

InFOCUS

SUMMER 2018
ISSUE 44 VOLUME 1



DUDE

“Dad”

Now

“YEAH”

READ INTERVIEW
ON *page 8.*

ADVENTURES IN
FINDING MY VOICE

BY MATT HORAN





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A Prentke Romich Company

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AGOSCI In Focus is the National Magazine of the AGOSCI Inc. (formerly Australian Group on Severe Communication Impairment). AGOSCI In Focus is a bi-annual magazine and is available to members of AGOSCI. It contains information from and about national seminars, research, new communication technology, resources in the AAC field, news from overseas, and contributions from people who use AAC.

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COVER PHOTO



*Matthew Horan visiting glass house mountains.
Read more about Matthew's other adventure - to
find his spoken voice on page 8.*

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Welcome to the January 2019 edition of AGOSCI In Focus. Firstly advance congratulations to our new editor Jess Preston, who has begun with enthusiasm, with this her first edition. Thanks again to our outgoing editor Stella Martin who has done a marvelous job over the last few years. Plus thanks to our outgoing PD Coordinator Sebastian Caon, who has also done a great job over the last few years. And to cap it all off, welcome Jane Hudson to the role of AAC Communities Coordinator.

On our PD front, we have recently rolled out the National Tour with mixed success, and webinars continue to be hosted and viewed by members. With the conference 2019 in full planning swing, mark it in your diaries, it promises to be action packed.

The exec has made the decision to offer 2-year subscriptions, so please make the most of the discount that goes with that. Plus we have made the exciting decision to financially outsource some important work that our volunteers don't have time to do justice to – one is the PD Coordinator consultant role which was recently advertised, and the other our NDIS consultant, which is about to be advertised.

On the promotional front, AGOSCI was recently at the ISAAC and AAT conferences, and next year we plan to be at the SPA and Source Kids conferences. Plus keep an eye out for the opening of our online shop – a great way to get all your AGOSCI gear.

Enjoy the read, and see you all in 2019.

:: DARREN TRENTEPOHL

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Well, hi again to everyone,

Another busy year has come to pass for AGOSCI.

We've had a pretty good year for memberships this year with around 334 members which is again one of the highest totals we have had. Weirdly the exact same total as this time last year. Most members are now using our online registration which is great. As a reminder I would urge again all members who are not using our online membership option from the website and who use EFT as your payment to also email or post a copy of your membership form to me. Especially if your organisation is paying- I would just remind them to also post the membership form as this will make it easier to process your membership. It gets a little tricky sometimes trying to match a name with no other identifying information.

After many years, well since AGOSCI's inception, we have decided to close down our fax facilities and answering machine. The fax machine has broken down and with such little use it was decided that email contact was the best way to contact us.

I have been busy typing up minutes and processing memberships and member enquiries. I also had the pleasure of manning the AGOSCI table at the recent Australian Assistive Technology Conference in Melbourne. It was a great conference and I enjoyed meeting the delegates who came to the AGOSCI table to learn more about AGOSCI.

Many thanks again to all the members who have joined this year. We value your membership and strive to provide an Organisation that you wish to belong to. I look forward to hearing from you all again next year and seeing you in Perth for the AGOSCI conference.

Thanks also to everyone who has contributed to the listserv. I have enjoyed the discussions and the information everyone has contributed and shared.

Keep up the good work.

:: MELISSA BAKES



TREASURER'S REPORT

Hi everyone,

I've been keeping busy paying the bills for AGOSCI's recent activities such as the literacy intensive held in July, our national tour held in conjunction with SCOPE and activities for AAC awareness month in October. I've also been preparing for our upcoming audit and putting together a budget for next year which includes exciting initiatives such as a paid professional development consultant position for AGOSCI which was recently advertised and a new position for an NDIS consultant to help keep members informed and advocate for support for AAC within the scheme.

I hope to see you at an AGOSCI event this year.

:: TRACEY HANIGAN

AIF EDITOR

Hello AGOSCI In Focus readers,

I am delighted to be contributing to this wonderful magazine as Editor. Thank you to Stella for all your hard work over the last couple of years and holding my hand while I wrap my head around what is involved. This edition of AIF brings some new sections including:

The Research Corner – Breaking down recent publications regarding AAC

Sharing of Journeys – Where an AAC user will share part of their journey to becoming the best communicator they can be. The purpose of this section is to provide information and ideas our AGOSCI members.

