

# Siobhan is an audiologist

## DOESN'T LIKE

cleaning her room  
or running

## LOVES

sewing and turning  
discarded fabric into  
something special

## CAREER

artist and an  
audiologist

## STUDIED

Bachelor of Science and  
Masters in Clinical Audiology

## EXPERT ON

preventing hearing  
injuries from happening

## WANTS TO

care for Deaf patients  
more directly

## GOOD AT

problem-solving  
and learning

## SUPPORTS

initiatives that create  
more accessible arts  
practices in Australia



# Meet Siobhan McGinnity

## What do you do?

I'm an artist and audiologist, splitting my time across creative endeavours and hearing health.

## How did you get into that job?

For the scientific side, it was a Bachelor degree, where I majored in psychology and minored in neuroscience. For the latter I focused my research time on the phenomenon of Perfect Pitch.

After this, I stumbled across an audiology office in a hospital one day and asked to come in. The audiologist was inspiring. She spoke about her love of sound and helping people, how the job was a great match of both. For a musician who also loved science, that was enough for me. After this I completed my Masters in Clinical Audiology, and then went on to do a PhD titled Preventing Hearing Injury in the Music Industry.

As a musician, I've worked as a performer, song-writer and a creative producer in the disability space. As a disabled artist myself, it's been a real treat to support initiatives that create more accessible arts practices in Australia.

## What do you love about your job?

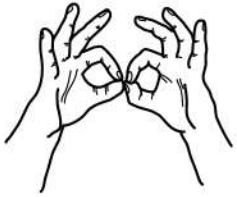
Across everything I do there is creativity, problem solving and learning, but at its heart is communication. When I lecture, the challenge is to help every student feel they can grasp the information. When I see a patient, the challenge is to listen deeply and help them feel understood. When I write a song, the challenge is to translate an experience that uplifts, connects or soothes. When I sign (Auslan), the challenge is to keep up and remember I'm still learning the language ;)





### **How does your job help people/the community/the world?**

Through audiology, I can help people access hearing care and prevent hearing injury from happening. For musicians specifically, I try to help adjust to the impact of any hearing injury so they can continue doing what they love.



Through art, I try to bring joy. I believe joy can be as healing as almost anything else in this world.

### **What are two things you're not good at?**

Cleaning my room. My workspace, office, and everywhere else is immaculate, but at home my clothes live on the floor. It's always been this way, and I don't think it's about to change!



Running. I've tried I promise, but it's really not for me.

### **What are two things you are good at?**

Problem-solving - being creative is incredibly helpful in the scientific world as you get to bring across new ideas and perspectives. Sometimes if I'm stuck I'll repeat in my head, "What am I not seeing?" to invite new ideas. It's a small mantra but it can help broaden my awareness.

Learning - my brain seems to be a sponge for things I'm interested in. I deep dive, taking as much information on the topic as I can, and unapologetically fact-bomb my very patient friends.

