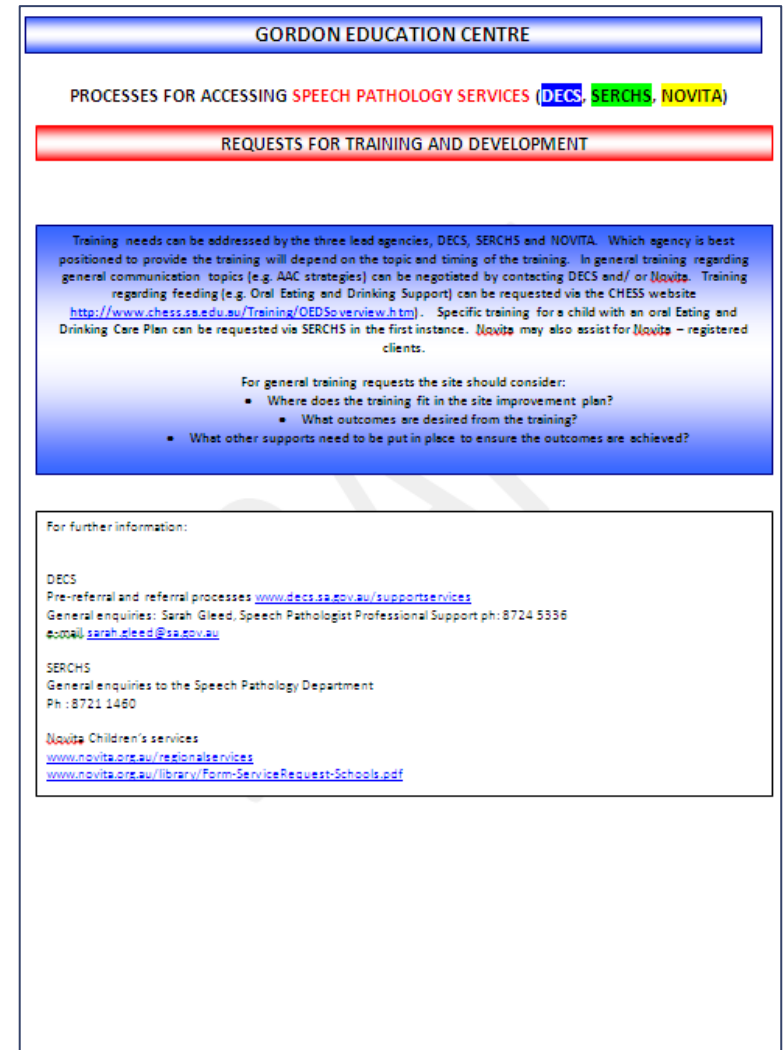
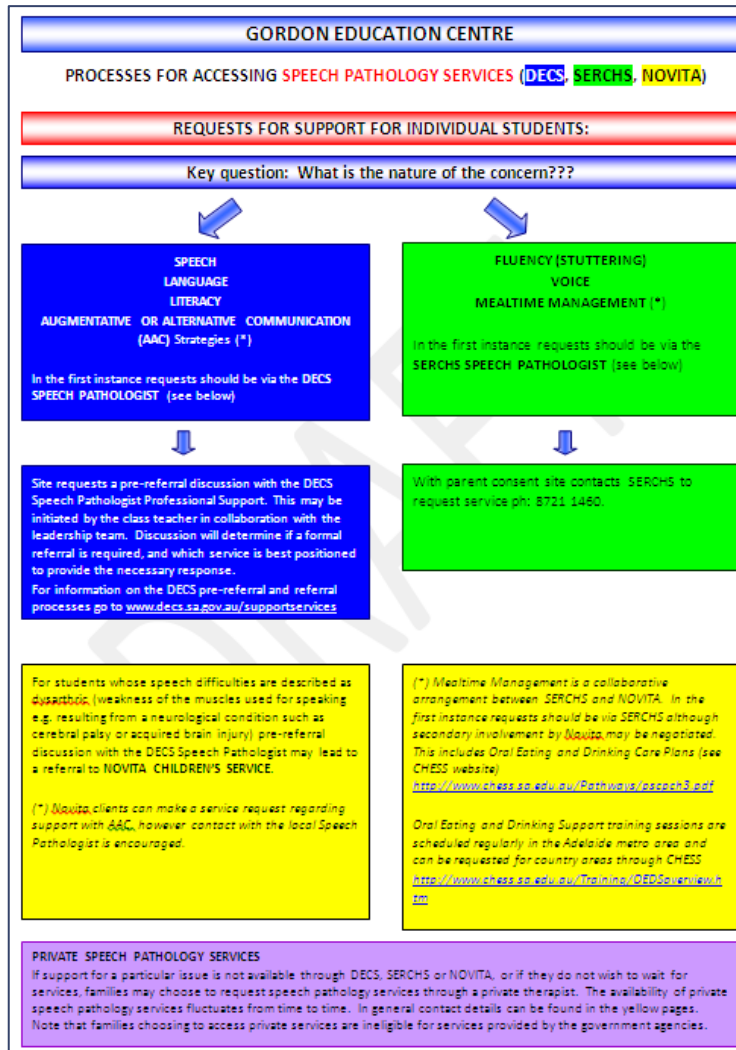
- 2008: Adopted community capacity building model
- Work together with local teams to complement existing services



How We Work Together

- Requests for services – clients encouraged to contact local team first
 - Example: ‘Who to contact’ document developed for regional special school

How we work together





How We Work Together

- Commitment to joint planning
- Negotiating actions for follow – up
- Being open to new approaches
- Clearly communicating our capabilities
- Understand and value different service models



How We Support Children with CCN

- Assessment and prescription of communication devices
 - Equipment trials
- Training and support for staff and families
- Advice on communication equipment



How We Support Children with CCN

- ‘Equipment Only’
Novita registration
 - Supporting therapists to assess & prescribe communication devices
 - Equipment funding through Dep’t for Families & Communities (SA Government)



Positive Outcomes

- A greater understanding of how each other works.
- Local services may be able to visit sites more regularly.
- Learning opportunity around AAC use.
- Increase support time for some children.



Positives

- Increase staff knowledge around supporting children with CCN
- Opportunity for student involvement
- Schools local speech pathologists as having greater expertise.

Challenges

- Staffing shortages
- Caseload pressure
- Schools contact Novita prior to local therapists
- Access to AAC devices
 - Especially new equipment
- Directives for local services to prioritise adults, early intervention.



Summary

Working within a capacity building role and development of service delivery partnerships with local service providers has led to improved AAC service provision to children with CCN in regional communities.

Questions





References

- McCashen, W. (2005). *The Strengths Approach*. St Luke's Innovative Resources: Bendigo, Victoria.

Contact

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