

# Supporting Disabled Children with Complex Dysphagia

## A Responsive and Multidisciplinary Approach

This two-day advanced workshop is designed for allied health professionals who support disabled children with dysphagia. The online workshop is presented by an experienced multidisciplinary team including Speech Pathologists, Occupational Therapist, Dietitian, and a medical specialist.

Participants will increase their understanding of dysphagia in disability, challenge their clinical reasoning, and build practical skills in assessment, intervention, and multidisciplinary care.

### Who Should Attend

Allied health professionals working with disabled children with complex feeding needs. Presumed knowledge: foundational skills in paediatric feeding assessment and intervention (covered in our Responsive Feeding House Model Workshop).



**16th and 17th  
November 2026**

**8:30am – 5pm  
Online**

Tickets on sale: **30th January  
2026** (early bird ends on  
30th June 2026)

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#### COST

**\$750\*** early bird/**\$800\*** full price  
Buy your tickets at our website  
[feedingtherapyaustralia.com.au](http://feedingtherapyaustralia.com.au)

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\* GST added at checkout



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## Learning Outcomes

By the end of the two-day workshop, participants will be able to:

- 1 Apply a systems approach to understand the complexity of dysphagia in disabled children.
- 2 Identify which standardised feeding assessment tools to use in different populations.
- 3 Support children who use enteral feeding, including safe oral feeding opportunities where appropriate and tube weaning with a DT.
- 4 Understand medical, respiratory, and gastrointestinal factors impacting dysphagia decision-making for disabled children.
- 5 Identify aspiration risks and determine when to refer for VFSS or FEES.
- 6 Work collaboratively with an OT around seating, positioning, and self-feeding equipment to support safety and independence at mealtimes.
- 7 Implement dysphagia interventions, including chewing development, cup and straw progression, and texture modification using the IDDSI framework.
- 8 Apply trauma-informed and relationship-based feeding practices for disabled children and their families.
- 9 Support oral hygiene and saliva management to improve health and safety.
- 10 Demonstrate ethical and safe practice, including EDAR.
- 11 Work effectively within a multidisciplinary team to create mealtime management plans.



## PRESENTERS:

**Val Gent, SP**

**Debbie Alvarez, SP**

**Rebecca Penfold, OT**

**Lauren Gladman, DT**

**Kate Headley, SP**

**Dr Elizabeth Thompson**

Rehabilitation Medicine Specialist



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