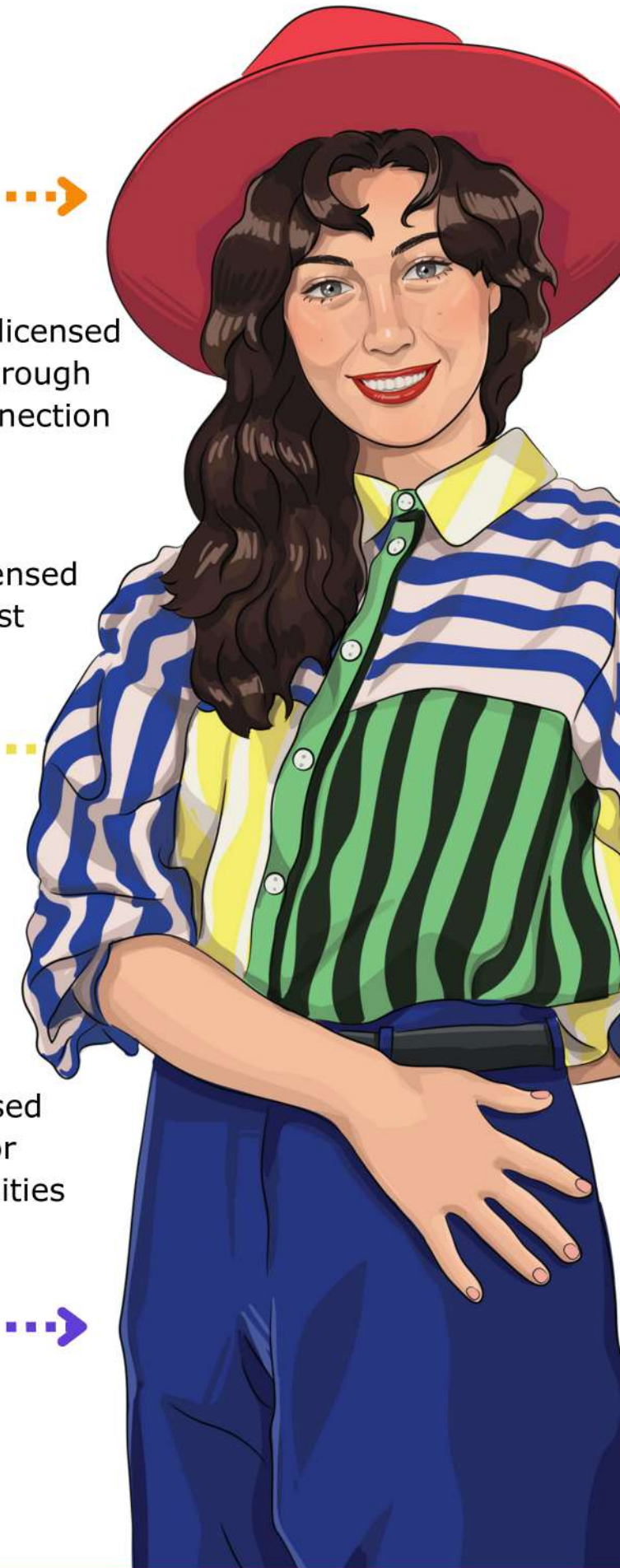
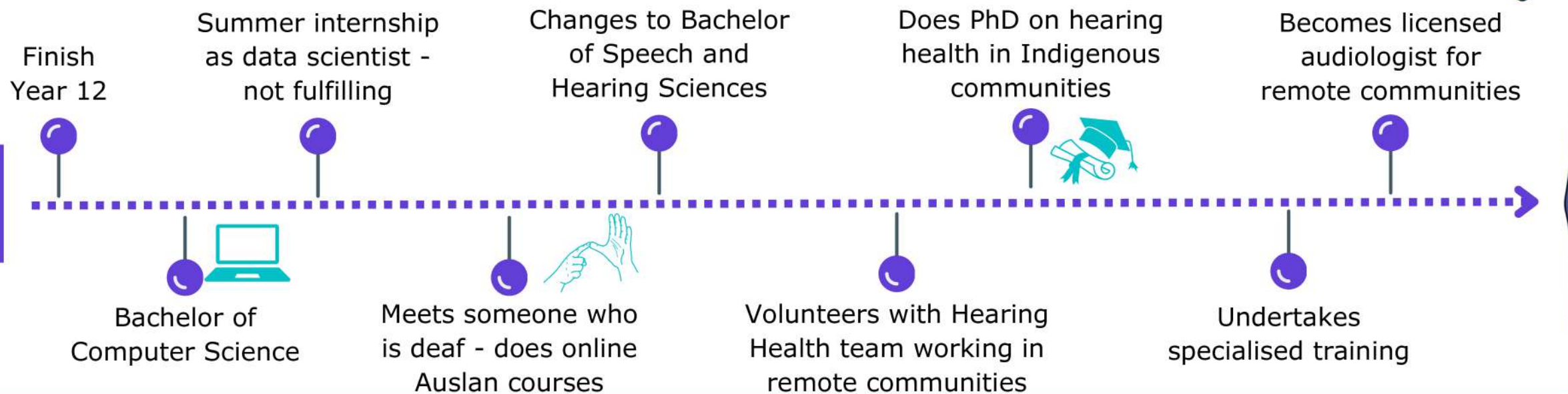
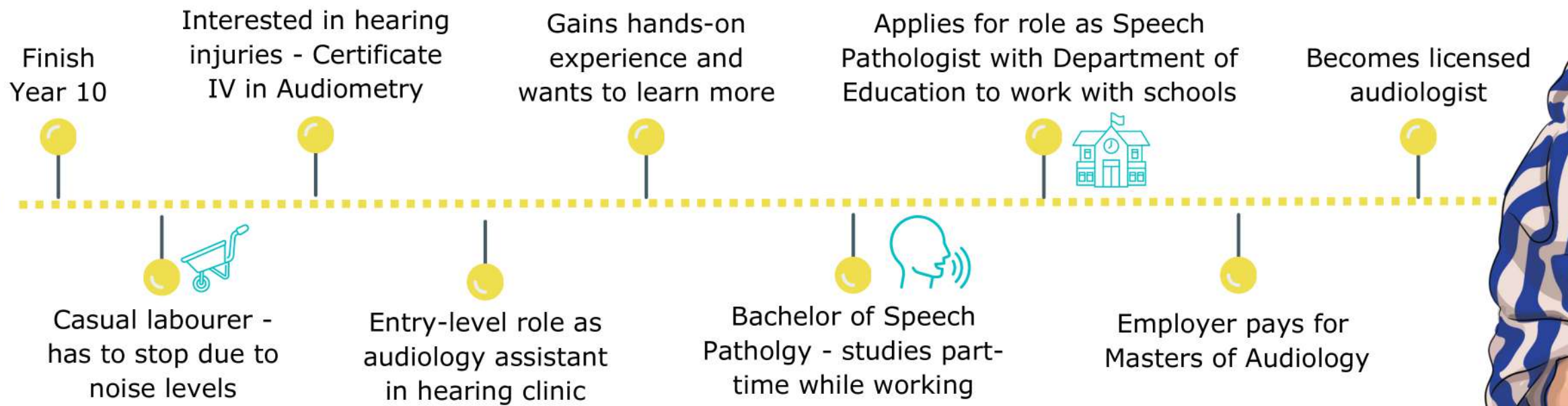
