

Health professionals make use of virtual connectivity

ALLIED Health Professionals from Mpower have continued to provide high quality early Childhood Intervention Services for NDIS participants through online platforms such as Zoom and Webex during the coronavirus pandemic.

On Portland and Heywood Mpower has continued to assist young children engage in interactive activities to assist in the weekly progress required to reach their goals.

Mpower is based in Warnambool and provides services and support throughout the region for people with disabilities and those who are disadvantaged or underprivileged.

Mpower's Early Childhood Intervention Team consists of speech pathologists, occupational therapists, a behavioural therapist, early childhood intervention teachers and early childhood intervention assistants.

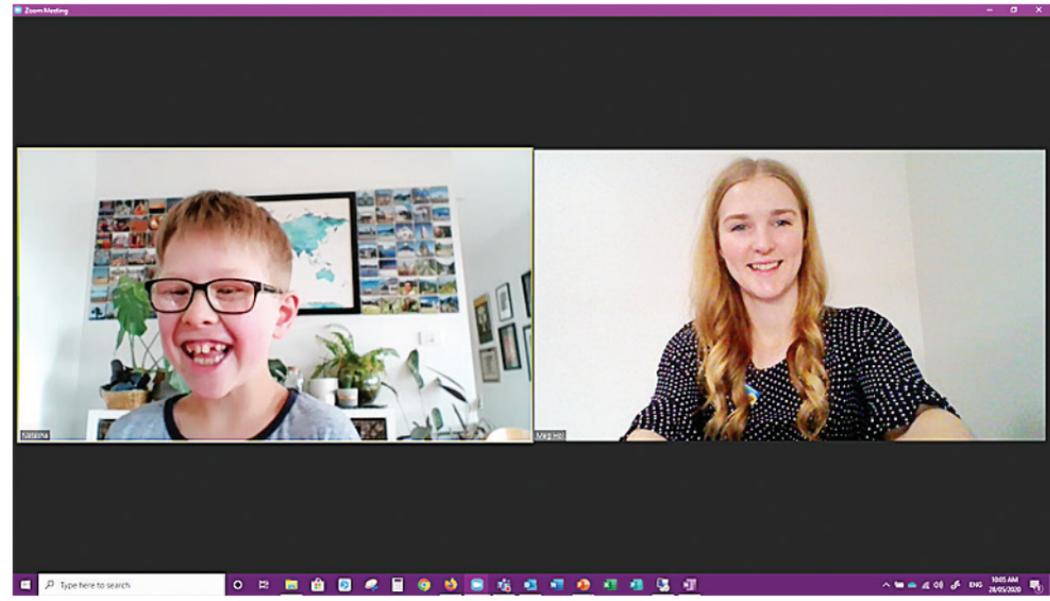
The switch to virtual meetings and provision of services has created new learning

opportunities for the entire team. Through much learning and exploration, the team collectively have found new ways to create interactive games and activities to enable children to practice skills directly related to their NDIS goals via the online platforms.

Speech pathologist Jasmin Prewett reports that use of online platforms has enabled her and the team to overcome initial barriers to service delivery that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Through access to Zoom and Webex, I have been able to connect with most of the participants I see regularly in a virtual "face to face" capacity," she said.

Ms Prewett highlighted the important role families continue to play in early childhood intervention in the current virtual therapy environment, "with the support of participants' families, we have been able to engage in fun, interactive and learning-packed sessions that incorporate valuable skill-based practice".



MPOWER speech pathologist Meg Hol is using virtual tools to connect with clients such as Portland's Jamie Radcliffe while coronavirus restrictions prevent face-to-face sessions.

Picture: SUPPLIED

"Online intervention has presented a wonderful learning opportunity for all involved, it has created a platform upon which therapists and families alike can become creative in the ways each session is tailored

to every individual client's needs and goals.

"It is exciting to see how adaptive families and allied health professionals can be to ensure NDIS participants continue to have access to the services they need."



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