

Children's Services team

Staff profiles

April 2026

healthability.org.au

Big futures start with small steps

healthAbility's children's health team support your child to grow with confidence, partnering with your family every step of the way.

- Collaborative children, youth and family allied health team
- Experienced and caring professionals
- 50 years as a trusted not-for-profit organisation
- Flexible telehealth options



Speech pathology

Occupational therapy

Dietetics

Psychology

Autism and ADHD assessment

Feeding Clinic

Parenting support

Speech pathology

Our skilled and experienced Paediatric Speech Pathologists will work with children and young people to improve their communication skills.

We can help with:

- Speech sounds
- Understanding and talking, including difficulties answering questions or following instructions
- Literacy concerns, including reading
- Social skills for groups and individuals
- Alternative communication systems
- Speech and communication
- Feeding concerns including fussy eating

We are also experienced in working with children with autism spectrum disorders and developmental delays.



Venetia Su

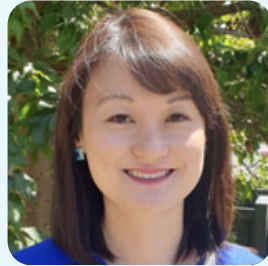
Senior Paediatric Speech Pathologist

Bachelor of Arts (Hon) (Linguistics/Media & Communication)
Master of Speech Pathology

Venetia is a Speech Pathologist with a special interest in early childhood intervention, stuttering and interdisciplinary care. She also plays a key role in supporting fellow speech pathologists and promoting a culture of learning and clinical excellence.

She provides clinical supervision to the paediatric speech pathologist at healthAbility.

Venetia is passionate about supporting young children and their families to build meaningful communication skills and actively collaborates with educators and other professionals to deliver holistic, family-centered support.



Special interest:

Early childhood intervention

Stuttering

Interdisciplinary care

Neuro-affirming practice

Georgia Sunjo

Paediatric Speech Pathologist

Bachelor of Health Sciences
Master of Speech Pathology

Georgia has worked as a Paediatric Speech Pathologist in a variety of settings, including primary and secondary schools, private practice, and community health.

She enjoys working with children of all ages. Her areas of interest include speech sound disorders and language development.

Georgia particularly loves working within a community health model as it enables her to work closely with both children and their families to achieve their communication goals and improve their overall wellbeing.

As a team leader, Georgia is passionate about empowering her team to support children, their families, and the wider community.



Special interest:

Speech sound disorders

Language development

Neuro-affirming practice



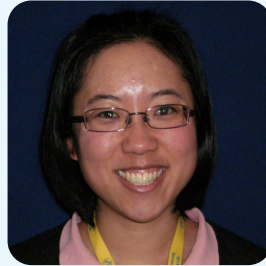
Samantha Ho

Paediatric Speech Pathologist

Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Hons)

Sam has worked in paediatrics across primary and secondary schools, private practice and early intervention and community health services for over 15 years. She supports children with speech, language, literacy and stuttering needs, and is trained in the Lidcombe Program, Hanen (It Takes Two to Talk), Little Learners Love Literacy and the Spalding approach.

Sam is passionate about collaborating with the allied health team to deliver holistic and evidence-based therapy. She believes that partnering with families to support and empower them is essential to delivering effective services.



Special interest:

Speech sound development

Literacy

Stuttering

Neuro-affirming practice

Vera Kok

Paediatric Speech Pathologist

Bachelor of Science
Master of Speech Pathology

Vera is an experienced Speech Pathologist with over 15 years experience supporting children and families across schools, private practice and community health. She has a special interest in speech and language development, early literacy, social communication, autism and neuro-affirming practice. Vera also supervises a team of clinicians.

She enjoys working collaboratively with families, educators and children to build practical, personalised strategies that support confident communication in everyday life.



Special interest:

Speech and language development

Early literacy

Social communication

Autism and neuro-affirming practice



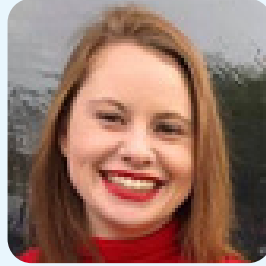
Imogen Cala

Paediatric Speech Pathologist

Bachelor of Speech and Hearing Sciences
Master of Speech Pathology

Imogen is an experienced speech pathologist who works with children aged 2-18 years to support their speech, language, and literacy skills. She has a special interest in literacy and speech sound development.

