

What is the speech pathologist's role in health literacy? Beyond our caseloads.

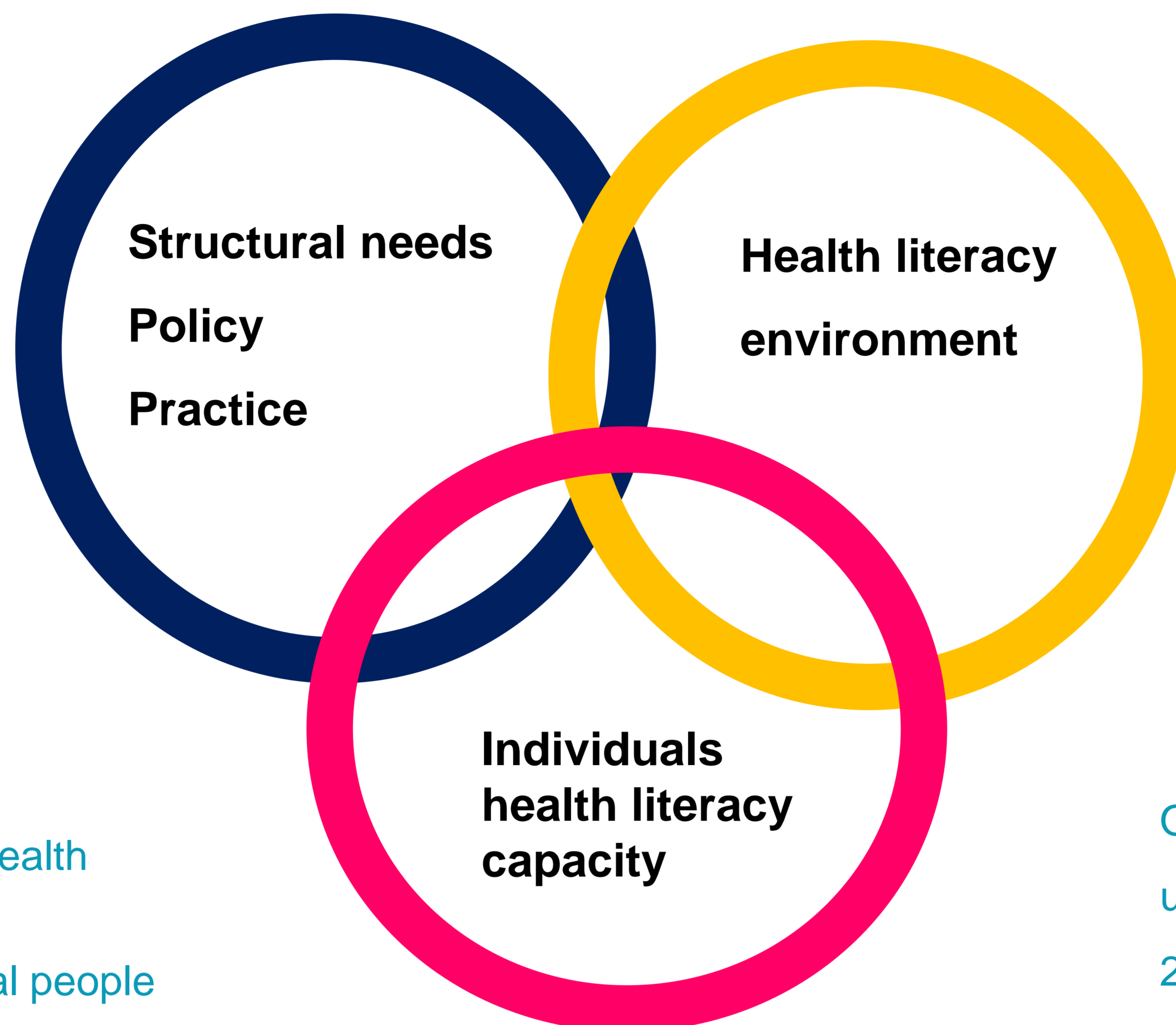
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Only 2 in 5 Australian adults have the health literacy to manage a range of health information reading tasks. This does **not** include rural and remote Aboriginal people or people in institutions. ABS; #4228 OECD 2013, 2016, 2019. ABS, 2019.



Only 2 in 5 adults can effectively use the internet. ABS #4228 2013, 2016, 2019
2.5 million Australian adults do **not** access the internet. ADII. 2020, 2021.



Who is in the environment?

- Medical practitioners
- Nurses
- Allied health practitioners
- Support workers
- Kitchen staff
- Cleaners
- Porters
- Maintenance staff
- Administration staff
- Volunteers, etc.

Health literacy environment



Each person in the health environment needs to **communicate effectively** with each patient or client.

What skills and knowledge can you share to improve the health literacy environment?