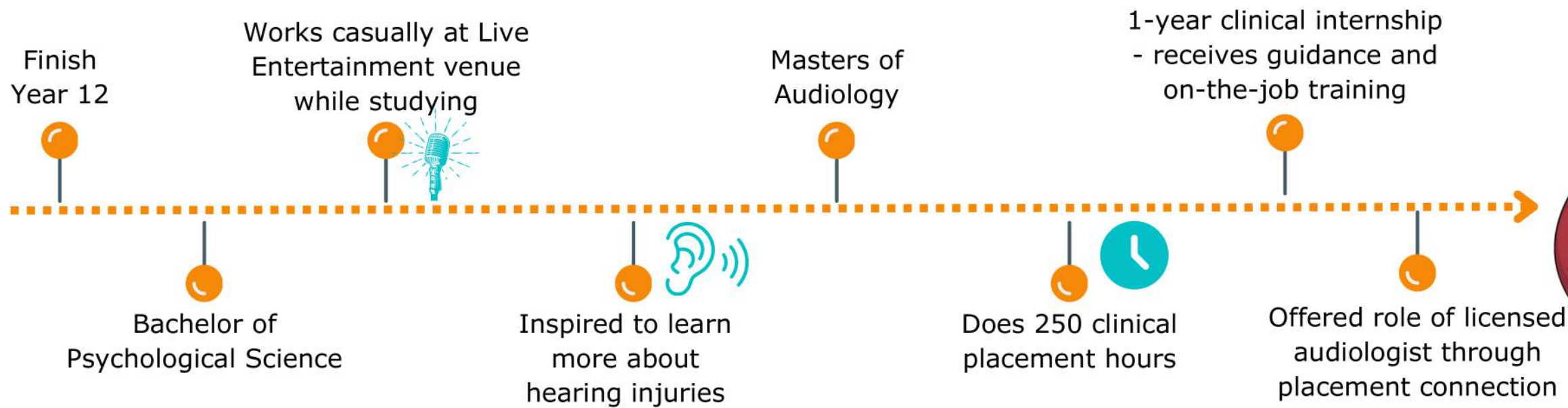
### **What makes you happy (outside of work)?**

