

# Enhancing Speech Pathology Scope with Scoping

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**Health**  
Northern Sydney  
Local Health District

# What is FEES



Fibreoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES) is an instrumental assessment used to evaluate and manage dysphagia. (SPA 2007)

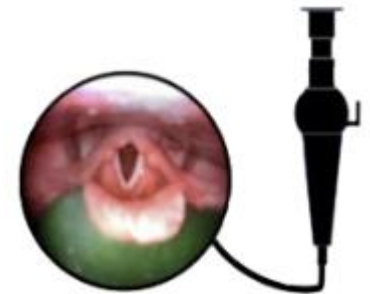
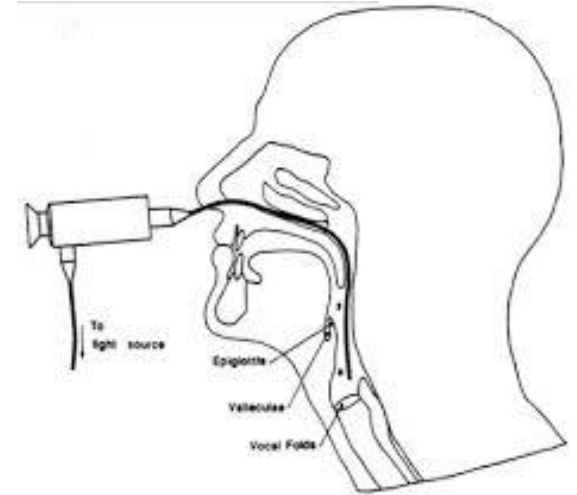


‘It involves passing an endoscope transnasally to provide direct visualisation of the surface anatomy of the critical structures of swallowing in order to evaluate the movement of these structures in response to swallowing regular food and drink’. (SPA 2007:5)

# What is FEES

The basic components of FEES include:

- Anatomic-physiologic assessment
- Direct assessment of swallowing of food and fluids
- Application of therapeutic manoeuvres, dietary modification and behavioural strategies and evaluation of their effectiveness. (Langmore 2001)



# FEES

ID:  
Name:

Sex:    Age:  
D.O.B.:  
20/02/2014  
11:34:30

D.F:5  
■■■■/■■■■  
4/5  
Eh:A1 Cm:1

Comment:



# Advanced Scope

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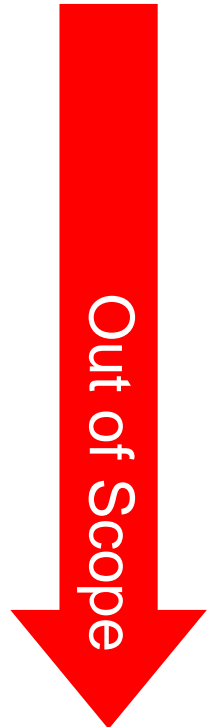
- The use of FEES is considered within a speech pathologist's scope of practice (SPA 2003), however it is an advanced area of practice, requiring specialised knowledge, skills and training. (SPA 2007)
- 'Speech pathologists with appropriate training can be responsible for:
  - independently passing the nasendoscope,
  - performing the examination &
  - interpreting the images obtained'. (SPA 2007:5)

# What's In & What's Out



- Training pathway
- Passing the scope trans nasally on suitable adults
- Performing the examination
- Trialling swallowing strategies
- Assessing the swallow function and diagnosis of dysphagia
- Awareness of structural abnormalities

- Passing the scope on high risk adults (e.g. base of skull fractures)
- Diagnosis of structural abnormalities
- Diagnosis of vocal cord function/dysfunction
- Passing the scope trans nasally on paediatrics (for now)



