

2026 RUN award application

Title: Telehealth Simulated Placements: Facilitating Speech Pathology Graduate Readiness for Future Practice

Abstract

Preparing speech pathology graduates for a changing world requires learning experiences that build adaptability, clinical reasoning, and transferable skills. Regardless of the regions that our speech pathology graduates work in, they need skills to be responsive to the contexts and people they work with.

To meet this need, we developed an innovative simulated, peer-learning, telehealth placement model for all final-year students to build skills in telehealth and specific practice areas of voice and stuttering. This placement model provides an equitable and accessible learning opportunity, for our diverse student cohort from across Australia, some with learning adjustments, and some who study part-time.

Over 200 students have completed these placements over four years. Student feedback highlights the safe, equitable, and authentic learning environment that builds confidence in these practice areas, and in providing services via telehealth. Stakeholders report that our students are adaptable, collaborative, and practice-ready, with the skills required for regional practice and the evolving demands of contemporary healthcare. Overall, our innovative telehealth simulated placements equitably equip diverse speech pathology students for versatile practice in a changing world.