Click Tips from the Editor – A section that discusses interesting YouTube channels, Facebook pages, apps and blogs that talk about complex communication needs, good communication partners and awesome AAC users.

Looking forward to a great year ahead and seeing you in 2019.

:: JESSICA PRESTON



STATE REPORTS

QUEENSLAND

AGOSCI QLD Rep Update – Summer 2018

My first six months as the QLD Rep for AGOSCI has been busy but very enjoyable! Earlier in the year we donated AAC textbooks to The Trihn Foundation for use in universities in Vietnam and spread the word about AGOSCI at the ISAAC Conference and Source Kids Exhibition.

AGOSCI QLD has also teamed up with Carolyn Ham and Jen Ryan to start a Community of Practice in Brisbane for speech pathologists working in the field of disability. We are holding monthly meetings for this group, each with a specific disability-related theme. If you are interested in joining, contact speechies.in.disability.brisbane@gmail.com

Finally, in October I had the pleasure of hosting an AAC Awareness Month event at Chermside Library. Families enjoyed meeting other families using AAC, participating in a variety of library-related activities, and idolising our resident AAC expert Dale. Thanks to everyone who attended.

I look forward to hosting other similar events soon!

:: ALISON MOORCROFT

NSW

Hi everyone,

Since NSW's last update in AGOSCI In Focus, Catroina has stepped down as state co-representative. Thank you Catroina, for your dedication and contribution to AGOSCI! You will be missed. Sabrina Fong has joined NSW as the other AGOSCI co-representative.

To celebrate AAC Awareness month in October, AGOSCI NSW teamed up with AAC Voice for this year's AAC Voice picnic. The picnic was held at Bobbin Head National Park. It was a fun day, filled with laughs, food, conversation and games and activities (mask making, bocce)! The winner of the bocce game was delighted to receive the prize (a gift voucher) and made prompt plans to spend his winnings in the toy section of Myer!

It was great to collaborate once again with AAC Voice.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy new year. We will be in the new year!

Warm regards,

:: CECILIA & SABRINA

NSW co-representatives



ACT

In the ACT I've been talking to teachers, families and AAC users to get to know what is and isn't working for them in regards to their communication needs and how AGOSCI could work better for them. In June we had a very popular 2 day PODD workshop in partnership with Malkara School which was the first PODD training in the territory in a long time. Later in October, at our inaugural AAC picnic, we had a lovely turnout of teachers and families on a beautiful day at Boundless Playground. Some families expressed that they would like more events like the picnic in 2019 to be able to chat and share their journeys. Stay tuned for info regarding these in the new year, looking forward to lots of exciting times in the new year!

Warm regards,

:: JESS DETHICK *ACT representative*

PD COMMITTEE

Welcome to another edition of AGOSCI In Focus! The Literacy Intensive held in Calamvale, QLD, was a great success with 50 attendees. People got one week of intensive learning on how to better support developing literacy development. Our members have also enjoyed seen a range of webinars, including a presentation on voice banking by Peta Booth from LifeTec, a webinar by Jane Remington-Gurney on the strategies used by communication assistants to support interactions, and a presentation in May by Janelle Sampson of Two Way Street in conducting AAC assessments.

Our National Tour saw events run in Melbourne, Hobart and Adelaide, as well as an online webinar event.

As of the end of 2018 I'm stepping down from this role, and AGOSCI now has a Professional Development Co-Ordinator to expand this program – Welcome Ria Ferris.

:: SABASTIAN CAON

WA

In WA, preparations for our AGOSCI 2019 Conference are in full swing!

We are delighted to have Sally Hunter and Kelly Savage on board as Co-Chairs, which is particularly apt given their support to AGOSCI as executive members over many years. If you haven't already, we encourage you to check out their warm welcome letter on the new AGOSCI 2019 Conference website! We've been meeting regularly with our hard-working conference committee with much excitement and anticipation about hosting our Australian AAC Community's conference for the first time in 20 years. AAC in WA has gained so much momentum in the past 5 years, with many services delivering new initiatives and schools focusing on improving communication practices.

We look forward to bringing everyone together and building connections in 2019 and we hope to see lots of abstracts from our WA contingency!