The environment around the person

Think about

- noise
- light or glare
- sensory load
- other distractions
- positioning of participants.

Respect and engagement

Time to communicate.

Impact of cultural awareness.

Relationship with

- client
- family
- support staff & other team members.

Communication skills consumers expected to have and use?

Consider assumptions about

- use of medical language
- prior learning & general knowledge
- impact of illness on comprehension
- impact of illness on concentration
- use of speech only
- role in the interaction – passive or partner
- literacy & reading comprehension
- digital skills.



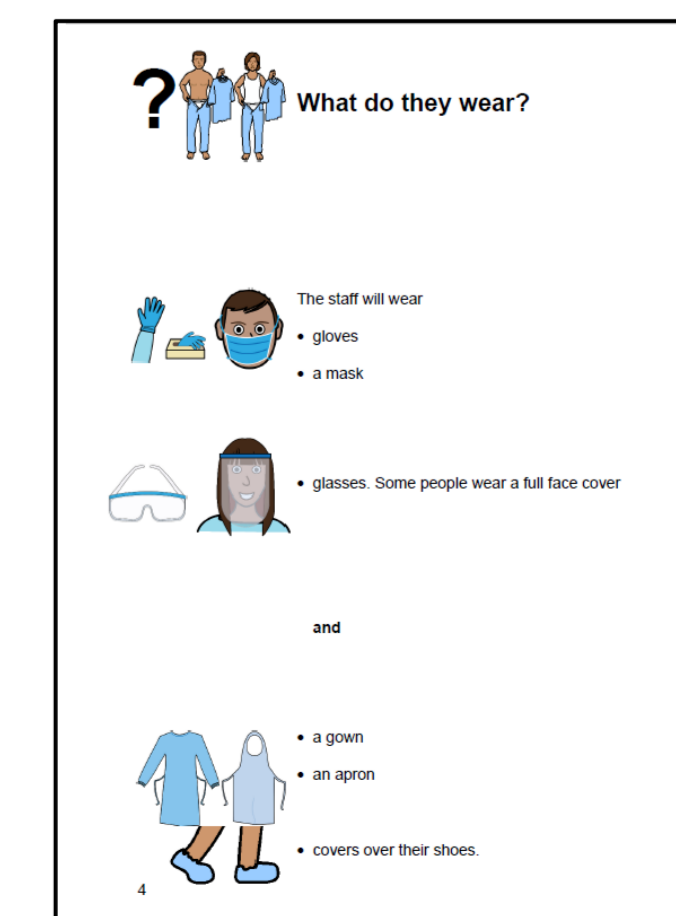
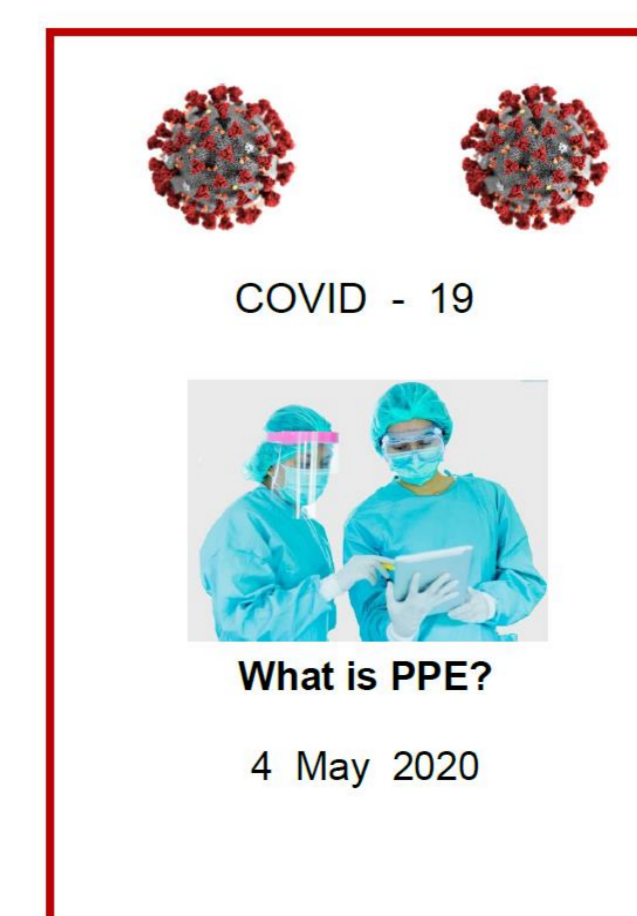
What strategies can assist comprehension?

Teach all staff

- how to simplify their spoken language
- other supports for comprehension, planning and memory.

Information in Easy English

- access to all information
- in a way the person can read & understand
- available in colour printed copy
- support to read & use.



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