

SPEAKOUT

THE MAGAZINE FOR AUSTRALIAN SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS

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**SPEAKING UP FOR
DEVELOPMENTAL
LANGUAGE
DISORDER (DLD)**

Cindy Stirling and a child enjoying conversation.

**Tips on keeping the
spark in your speech
pathology career from
40 year members!**

**What you need to
know when preparing
to cease services**



**Speech
Pathology
Australia**



WORKPLACE RELATIONS & BUSINESS MATTERS

HR VIEW: PROTECTING YOUR PRACTICE'S CYBER SECURITY

In recent years, Australia's healthcare sector has been hit with growing cyber security threats, leading to serious data breaches. Even speech pathology practices are at risk, so it's essential to protect your client and business information.

Some of the potential impacts of a cyber security breach include:

- **Reputational damage:** A breach of trust can lead to your speech pathology practice losing clients and staff.
- **Business disruption:** Losing access to important data and systems can cause downtime, with an inability to bill clients or access their clinical records.



WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOUR PRACTICE

To protect your speech pathology practice from a cyber security breach, it's crucial to safeguard sensitive client information, protect confidentiality and ensure your operations run smoothly. Here are some practical steps to consider:

- **Workplace policies:** Create clear workplace policies such as a privacy policy, IT security policy, and data risk management policy.
- **Business continuity planning:** Develop a business continuity plan and make sure it works by testing it in case of a cyber-attack.
- **Staff training:** Provide your team with regular training on IT security and data risk management.
- **Risk assessments:** Conduct risk assessments to understand where your data is stored and how sensitive it is. This may mean assessing any external partners who manage your data.
- **IT security:** Implement robust IT security measures.
- **Data management:** Back up all important data regularly and store it securely.

HOW TO RESPOND TO A CYBER SECURITY BREACH

When faced with an attempted or actual security breach in your speech pathology practice, it's important to investigate these concerns with your IT team or a specialist provider. If the breach poses a risk to staff or clients, follow *The Privacy Act 1988* by notifying the affected individuals and reporting the breach to the Australian Information and Privacy Commissioner.

Being proactive about cyber security helps protect your practice from potential risks. If you need help managing these risks or updating your HR policies, you can seek advice from an HR consultancy that works closely with the allied health sector such as [WorkPlacePLUS](https://www.WorkPlacePLUS.com.au).

As the national HR and IR partner of Speech Pathology Australia, WorkPlacePLUS provides expert advice to SPA members. For assistance or more information, contact Anna Pannuzzo on (03) 9492 0958 or visit www.WorkPlacePLUS.com.au

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