Sewing. Fast fashion frightens me for all the reasons it hurts our world and women in particular. I bought a sewing machine in 2017 and have tried to sew most of my clothes since. It's taught me so much about the true cost of a garment and what to look for if buying (e.g. quality, ethical labour etc.). I love being able to turn a \$2 piece of discarded fabric from an op-shop into something special.

### **Where do you want your career to take you?**

Right now I'm trying to figure that out. Covid presented a hurdle and opportunity by disrupting our industry, so I made the choice to side-step and start learning Auslan. I am now in my final year! If lucky, I could go on to study interpreting and integrate that into both my audiology and music work. It would be incredible to care for Deaf patients more directly, with cultural sensitivity and language, and at the same time, interpret music on stage for others. I best keep practising...





# Audiologist career pathways

Find out more at [www.futureyouaustralia.com.au/resources/#other/](http://www.futureyouaustralia.com.au/resources/#other/)



The educational qualifications and levels outlined in these pathways are intended as general guidelines. To obtain accurate and up-to-date information, explore resources specific to your state or territory, available through websites like [myfuture.edu.au](http://myfuture.edu.au), [YourCareer.gov.au](http://YourCareer.gov.au) and [australianapprenticeships.gov.au](http://australianapprenticeships.gov.au).

There is also a range of financial support available for students doing apprenticeships or going to university, visit [www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/education](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/education) to see what's available.



- Bachelor of Psychological Science: <https://www.coursesseeker.edu.au/>
- Masters of Audiology: <https://www.coursesseeker.edu.au/>
- Clinical placement: <https://acen.edu.au/>



- Certificate IV in Audiometry: <https://training.gov.au/training/details/HLT47415>
- Bachelor of Speech Pathology: <https://www.coursesseeker.edu.au/>
- Masters of Audiology: <https://www.coursesseeker.edu.au/>



- Bachelor of Computer Science: <https://www.coursesseeker.edu.au/>
- Summer internship: <https://womeninstem-careershub.prosple.com/>
- Bachelor of Speech and Hearing Sciences: <https://www.coursesseeker.edu.au/>



**Remember, there are countless pathways to the same career. Each child's unique skills, interests, and strengths will guide them on their personal journey to success.**

# Capability Convos

Australian Curriculum V9.0 links for  
Years 3 to 7

**English**

- Language
- Literacy

**General Capabilities:**

- Critical and Creative Thinking
- Personal and Social Capability
- Ethical Understanding
- Literacy

## Learning outcomes:

All students will be able to:

- identify some likes, dislikes, strengths, abilities and/or interests when showing a personal preference
- acknowledge that people have different needs, emotions and abilities

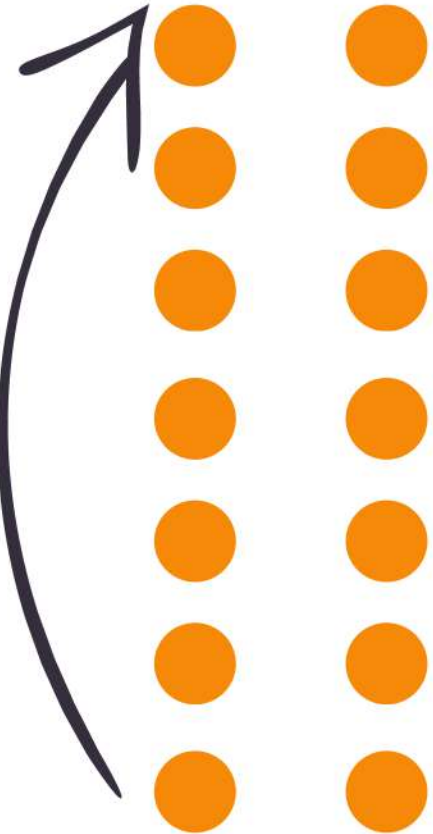
In addition, some students will be able to:

- describe the ways they are connected and can contribute to their community groups

## Format

- Interactive game with 10 questions
- Easy to play
- Read Meet Siobhan and find out about Siobhan's career with the class
- Print the questions
- Play the game
- Modify or include new questions based on students' needs

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out more about me.