# Royal North Shore and Ryde Speech Pathology

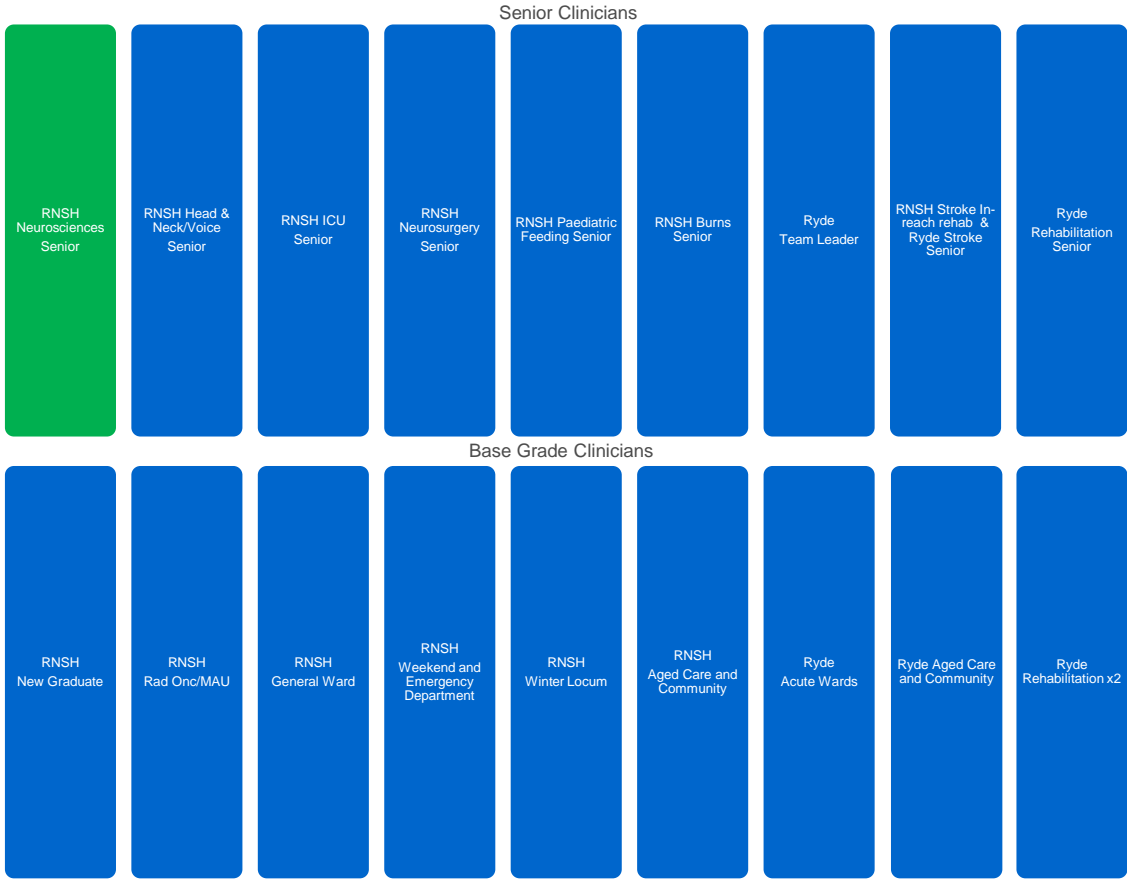
Baseline - 2013

## RNS & Ryde Speech Pathology Head of Department

Competent in technical and interpretation

On competency pathway

Not competent



# Royal North Shore and Ryde Speech Pathology