Imogen believes in using a collaborative, coaching approach to build family capacity and work together towards meaningful goals. She values neuro-affirming practice and tailors her support to each child's needs.



Special interest:

Literacy

Speech sound development

Neuro-affirming practice

Juine Lai

Speech Pathologist

Bachelor of Speech Pathology

Juine has experience working with preschool and school-aged children with a wide range of speech and language needs. She has a special interest in early literacy and helping children with articulation of speech sounds.

Juine believes in working closely with families and carers, using a child-led approach to therapy that supports each child's strengths, interests and goals.



Special interest:

Literacy

Articulation of speech sounds

Neuro-affirming practice



Ana Carey

Paediatric Speech Pathologist

BAppSc Speech Pathology

Ana is a graduate from La Trobe University and has over 20 years experience working with children. She has worked in Hospitals, Early Intervention programs, Community Health and Private Practice in Australia, New Zealand and the UK.

Ana is passionate about supporting children with their learning and social challenges.

She appreciates the privilege of working with children and their families in neuro-affirming and collaborative ways.

Ana is committed to ongoing education and professional development, and is trained in many evidenced based treatment programs.

Ana is a Certified Practising Member of Speech Pathology Australia.



Special interest:

Autism Spectrum Disorder

Social skills

Language delay

Neuro-affirming practice



Occupational therapy

Our children's occupational therapists provide expert intervention to help children and teens aged 0 to 18 overcome challenges and build essential life skills.

We can help with:

- Self-care skills – Dressing, eating, toileting, and hygiene routines.
- Fine motor skills – Handwriting, cutting, drawing, and using utensils.
- Gross motor skills – Balance, coordination, jumping, and ball skills.
- Play skills – Encouraging interaction, imagination, and physical play.
- School skills – Concentration, handwriting, organisation, and classroom participation.
- Sensory processing – Helping children with autism and other sensory needs regulate their responses.
- Social and emotional skills – Developing confidence, self-regulation skills, and positive peer interactions.



Joyce Wan

Occupational Therapist

Master of Occupational Therapy Practice

Joyce has worked in a range of settings supporting children with special needs. She uses engaging games and activities that build social skills, and develop both gross and fine motor abilities, using sensory, visual and motor-based learning tailored to each child's needs.

She enjoys partnering with children and their families to work towards meaningful goals.

Joyce is also fluent in Cantonese and Mandarin, and has extensive experience working with culturally and linguistically diverse families.



Special interest:

Children with special needs

Neuro-affirming practice

Other languages:

Cantonese

Mandarin

Shabina Mohammed

Paediatric Occupational Therapist

Bachelor of Occupational Therapy
Post Graduate Diploma Env. & Occ Health

Shabina has a diverse skill set both in both Occupational Therapy and Occupational Health.

Shabina's early career began in Occupational Therapy with clinical practice in Paediatrics, Vision, Orthopaedics, and inpatient Rehabilitation with the addition of Cardiac and Respiratory experience in the UK.

Shabina continually expands her knowledge and skills and is also an Injury Management Specialist and Occupational Rehabilitation Consultant.

Shabina adjusts her approach to meet the needs of the child and family.



Special interest:

Children's Occupational therapy

Neuro-affirming practice



Counselling and psychology

Our psychology service provides support to families with children aged from birth to 17 years. This may be in the form of assessment, treatment, therapeutic programs and consultation with educators.

We can help with:

- Concentrating, sitting still or paying attention
- Talking and being understood by others
- Learning difficulties
- Play skills
- Self-care skills
- Making friends
- Managing feelings such as anger, sadness and frustration
- Parenting and family support

We also provide cognitive, educational and neurodevelopmental assessments such as for autism and ADHD.



Emma Carlisle

Paediatric Psychologist

Masters of Professional Psychology

Emma has experience working with children, adolescents, and young adults in public and community mental health settings.

She provides cognitive, academic, and neurodevelopmental assessments and utilises a range of evidence-based treatment modalities tailored to the therapeutic needs of the young person. She has particular interest in neurodiversity and trauma-informed care.

Emma is passionate about creating therapeutic alliances with young people and their support systems to build resilience and identity. She aims to create a safe, trusted, collaborative space where young people feel heard and empowered.