## Instructions for students

Line the class up in two lines facing each other to form pairs. Ask the first question. Once each pair has discussed it, get one line to move one person to their right. The person at the end runs around to the other end of the line. Then you ask the next question and repeat the process until all the questions have been asked.

# Siobhan Audiologist

## Question 1

What do you think is interesting about Siobhan's career?

## Question 2

What skills does Siobhan have that you also have, and does she have any skills you don't have that you would like to have?

## Question 3

Why do you think it's important to find a career that suits your skills and personality?

## Question 4

How are your interests and hobbies similar or different to Siobhan's career?

## Question 5

How do you think Siobhan's career contributes to society?

## Question 6

What sort of problems do you think Siobhan might have doing this job in a rural or remote location?

## Question 7

How important are empathy and compassion in Siobhan's job? Can you think of some examples?

## Question 8

What tools or technology do you think Siobhan would use at work?

## Question 9

How do you think AI might change Siobhan's job in the future? Can you think of some examples?

## Question 10

What do you think would be the biggest challenge in pursuing a career as an audiologist?

# Comprehension Questions

Australian Curriculum V9.0 links for Years 3 to 7

English  
• Literacy

General Capabilities:  
• Literacy

## Learning outcomes:

All students will be able to:

- Identify that all people have strengths and weaknesses
- Actively think about what is happening in various texts as they read them
- Apply comprehension strategies to different media formats

In addition, some students will be able to:

- Identify different reasons for doing different jobs

## Instructions:

- Format/print the students' question sheets (or load them onto school LMS) and direct students to a copy.
- Read the questions as a class to start, discussing any meanings
- Discuss with the class strategies for being able to answer the questions as they read about Siobhan
- Read about Siobhan as a class, encouraging students to answer questions as you go

Adaptation note: Questions can be modified on the PDF to meet students' needs or learning focus areas in your classroom

## Comprehension questions

1. What does Siobhan split her time across?
2. What phenomenon did Siobhan focus her research time on?
3. What title did Siobhan give her PhD?
4. What is at the heart of Siobhan's job?
5. What two things is Siobhan not good at?
6. Name two things Siobhan is good at.
7. What language is Siobhan currently learning?
8. How does Siobhan's job help musicians?

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Answers:

1. Creative endeavours and hearing health
2. Perfect Pitch
3. Preventing Hearing Injury in the Music Industry
4. Communication
5. Cleaning her room and running
6. Problem-solving and learning
7. Auslan
8. Helps them adjust to the impact of any hearing injury so they can continue doing what they love.





## Comprehension Questions

What does Siobhan split her time across?

1.

2.

What two things is Siobhan not good at?

1.

2.

Name two things Siobhan is good at.

1.

2.

What phenomenon did Siobhan focus her research time on?

What title did Siobhan give her PhD?

What language is Siobhan currently learning?

What is at the heart of Siobhan's job?

How does Siobhan's job help musicians?

# Audiologist/ Artist

**Siobhan** is an audiologist/artist who helps people access hearing care and prevent hearing injuries. She says communication is at the heart of everything she does. Siobhan is also an artist with a disability and is passionate about creating more accessible arts practices in Australia. Find out more:

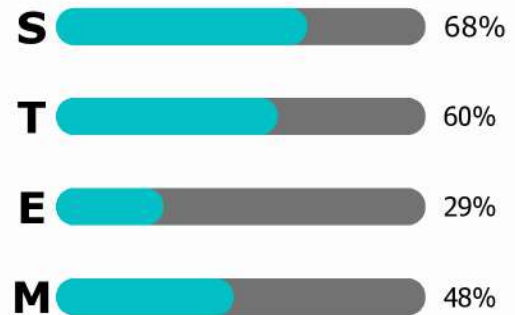
[futureyouaustralia.com.au/pathfinders/siobhan](http://futureyouaustralia.com.au/pathfinders/siobhan)



*“As a disabled artist myself, it’s been a real treat to support initiatives that create more accessible arts practices in Australia.”*

## STEM Meter

How much Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) does this job use?