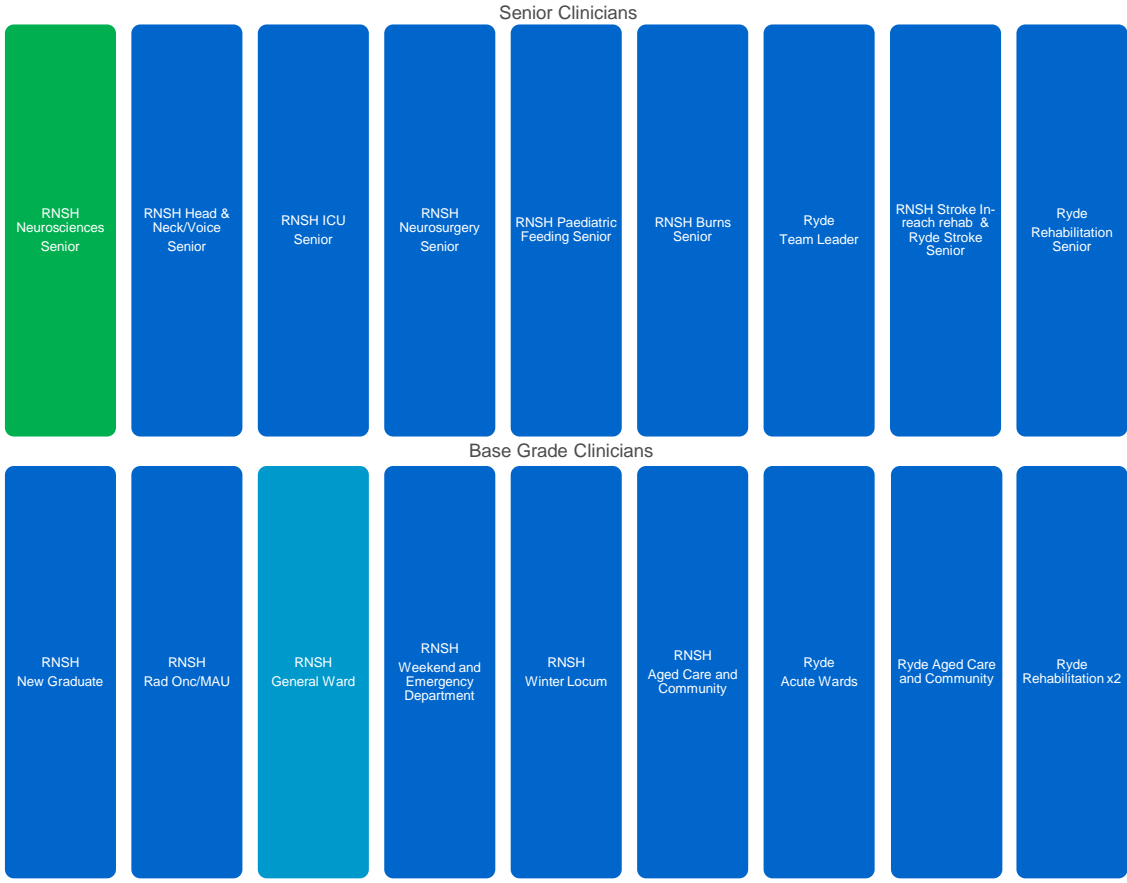
Phase 1 - 2015

## RNS & Ryde Speech Pathology Head of Department

Competent in technical and interpretation

On competency pathway

Not competent





# Royal North Shore and Ryde Speech Pathology

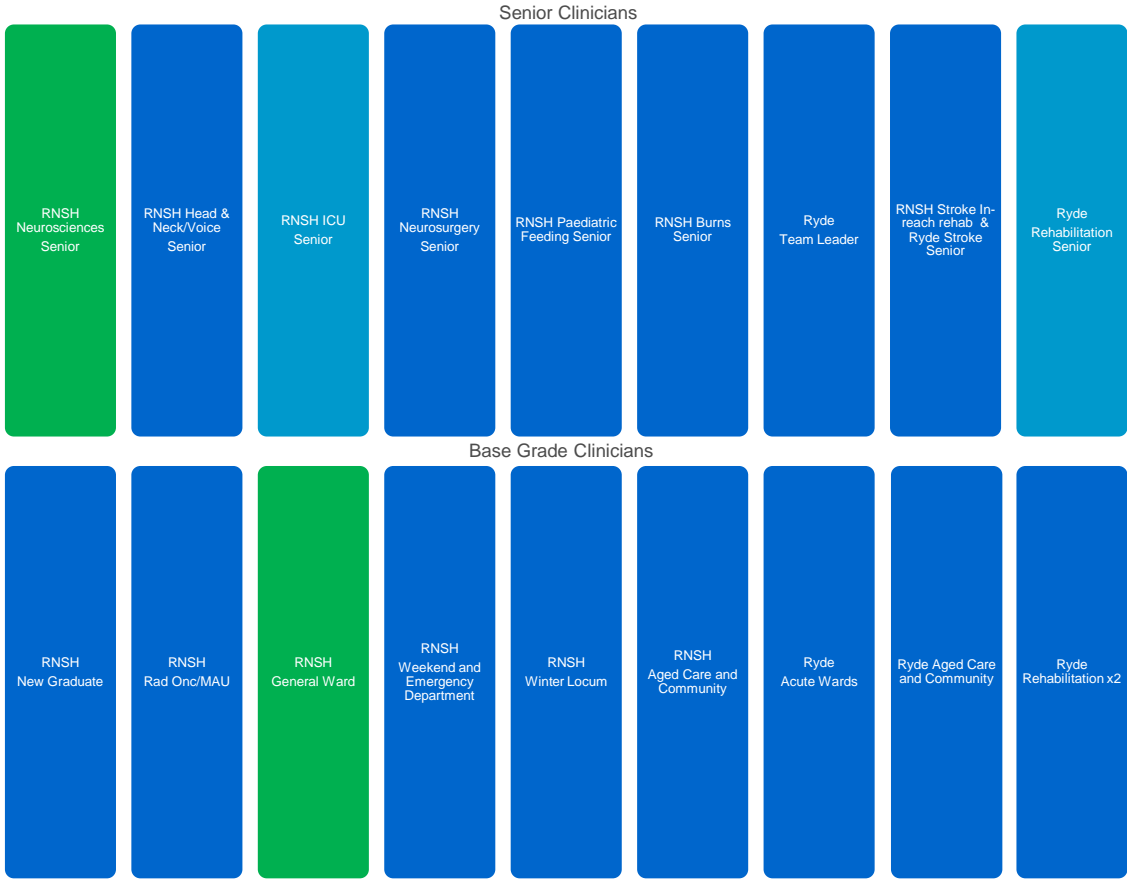