Special interest:

Neurodiversity

Trauma-informed care

Neuro-affirming practice

Emma Tse

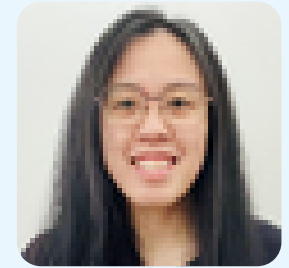
Paediatric Psychologist

Bachelor of Science Psychology, Masters of Ed & Dev Psychology, Post-graduate Diploma in educational psychology practice

Emma is a New Zealand trained psychologist with experience supporting children and families across a range of presentations.

Special interest areas include conducting assessments and supporting children with trauma backgrounds

Emma takes a child-centred, strengths-based approach to working with young people, ensuring that their voice is heard and valued throughout the therapeutic process. Sessions are adjusted to each child's developmental stage and interests to help the child feel safe, understood and confident in sharing their thoughts and feelings.



Special interest:

Assessments

Trauma-informed care

Neuro-affirming practice



Joan Lauricella Family Support Worker

Bachelor of Behavioural Sciences
Diploma of Education | Diploma of Community
Services (Welfare Studies)

Joan has over 20 years of experience supporting families in the local community. She provides individualised parenting consultations, practical strategies, and tailored resources for families, as well as facilitates a range of parenting groups and seminars. She offers a family-centred, strengths-based approach that empowers parents to feel more confident in their role.

Passionate about working in partnership with families, she focuses on helping parents create positive, lasting changes. Joan supports parents to work toward shared goals, though she does not provide couples counselling.



Special interest:

Family
counselling

Education
programs

Neuro-affirming
practice



Dietetics

Our dietitians support your child in making positive changes in their eating habits and enhance the feeding relationship between carers and the child.

We can help with:

- Nutrition, healthy eating and meal planning
- Lunchbox ideas
- Infant feeding and introducing solids
- Bowel issues and reflex
- Food behaviour issues
- Growth concerns
- Fussy and selective eating
- Sensory needs affecting feeding and food choices
- Food allergies and intolerance



Carol Dietitian

Accredited Practising Dietitian

Carol is an accredited practising Dietitian with extensive community health experience. She is a member of the Dietitians Association of Australia and has completed Sequential Oral Sensory (SOS) and Responsive Feeding Therapy training.

Her special interests include slow growth, obesity, fussy eating, sensory-related feeding challenges, food intolerances, nutrient deficiencies, and gut health.

Carol works closely with children and families to assess growth and nutritional needs, provide tailored nutrition advice, and support positive mealtime routines. She also collaborates with other health professionals for holistic care.



Special interest:

Slow growth

Obesity

Fussy eating

Sensory needs
affecting eating

Food intolerance

Nutrient deficiency

Digestive and gut
health issues

Neuro-affirming
practice

Other languages:

Cantonese

Mandarin



Family support services



Cate Charles

Health Navigator Pathway to Good Health

Registered Nurse
BSN Postgrad Dip Mental Health

Cate is a dedicated Paediatric Nursing Professional with a focus on youth mental and physical health and community-based services. Her career has spanned working in hospitals and schools in three separate countries. She is passionate about facilitating healthcare across the clinical spectrum and supporting easier access to empowering interventions and engagement for youth.

Cate uses a trauma-informed care lens to support individuals holistically, helping them feel engaged, empowered, and informed throughout their care.



Special interest:

Trauma-informed care

Neuro-affirming practice

Cindy Tan

Allied Health Assistant

Certificate III in Children's Services

Cindy provides both clinical and administrative support across occupational therapy, speech pathology, psychology, family support work and children's group programs.

She is passionate about supporting children's development and enjoys working closely with families to help them navigate services and achieve the best possible outcomes.

Cindy is committed to collaboration and the smooth coordination of services, ensuring a positive experience for families.



Special interest:

Early intervention supports

Neuro-affirming practice

Other languages:

Cantonese
Mandarin





Renee Wang **Allied Health Assistant**

Cert IV in Allied Health Assistance

Renee is an Allied Health Assistant supporting our both the team and liaises with our kindergarten networks.

Renee enjoys helping children engage in sessions to achieve their developmental goals.

Renee enjoys working with children and young people in a supportive and engaging way, and aims to build positive relationships with families and carers, encouraging collaboration and participation.

She believes early intervention plays an important role in supporting better long-term outcomes as children grow into adults.



Special interest:

**Early
intervention
supports**

**Neuro-affirming
practice**

Other languages:

Mandarin



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