

If you would like further information please contact:

Speech Pathology Service

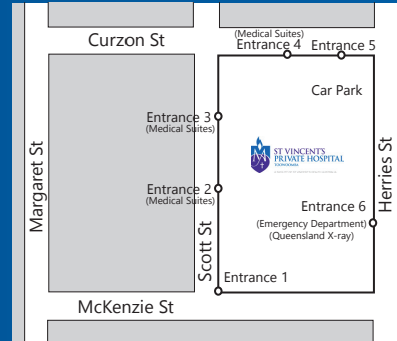
Telephone: (07) 4690 4052

Inspired by
You



**ST VINCENT'S
PRIVATE HOSPITAL**
TOOWOOMBA

A FACILITY OF ST VINCENT'S HEALTH AUSTRALIA



APRAXIA A disorder of speech

St Vincent's Private Hospital Toowoomba

Telephone (07) 4690 4000

Web address www.svpht.org.au

Scott Street
TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350

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INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS AND CARERS

Do you need an INTERPRETER?

The hospital provides a free, confidential interpreting service. Please ask your doctor or nurse to organise one for you.

HA BISOGNO DI UN INTERPRETE? L'ospedale offre un servizio interpreti gratuito e confidenziale. Chieda al Suo medico o alla Sua infermiera di organizzarLe un interprete

¿NECESITA UN INTÉRPRETE? El hospital le ofrece un servicio de intérpretes gratuito y confidencial. Por favor, solicite a su médico o enfermera que lo organice.

ΧΡΕΙΑΖΕΣΤΕ ΔΙΕΡΜΗΝΕΑ; Το νοσοκομείο παρέχει δωρεάν, εμπιστευτική υπηρεσία διερμηνείας. Παρακαλείστε να ζητάτε από το γιατρό ή νοσοκόμο σας να κανονίζει διερμηνέα για σας.

TREBA LI VAM TUMAČ? Bolnica pruža besplatnu i povjerljivu službu tumača. Molimo vas, upitajte vašeg liječnika ili medicinsku sestru da vam to organiziraju.

ДА ЛИ ВАМ ТРЕБА ПРЕВОДИЛАЦ? Болница пружа бесплатне, поверљиве услуге преводиоца. Замолите свог лекара или медицинску сестру да вам обезбеде преводиоца.

QUÍ VỊ CÓ CẦN THÔNG NGÔN VIÊN KHÔNG? Bệnh viện cung cấp dịch vụ thông ngôn miễn phí và kín đáo. Xin yêu cầu bác sĩ hay y tá sắp xếp thông ngôn viên cho quý vị.

您需要傳譯員嗎?
本醫院提供免費而保密的傳譯服務。請要求您的醫生或護士為您安排傳譯員。

TERCÜMANA İHTİYACINIZ VAR MI? Hastanemiz ücretsiz ve gizlilik ilkesine bağlı tercümanlık hizmeti sunmaktadır. Doktorunuz veya hemşirenizden size bir tercüman temin etmelerini rica ediniz.

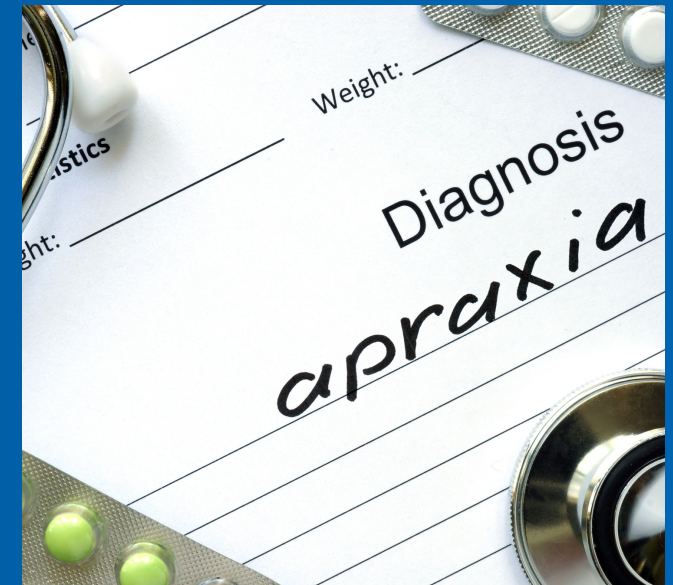
MA U BAAHAN TAHAY TURJUMAAN? Isbitaalku wuxuu bixiyaa adeeg turjumaan oo lacag la'aan ah, qarsoodina ah. Fadlan weydii dhaqtarkaaga ama kalkaaliyahaaga inay turjumaan kuu ballamiyaan.

هل أنت بحاجة إلى مترجم؟ نقدم المستشفى خدمة ترجمة مجانية وسريّة. الرجاء الطلب من طبيبك أو الممرضة الترتيب لمترجم لأجلك.



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Apraxia is caused by damage to the movement control centres of the brain, resulting in difficulties being able to plan the rapid movements needed to form sounds and words.

A person may know exactly what they want to say, but the signals from the brain to the muscles are disrupted and they cannot achieve the movements to produce the correct sounds. This may result in a person saying something completely different from the intended word and it may even be made up. For example, a person may say “chicken” or even “bipem” instead of “kitchen”.

This is not due to muscle weakness, but rather, involuntary control of planned movement.

The severity of apraxia can range from slight difficulty saying the sounds of words correctly to extreme difficulty and not being able to say words at all. Apraxia is not always isolated to speech and may also effect gesture. The severity of the Apraxia depends on what type and extent of brain damage.

Apraxia can happen on its own or at the same time as other speech or language problems such as dysarthria and aphasia.

Apraxia may be caused by:

- Stroke
- Head Injury
- Neurosurgery
- Brain tumours
- Dementia

CHARACTERISTICS OF APRAXIA

- **Imitation** - difficulty imitating and saying sounds on your own
- **Inconsistent** - Able to say a word correctly sometimes, but incorrectly other times.
- **Groping** - moving your tongue and lips to get them into the right place as you try to say sounds
- **Slow** - Speak more slowly
- **Automatic speech** is easier – utterances that you say all the time like “Hello” or “How are you?”
- In more severe cases, not being able to say any sounds at all.

TIPS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH SOMEONE WITH APRAXIA

- Modify the environment: reduce background noise e.g., turn off the TV/radio), find a quiet place to talk.
- Remember that the person’s intelligence is not affected; they just have a problem with speaking.
- Allow the person plenty of time to talk, make eye contact and face them directly.
- Accept alternate modes such as gesture, body language and tone of voice as communication. Do not pressure a person to use speech, as this may increase their frustration and reduce their likelihood of using their limited speech.



- Be prepared for fluctuations in communication ability from day to day.
- Take break from communication based activities; instead, listen to music, walk in the garden, or try craft and hobbies as outlets.

For more information:

- Contact a speech pathologist
- Talk to your doctor.