Phase 2 - 2016

## RNS & Ryde Speech Pathology Head of Department

Competent in technical and interpretation

On competency pathway

Not competent



# Royal North Shore and Ryde Speech Pathology

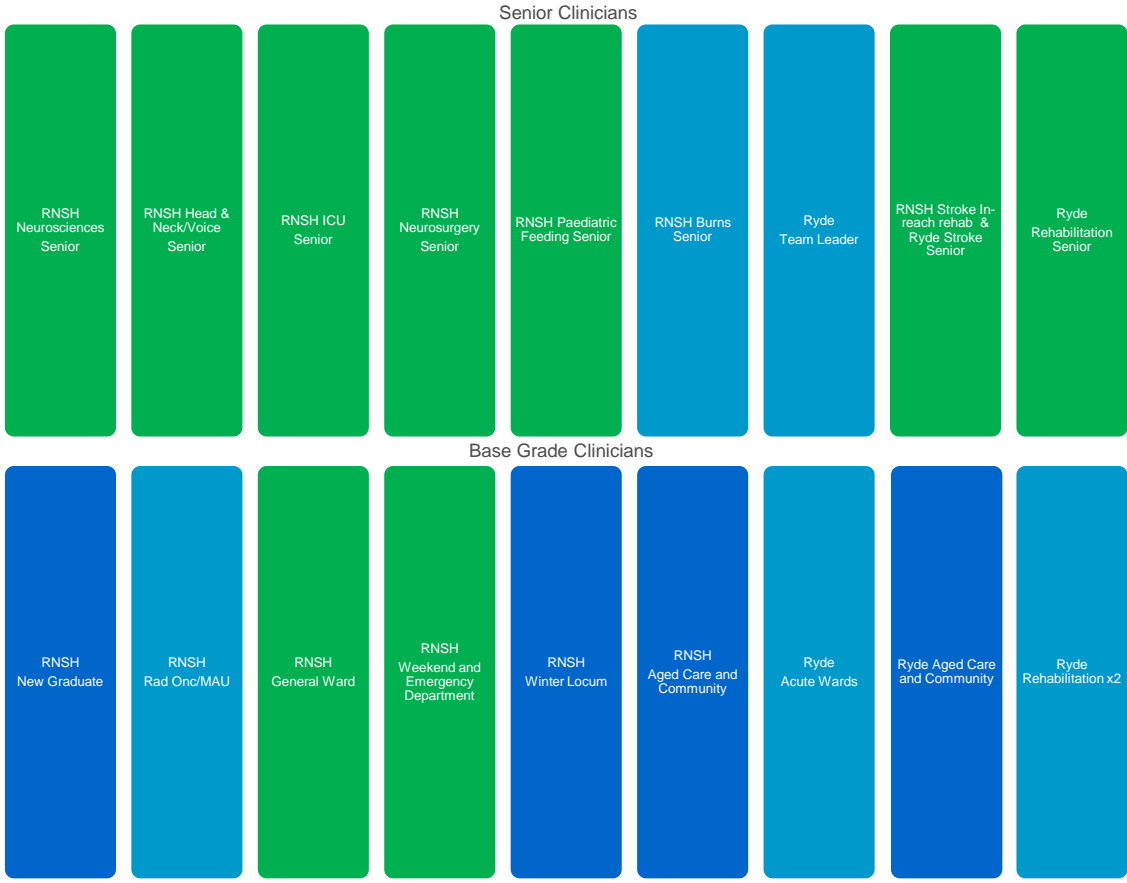
Phase 3 - 2018

