



Australians with difficulty communicating and swallowing

Rationale for the statement of over 1.1 million Australians experiencing difficulty with communication right now.

Total= **1150756**

19,800 = 1/3 of people with stroke have aphasia (RCSLT, 2009) and there are over 60,000 strokes every year (National Stroke Foundation, 2012)

60% of these are age 65 and over (AIHW, 2004) so remove 60% of 19800 from analyses of adults over 65 years= 11880

612931= 20% of adults over 65 years (3076539- 11880)= 3064659 have voice problems (Golub, Chen, Otto, Hapner, & Johns, 2006)

64,600= Australians with Autism (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2009)

20000= 6.9% of 3 year olds (292796- Census 2006- 1% Autism= 289868) have speech or language problems (Law, Boyle, Harris, Harkness, & Nye, 2000)

56515= 20% of four year olds (285430- Census 2006- 1% Autism= 282576) have language impairment (expressive or receptive) (Reilly et al., 2010)

31137= 11% of (285923 Census minus 1% Autism= 283064) five year olds have speech or language delay (Law et al., 2000)

163306 people = 0.72% of the population estimated to have fluency problems (Craig, Hancock, Tran, Craig, & Peters, 2002)

182467= 6% of school children (I counted 6-16 years to be on the safe side and remove overlap with stats above for 3-5 year olds=3041112) who have voice problems (Carding, Roulstone, & Northstone, 2006)

1134072 Australians have difficulties swallowing that may require help from a speech pathologist.

Based on: 5% of Australians have moderate-severe dysphagia (Eslick & Talley, 2008)