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ANIMAL-ASSISTED THERAPY

Animal-Assisted Therapy is a vibrant and motivating delivery of speech pathology services, currently offered by our Speech Pathologist Phoebe Amos, alongside her animal-assistant, Cooper. Cooper is a border collie who has been certified as a therapy dog through Therapy Dogs Australia and takes part in enhancing the therapeutic experience.

**Animals ask no questions,
place no expectation to perform and
provide unconditional love**



What is Animal Assisted Therapy?

Animal-Assisted Therapy is a goal-directed intervention which is rapidly growing in popularity within the health and medical sector.

The reason for this is the growing interest in the impact on Human-Animal bond within our everyday lives. The relationships between humans and animals is a vibrant, often mutually rewarding and comforting experience. **Animals ask no questions, make no verbal demands, place no expectation to perform and provide unconditional love.** Animal-Assisted Therapy relies on this unique bond, providing a warm, stress-free environment for individuals to communicate and interact.

- SERVICES CAN BE ACCESSED BY -

NDIS Participants | Privately Insured Clients | GP Plans | DVA Clients (Gold and White Card Holders)
Clients with Third Party / Compensable Claims - including
Workplace Injury, Motor Vehicle Accident, Income Protection / Disability & Public Liability



During the session, Phoebe will continue to work towards your communication and/or swallowing goals, however having Cooper in the room will add a unique dimension to the session.

Research indicates the presence of a therapy dog within Speech Pathology sessions can work to support the following:

- Enhance motivation towards therapy
- Increase communication confidence
- Vocabulary building/descriptive language development
- Build use/understanding of cause/effect language ('I don't want/I do want', 'come', 'stay', 'sit')
- Support shared interactions (including person-person, person-dog)
- Improve speech clarity
- Build awareness of social norms/hierarchies
- Improve social skills
- Awareness of verbal and non-verbal cues
- Support reading skills/confidence

Who will benefit from Animal-Assisted Therapy?

Many people present with **speech, language or social communication difficulties** and may benefit from Animal-Assisted Therapy during their Speech Pathology sessions.

These difficulties can be as a result from (but are not limited to) the following:

Intellectual Disability

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Acquired Brain Injury (ABI)

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Stroke

A Speech Pathologist can assess the level of your skills and provide support to strengthen areas of need:

- Speech clarity support
- Expressive & receptive language development
- Alternative augmentative communication needs (AAC)
- Neurological and functional voice disorder rehabilitation
- Communication partner training
- Social skills development
- Literacy training

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