Source: [jobsandskills.gov.au](http://jobsandskills.gov.au)

## 5 reasons why you should do this job

- 1 Make a difference in people’s lives
- 2 Lots of career opportunities
- 3 Ongoing learning and innovation
- 4 Bringing joy to people
- 5 Improve educational outcomes

### 3 STEM skills required for this job

Psychology

Critical thinking

Biology

### Subjects to develop these skills

English, Mathematics, Science

Science, Mathematics, Digital Technology

Science

## A example of a day in the life of an audiologist

- 7.00am** Time to get up! I love starting my day with a walk around our local lake. Sometimes I'll play an audiobook or call one of my friends who lives abroad. It's my favourite time of the day when everything is quiet and full of potential.
- 8.00am** It's time to head to work, in the car, on the train, the bus or a plane - it all depends on where I'm heading for the day. With my current job, there's a lot of travel. Sometimes in the city, sometimes way out in the bush. I pack my bags and head to the day's destination.
- 8.45am** I arrive at the office, coffee at hand and check in with the other staff. Working in a team means there are always stories and people to meet. I head to my office and give it a quick tidy, making sure I have all the equipment I need for the day. I like to do this so there are no hiccups during the day and things run smoothly.
- 9.15am** The first patient rolls in. If they're a kid, it's maximum fun. We play hearing games, take pictures of their ears, or test how well their eardrums are moving. Within half an hour, we can usually tell how well a child is hearing, and then give recommendations to the parents on what to do next.
- Midday** Time for lunch! It's not too long so I like to head somewhere to get a bite to eat. When your job is listening all day, sometimes it's nice to have a short pause for quiet.
- 12.30pm** Back to it, this time it might be adults, musicians, or patients with chronic tinnitus. The more complex the condition, the more my mind gets buzzing. Often people come holding onto so much worry and distress about their condition, one of the first things we can do is listen. Just by having someone patiently acknowledge all their symptoms, you can see a huge decrease in distress. We then go on to test and address their concerns, sometimes fitting earplugs, and hearing aids or discussing referral pathways. That part is especially important, as audiology can't solve everything alone. We work best in a team with other professionals.
- 4.15pm** The last patient leaves and I open my clinical files on my laptop. Time to write reports for everyone I saw today, and make sure the recommendations are clear.
- 5.00pm** Head out the door, you're done for the day! If I'm remote, it's a short walk to the motel. If I'm in the city, it's a commute in Melbourne.
- 6.00pm** If the weather's fine, I'm out for a walk to the shops to buy groceries for dinner. If my partner cooks, I'll get out the sewing machine and let my mind wander creatively for an hour or two. Some people read books to wind down, I prefer to make clothes. Whatever works for you!

# Audiologist/ Artist

**Siobhan** is an audiologist/artist who helps people access hearing care and prevent hearing injuries. She says communication is at the heart of everything she does. Siobhan is also an artist with a disability and is passionate about creating more accessible arts practices in Australia. Find out more:

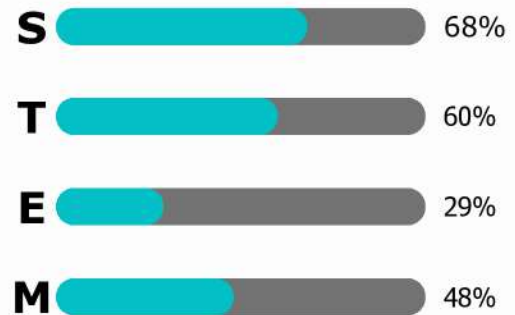
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*“As a disabled artist myself, it’s been a real treat to support initiatives that create more accessible arts practices in Australia.”*

## STEM Meter

How much Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) does this job use?