## RNS & Ryde Speech Pathology Head of Department

Competent in both technical and interpretation

On competency pathway

Not competent



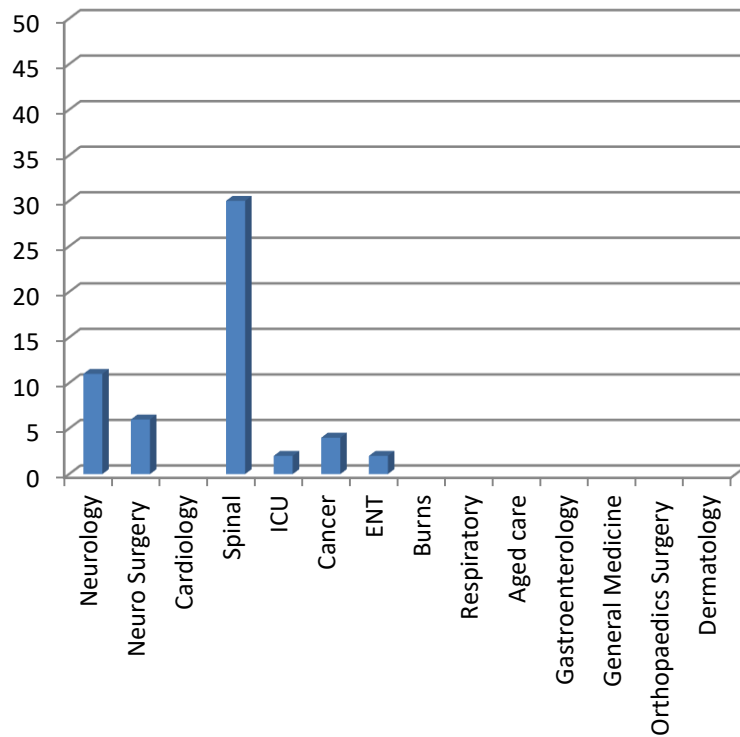
# Barriers & Enablers

- ENT & other medical support
- Equipment
- Innovation and persistence of key players within the department

