

Responsive Feeding House Model

Postgraduate Paediatric Feeding Workshop:

A family centred approach to paediatric feeding assessment and therapy



2-4th September 2026

8:30am – 5pm
Aerial Function Centre,
University of Technology Sydney

FACE TO FACE OR LIVESTREAM

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

COST

\$1,125* early bird/**\$1,200*** full price

Buy your tickets at our website
feedingtherapyaustralia.com.au

Single tickets are available for day 3 (for those who have attended day 1 and 2 of this workshop series).
Please email us at feedingtherapyaustralia@gmail.com

* GST added at checkout

Whether you are new to paediatric feeding or are an experienced therapist keen to expand your knowledge and skills, this workshop is for you!

Three days filled with case studies, videos, knowledge sharing, and discussion.

feedingtherapyaustralia@gmail.com
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Australia

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Day 1 & Day 2

**2nd and 3rd
September 2026**

**PAEDIATRIC FEEDING
ASSESSMENT AND THERAPY**
Getting started and making
therapy successful

Day 1 and 2 Learning Outcomes

1. To understand what Responsive Feeding is and why it is so important in our practice.
2. To feel confident in undertaking a feeding assessment in children.
3. To be aware of the developmental stages of chewing in older children (2 years up) and their importance in paediatric feeding assessments.
4. To understand what the Responsive Feeding House Model is and how it can be applied to your caseload.
5. To know how to increase a child's food variety.
6. To understand how to apply responsive feeding strategies with fussy eaters.
7. To gain a sound understanding of neurodiversity affirming feeding practices and their application to your caseload.
8. To understand how to apply responsive feeding strategies in children with PFD.



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Day 3

4th September 2026



Day 3 Learning Outcomes

1. To understand how the Responsive Feeding House Model can be used with complex feeding cases.
2. To understand the inter-relationship complexities of ARFID and Paediatric Feeding Disorders (PFD).
3. To feel confident in knowing how to support autistic children and feeding differences
4. To understand co-regulation and how to practice this in your feeding sessions (Guest Speaker: Rebecca Penfold, Senior Occupational Therapist).
5. Supporting anxious parents and children using a trauma informed coaching model

What is not included: Breast, bottle feeding and introduction to solids will not be covered. Please attend the 2-day paediatric infant feeding workshop for these topics.

Day 3 Guest Speaker:

Rebecca Penfold

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST
COASTWIDE THERAPY SERVICES

Understanding the unique sensory profiles of children with complex feeding differences.

Our house model is a responsive feeding framework that can be used with any child or family struggling with feeding differences. This family centred model is grounded in evidenced-based theory and supports you in developing therapy programs that are successful and that focus on generalising long-term feeding goals.



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ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Debbie Alvarez

Debbie is a speech pathologist with 22 years' experience supporting babies and children with feeding difficulties. She has worked in acute hospital settings including St George and Sydney Children's Hospital, where she met and worked with Val. Debbie is the owner of 'Feeding Kids Sydney', a private practice in Southern Sydney that supports families having difficulty with breast and bottle feeding, the introduction to solids, fussy and restricted eating, as well as children with a disability who require dysphagia management and tube feeding.

Debbie uses responsive feeding techniques in her practice and has, together with Val, developed the Responsive Feeding House Model under their joint business 'Feeding Therapy Australia'. She currently mentors therapists around Australia and has presented both in Australia and internationally.



Valerie Gent

Val is a speech pathologist who has worked in paediatric feeding difficulties for 22 years. She has experience both in acute and disability healthcare models and currently owns 'Let's Eat! Feeding Therapy', a dedicated paediatric feeding private practice in Newcastle.

Val has published a kid's book "I'm NOT Hungry for My Dinner" using the Satter Division of Responsibility principles which received the Elyn Satter Institute (ESI) seal of approval and was shortlisted for the Speech Pathology Australia 'Book of the Year' awards in 2022. She also completed her Master of Medical Research at Griffith University in 2023 examining 'The impact of feeding difficulties on the participation of primary school aged autistic children and their families' and was given the 'Award of Excellence in a Research Thesis'.

Val currently presents with Debbie under their company, 'Feeding Therapy Australia' and is currently doing her PhD in responsive feeding at the University of Queensland.



ATTENDEES HAVE SAID THE FOLLOWING ABOUT THEIR COURSES

"Loved the passion and knowledge of Val and Debbie. Both are great at presenting and were very engaging."

"Knowledgeable presenters, good resources & models (House model, food wheel). Cheat sheets are great!"

"I got so much out of this workshop, Debbie and Val are amazing, it was very practical."

"Thank you so much for sharing your wealth of knowledge and organising it in such an accessible way."



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