Source: [jobsandskills.gov.au](http://jobsandskills.gov.au)

## Job stats and facts

**Future job growth:** Over the next five years jobs in this field are expected to grow very strongly.

**Location:** 34% of audiologists live outside capital cities.

**Employment pathways:** A bachelor degree in a related field is required.

### 3 STEM skills required for this job

Psychology

Critical thinking

Biology

### Subjects to develop these skills

English, Mathematics, Science

Science, Mathematics, Digital Technology

Science

### 3 other jobs that value this skill

Social Worker, Psychologist, School Teacher

Accountant, Criminologist, Cyber Security Analyst

Pharmacist, Geneticist, Park Ranger

# Other careers related to this line of work

## Health

ENT Physician  
Pediatric Audiologist  
Hearing Aid Specialist  
Clinical Audiologist  
Medical Physicist

## Education

Audiology Professor  
Biomedical Physics Educator  
Clinical Educator  
Science Communicator  
Hearing Health Educator

## Leadership

Medical Director  
Healthcare Administrator  
Research Director  
Clinical Director  
Healthcare Consultant

## People

Speech language Pathologist  
Patient Advocate  
Community Outreach Coordinator  
Interpreter  
Clinical Psychologist

## Environment

Acoustical Engineer  
Environmental Health Specialist  
Occupational Audiologist  
Research Scientist  
Sound Technician

The world is changing rapidly, and this means the career possibilities available to our kids are wide-ranging and exciting (and probably, don't exist yet!).

From traditional vocations to emerging fields, there are countless pathways to be explored.

Parents and teachers can create environments that encourage kids to discover and investigate possible careers that match their skills and interests.

We've included some links to other valuable resources that can help guide career conversations and explorations. Find out more at:

**[www.futureyouaustralia.com.au/resources/other](http://www.futureyouaustralia.com.au/resources/other)**

# Pathfinder Workwords

## Audiologist

S C O M M U N I C A T I O N E L V I F N M L S  
H E M R H H L Y H U P W X Q C A Q T N I S Z P  
J E V N W U I X L D X P A O N N P G O D I F E  
S N A A U Y N D J I M F O R A A T A X N S K E  
R P O R W O E W S T D A U X L C N D N W O N C  
A X E C I D S K Q O F C R G A R S E Z T U O H  
W Z O E D N N W U R E O A G B A R N X L N Z T  
G N S P C L G U S Y X U X F O E X J N D D D H  
I X D R K H E U O B D S B R A I L M U M P A E  
Q P Y Q E A T Y L S I T W R A Y D C B B R L R  
S D P V R I D I A G N I R A E H T U D Q O V A  
T A K D N J D G H T C C Q K A I T L A O O R P  
I C R N C O C H L E A S C R V U E W E P F Z Y  
S U I O X H E A R I N G T E S T A K A T P S S  
M T V C I T S O N G A I D Y C N E U Q E R F G  
V Z R T V E B Y Y J Q X C J Q X V F A A I E M

