

# Verbal dyspraxia

## What is verbal dyspraxia?

Verbal dyspraxia is a speech problem. It causes difficulty with positioning and planning muscle movements for speech.

Verbal dyspraxia is not caused by muscle weakness.

It may be difficult to

- put your mouth, lips or tongue in the right position for speech
- say each sound or syllable in order
- speak in long sentences
- speak fluently
- speak clearly

## What causes verbal dyspraxia?

Stroke, brain injury or brain tumour can cause verbal dyspraxia.

## Will my verbal dyspraxia get better?

- each person is different
- some people improve quickly and others slowly

## **A speech pathologist can**

- give you tips and exercises to help your speech
- help you communicate better with friends and family

## **Tips for you**

- look at the person you are talking to
- find a quiet place to talk
- use gesture
- use pen and paper
- write key words and draw
- a picture board might help

## **Tips for your communication partner**

- encourage the person to use the tips above
- give the person time to speak
- check to make sure you have understood correctly
- don't speak for the person

## **Useful websites**

- National Stroke Foundation: [www.strokefoundation.com.au](http://www.strokefoundation.com.au)

Talk to your speech pathologist for more information.

