Further information
The SERU website has more detail about workshops.

Communication Support Service
Special Education Resource Unit
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(Click: Specialised Services/
Communication Support Service)
Severe speech and/or language disability

Why is extra support needed?
Students with a severe speech and/or language disability have difficulty with receptive and/or expressive language. They need support to access, participate and achieve in all areas of their school learning.

Early intervention is very important.

What is the Communication Support Service?
This is a statewide service, which supports students with a severe speech and/or language disability.

The service also works with school and preschool staff to help implement and evaluate suitable intervention strategies. Such strategies help these students participate in the curriculum on the same basis as students without a disability.

Which students are eligible to use the service?
Students must meet all of the following criteria:
• attending a DECS school or in transition from a preschool to a DECS school
• assessed by a DECS guidance officer as having non-verbal skills within the average range
• assessed by a DECS speech pathologist as having a severe speech and/or language disability and likely to benefit from support by the Communication Support Service.

How do schools access the service for students?
• Discuss the criteria with your district guidance officer and speech pathologist.
• If the student is eligible, seek consent from the parent/carer.
• Complete the application form, available on the SERU website. It is called Request for Student Support.
• Forward the completed form to the Communication Support Service at the Special Education Resource Unit.

Professional development for staff
For individuals or groups of staff
The Communication Support Service team can help with:
• inclusive oral language teaching practices
• the use of the latest assistive technology.

Schools and district service providers may negotiate additional workshops.

District service providers or principals should contact the Communication Support Service to plan a training program.

Statewide
Statewide training and development is advertised in DECS Xtra each term and on the SERU website.

Professional development topics include:
• inclusive practices
• visual strategies
• oral language in the curriculum
• oral language games
• social skills
• Boardmaker
• effective questioning
• oral narrative development
• Clicker 5 Jigworks.