**Find 20 words Siobhan needs to do her job.**

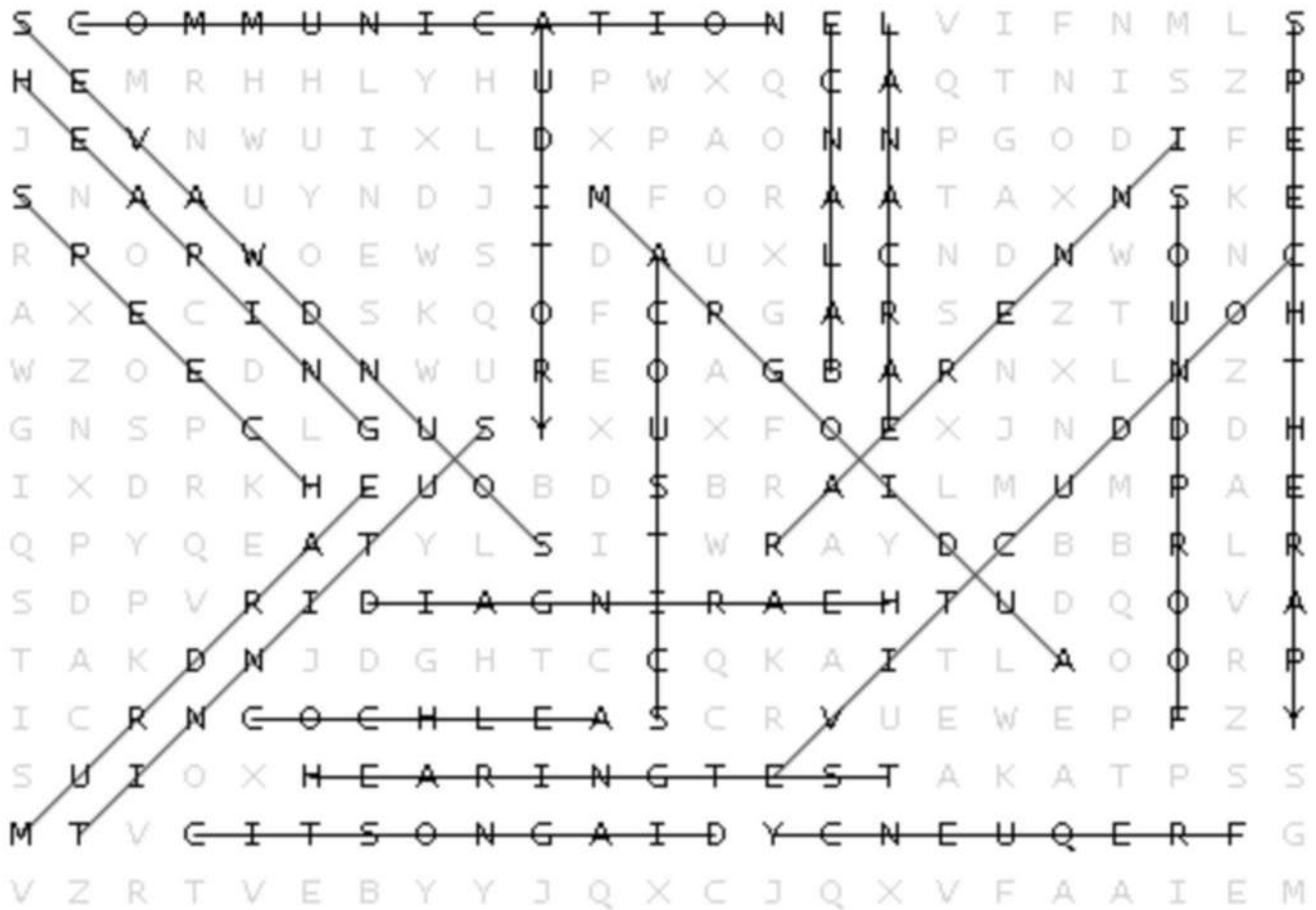
- |                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. HEARING     | 11. CONDUCTIVE     |
| 2. ACOUSTICS   | 12. DIAGNOSTIC     |
| 3. EARDRUM     | 13. AUDIOGRAM      |
| 4. HEARING AID | 14. BALANCE        |
| 5. SOUND WAVES | 15. HEARING TEST   |
| 6. EAR CANAL   | 16. SPEECH THERAPY |
| 7. TINNITUS    | 17. INNER EAR      |
| 8. COCHLEA     | 18. FREQUENCY      |
| 9. SPEECH      | 19. COMMUNICATION  |
| 10. AUDITORY   | 20. SOUNDPROOF     |

Scan this QR code to find out more about Siobhan.



# Pathfinder Workwords

## Answers



### Let's reflect

Were any of these words new to you? Look them up and find out what they mean.

Which of these skills do you think you are best at, or would like to get better at?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Can you think of anything else Siobhan might need to do her job?

\_\_\_\_\_



Meet Siobhan. She's an artist and audiologist who splits her time across creative endeavours and hearing health. Fill in the bubbles with 5 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) skills she uses in her job. Which of these skills do you think is most important? Which do you think would be the hardest to develop? When you've thought of the skills, colour in the rest of the image.