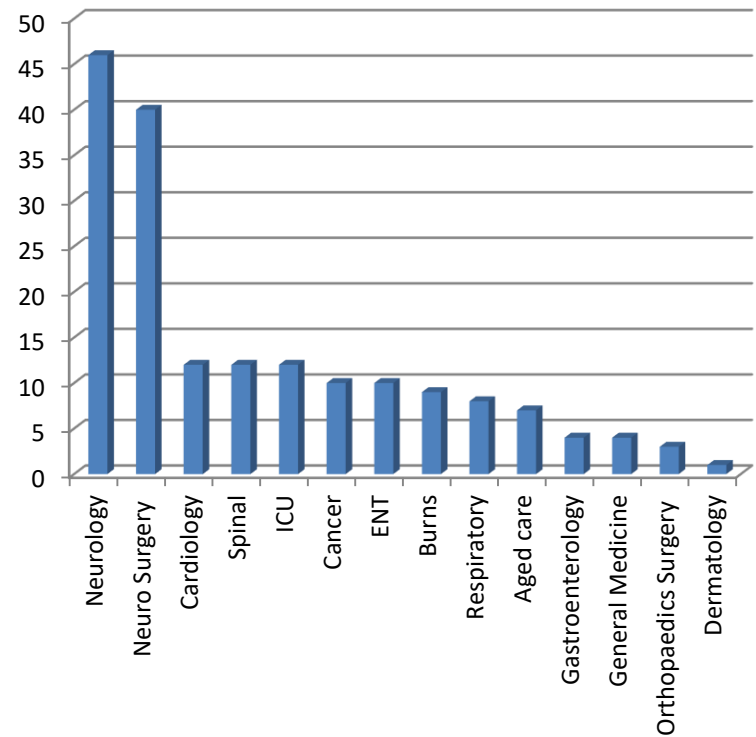


# RNS Inpatient FEES by Clinical Area

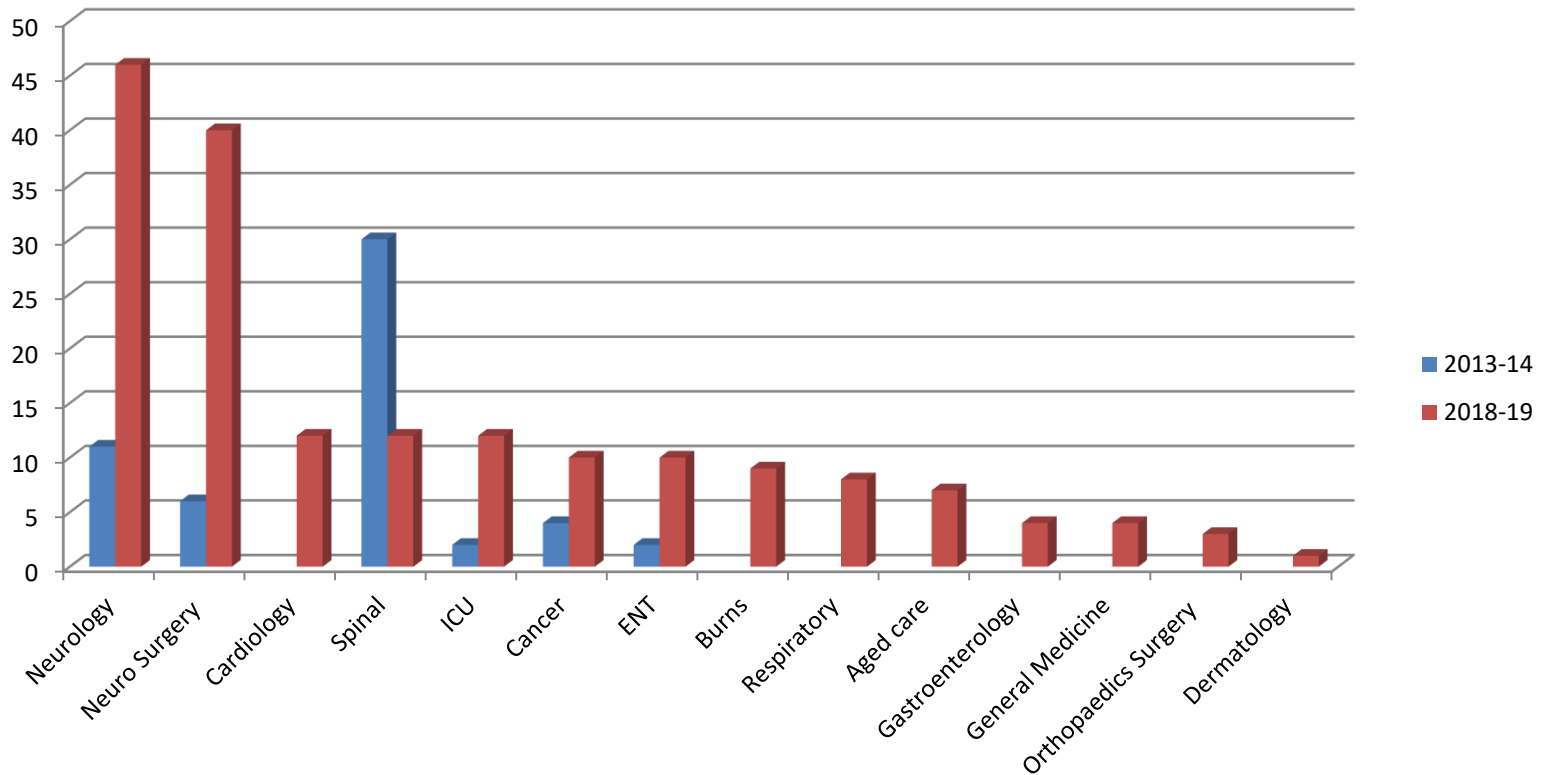
## 2013-2014



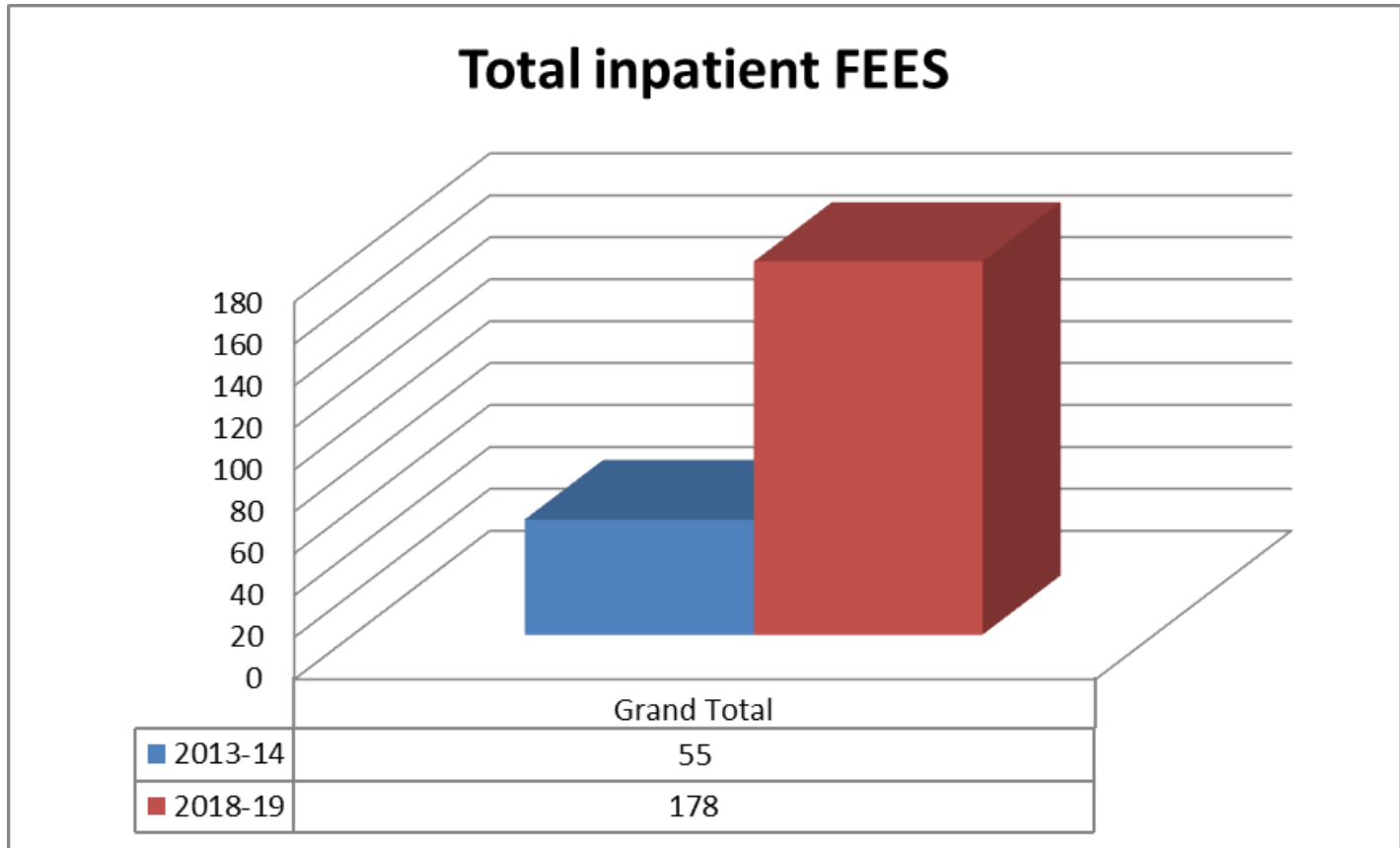
## 2018-2019



# Comparison of Inpatient FEES from 2013 to 2019

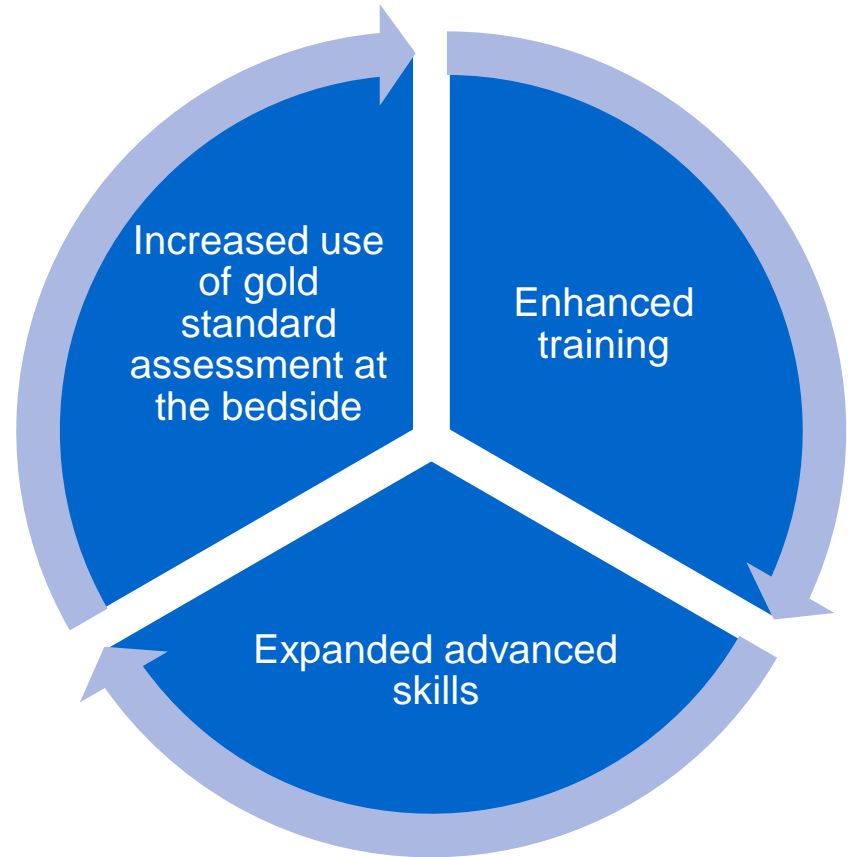


# Inpatient FEES increase 2013/14 – 2018/19



# Conclusion

- Development of a district level FEES competency for scoping and analysis
- new and dedicated speech pathology equipment
- Support from LHD district executives



# References

- Langmore, S.E. (2001). Endoscopic Evaluation and Treatment of Swallowing Disorders. New York, Thieme.
- Speech Pathology Australia. (2007). Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES) Position Paper. An Advanced Practice for Speech Pathologists.
- Speech Pathology Australia (2003). Scope of Practice in Speech Pathology.