

## Communication Access for Inclusive Communities Project

Kristi Sproates  
Developmental Educator @ Appy Connections





 Proudly supported by the NSW GOVERNMENT  
**COMMUNITY INCLUSION PROJECT**  
Co-funded by the Department of Family and Community Services

### My Previous Research + New Project

<p><b>Flinders University Honours Research Project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the Community, a young adult with Autism learnt to use an iPad to communicate in two different places with different people using different vocabulary.</li> <li>• <b>GAP:</b> A Communication Access Plan/resource for shopkeepers</li> </ul>	<p><b>Community Inclusion Project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate and train business</li> <li>• Provide support to an individual with Complex Communication Needs to use an iPad to communicate with business owners</li> <li>• Create a resource for business regarding ongoing inclusive communication practices</li> </ul>
--	---

### Community Inclusion Project - Participant

- 22 y.o Male, Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Lives at home with mum and dad attends disability service for day programs and supported work
- Expressive Communication – uses sign with family, gestures/facial expressions and body language with others
- Receptive communication – follows instructions.
- Recognises words / searches the internet by typing words
- With support, has used iPad to successfully communicate
- Was keen, willing and motivated

### Executing research findings


Late 2014




Early 2016



### Person Centred Supports

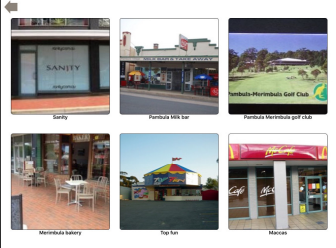


Liked: Sport, going for a drink and shopping  
Not sure: eating out/cinema

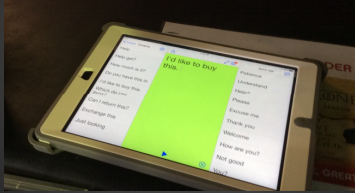


Which Sport?  
Liked: Bowling and Golf  
Did not like: Pool/billiards

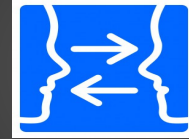
### A practical solution



### Customising and using an iPad for communication



### Steps taken to influence accessible communication



Communication Access Symbol  
‘When everyone can get their message across’  
‘Good Communication is Good Business’  
(Scope, Victoria).

### Raising Awareness through education

- Introduce myself and the aims of the project
- Explain my role with Brad and how he will use the iPad to communicate with them
- Undertake an assessment of strengths – (Communication Access Quiz, Scope VIC)
- How a resource such as a handbook could help businesses practice more inclusive communication practices

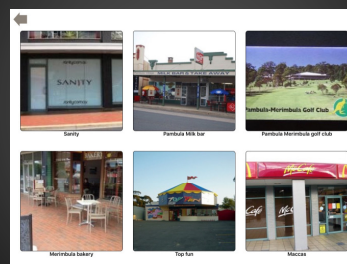
### And we are off - Top Fun



### What happened next.....



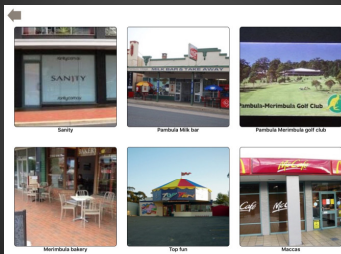
### The solution.



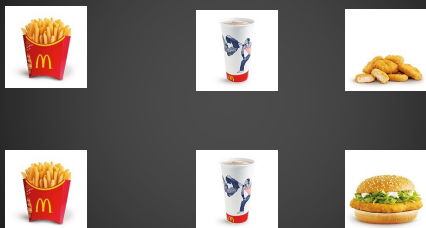
### Happy, purposeful and gaining independence



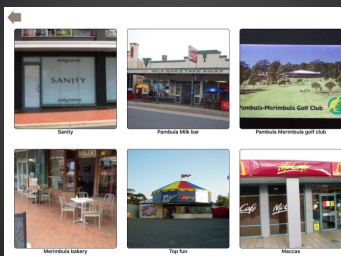
### Where to next...



### Making different choices



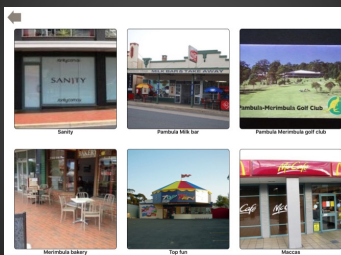
### Where to now.....



### Chit Chatting using an iPad



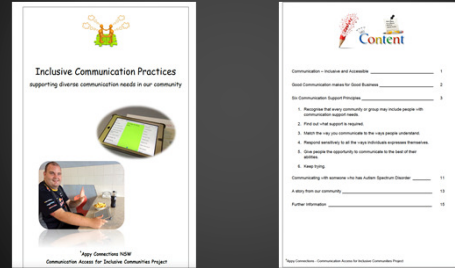
### And - where too now?



## Expand on communication opportunities



## Accessible Communication Guide



### ASSESSMENT OF COMMUNICATION STRENGTHS / SHORTFALLS - BUSINESSES IN PAMBULA/MERIMBULA PRECINCT

**Key:**

5 = All the time    4 = Most of the time    3 = Sometimes    2 = Not much    1 = Not at all

Business name	Friendly staff	Accepting different methods of communication	Visual choice options (with pictures or symbols)	Space for customers to use their preferred communication method	Talk directly to the person with communication support needs	Provide enough time for the person to respond
Top Fun	5	4	4	3	4	3
McDonalds	5	4	4	4	3	3
Sanity	5	5	2	2	4	3
Pambula Milk Bar	5	3	2	3	4	2

## Brad also told me – using his iPad

- Did you enjoy going to different places? YES
- Did you enjoy taking your iPad with you? YES
- Did you like talking to other people using your iPad? YES
- Have you learnt how to use the iPad to talk to people in shops? YES
- Did you have fun? YES

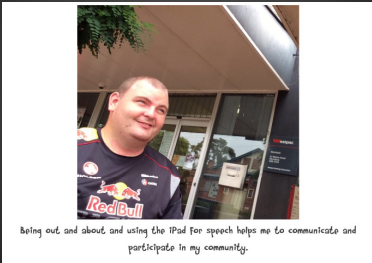


## Feedback from Brad's mother

*"I am honoured that our child was chosen as a test subject and am looking forward to using the iPad and apps in the future to help with his communication and participation within our community"*



## What it is all about !!



[www.appyconnections.com.au](http://www.appyconnections.com.au)  
Facebook/AppyConnections  
Email: [admin@appyconnections.com.au](mailto:admin@appyconnections.com.au)