



## Allied Health Assistants

Allied health assistants (AHA) support and assist the work of Clinicians in helping individuals reach their health and wellbeing goals. This is achieved across multiple disciplines, including speech pathology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, exercise physiology and dietetics.

The role and responsibilities of Clinicians and allied health assistants are clearly defined:

### Roles & Responsibilities of Clinicians and Allied Health Assistants

Clinicians	AHAs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide specialised expertise in the assessment of Clients with a range of conditions and illnesses to reach their identified health and wellbeing goals.</li> <li>Overall development and monitoring of Client treatment plans and working with AHAs to implement the therapy component of the treatment plan.</li> <li>AHAs receive ongoing training, supervision, and support from the Clinician to ensure that the work they perform is to a high standard.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake some of the duties that require less developed skills.</li> <li>AHAs may work with one discipline or across disciplines, working within clearly defined parameters, determined by the needs of the Client and the Clinician.</li> <li>Implementation of therapy programs.</li> <li>E.g. ongoing therapy programs, such as exercise programs, communication programs or training in daily living activities, like cooking.</li> </ul>

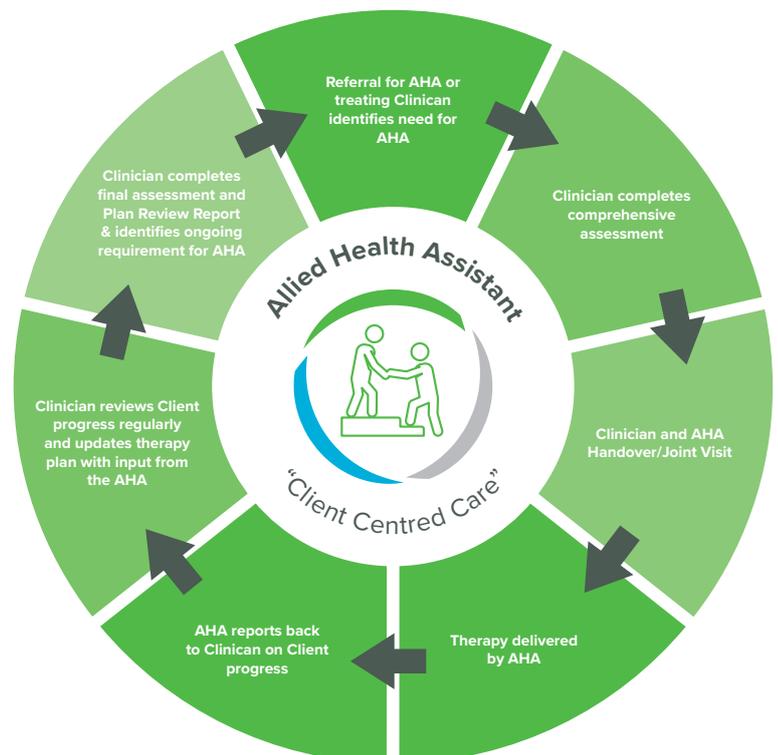
The Clinician and AHA meet regularly to review Client progress, and modify the program where necessary to ensure the Client is on track to meet their goals.

### Working With AHAs

#### Benefits:

- Improved accessibility to quality allied health services.
- Increased level of hours of clinical care leading to improved Client outcomes.
- Improved affordability. On an hourly basis AHAs are at a lower rate, offering incredible value.

## AHA Model of Care



# Case Study

A referral received for Speech Pathology services, to assist Paul with his communication. The plan included funding for 22 hours with a Speech Pathologist.

	Clinician	AHA	Cost Benefit
Sue the Speech Pathologist completed an initial assessment and developed a treatment plan. Sue included an AHA to deliver 22 hours of therapy. This gave Paul more hours of therapy to achieve his goals.	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul was initially provided with 22 hours of funding for a Speech Pathologist (Sue) at the Clinician rate (\$193.99 per hour x 22 = \$4,268). This allowed <b>\$4,268</b> for Paul's speech pathology services. Sue then delegated 26 hours of therapy to the AHA (\$86.79 x 26 = <b>\$2,262</b>).</li> <li>Sue planned to use 10 hours in total for her assessments, reports, travel, liaison, and other follow up (\$193.99 per hour x 10 = <b>\$1,940</b>).</li> <li>Paul therefore benefited with more hours for therapy and clinical care. Instead of 22 hours with Sue, he was able to access 36 hours in total, including approximately 20 hours of direct therapy from the AHA.</li> <li><b>Overall, Paul benefited from extending his plan from 22 hours of speech Pathology services to 36 hours. That's over 60% more services when utilising an AHA!</b></li> </ul>
Sue organised a visit with the Client and AHA. The treatment plan was reviewed and tasks delegated to the AHA to provide ongoing therapy with Paul.	✓	✓	
The AHA proceeded and implemented the therapy program with Paul.		✓	
AHA identified that Paul had advanced in his therapy and required an updated treatment plan. AHA alerted Sue to the change in Paul's clinical status.		✓	
Sue completed an appointment with Paul and reviewed his current function.	✓		
Sue updated the treatment plan with Paul and instructed the AHA on how it is to be implemented. AHA then continued with the updated plan.	✓		
Sue and AHA both participated in ongoing supervision and governance to ensure optimal Client care and clinical outcomes.	✓	✓	
Towards the end of Paul's treatment plan, Sue gained feedback from the AHA on Paul's progress, completed any final reviews and assessments required then completed a final report. The report will provide an update on Paul's progress throughout the plan and made recommendations for the next plan. Continued therapy with the AHA was included for ongoing goal achievement.	✓	✓	