:: YVETTE & FREYA

WA co-representatives





SA

In October, Adelaide celebrated AAC Awareness Month by holding the inaugural AGOSCI AAC Picnic. The picnic was well attended by AAC users, families, friends, speech pathologists and educators who gathered at the newly opened Hendrie Street Inclusive Playground to share all things AAC. The day was spent making new friends, chatting, chatting and more chatting, enjoying the playground and of course eating. It was exciting to see so much AAC in action!

The 2018 AGOSCI National Tour was held in Adelaide at Errington Special Education Centre. Scope Australia's workshop "Speak up and Be Safe from Abuse" was facilitated by Margie Charlesworth and Liz Weston, this presentation focussed on promoting the rights and safety for people with complex communication needs. The participants who included speech pathologists, educators, advocates and researchers were actively engaged in robust conversations throughout the day. Margie and Liz provided the group with practical tools and strategies to ensure that all people with complex communication needs are given a voice when they need it the most.

:: JODIE WHITFORD



SHARING OF JOURNEYS

ADVENTURES IN FINDING MY VOICE

Describe yourself in 3 words.

MATT Tall. Happy. Cool.

JESS Do you have anything else you want to add?

MATT Yes. My team are really good to me.

What has been the highlight of your year?

MATT Going back to speech (therapy).

You've been seeing me (Jess) fortnightly at Mamre for Speech Pathology sessions. What is your big goal right now?

MATT Talk.

You typed out in one session you wanted to learn to say 'love you mum'. What did your mum think of this?

MATT That is was awesome.

What have you been learning in therapy?

MATT The way to talk

JESS Matt has been learning about everything involved in talking including controlling his breathing, using movement to turn his voice on, stretches for better posture for speech and where his jaw and lips need to move when trying to say words. Matt has also worked on physically practicing mouth positions for speech and visualising what he needs to do with his body.

You've said a few new words this year, what words did you say?

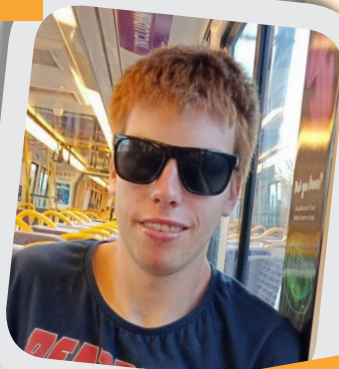
MATT Now, Yeah.

JESS Some of the other words you have said include 'Dude' and 'Dad'

What has been challenging?

MATT Teaching the right way to talk.

JESS Finding the best way to help Matt's body has been challenging. Each week we adapt to the best ways to meet Matt physical, sensory and motor support needs. What works one week, might not always work



BY MATT HORAN

The following interview was completed by Matt Horan in November 2018. Matt was interviewed by his speech pathologist, Jessica Preston.

Matt is a man who uses Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) including typing, body language, facial expressions and vocalisations to express himself.

The following answers were given by Matt through typing.

the next. Matt has been fantastic in providing us with feedback about how his body is going each session and is working hard on learning how to explain what his body needs.

One thing you love.

MATT The ice blocks.

One thing you detest.

MATT The heat.

What advice would you give to a younger version of yourself?

MATT Take it easy.

What helps you to have a good therapy session with Jess at Mamre?

MATT Teacher really helps.

Thanks so much for taking the time to complete this interview Matt. Is there anything else that you want to say to the people who are reading this interview?

MATT I really want to help the people.

JESS If the people who read this, want some more information or have any questions, would you be happy to talk with them?

MATT Yes (body language :: big smile, pointing to chest and nodding his head)



**ISAAC CONFERENCE
LETTER FROM**

SASHA ARNOUX



*Sasha Arnoux, Natalie Elder,
Hannah Gutke, Natalie Atherton*

Dear AgOSCI,

Thank you for the great opportunity to attend the ISAAC conference on the Gold Coast in July 2018 through the AGOSCI scholarship programme. The timing of this could not have been better for our family. Last year we heard Haylee Parfett speak on communication devices in Victoria which invigorated us to start using my son's PODD book. With the support of Two Way Street my son is now using a PODD 48 which he happily carries with him.

I was a little unsure of what I would experience at ISAAC but after Day 1, I realised I had been given an opportunity to learn and share experiences of AAC which would help my son. There were so many knowledgeable speakers such as Pati King-DeBaun, Fiona Beauchamp and Gloria Soto, that it was hard to decide which workshops to attend as they were all interesting and relevant. The learning lounge held by Tobii Dynavox was a popular place to be, not just for the great lunches but we had the opportunity to hear Gayle Porter and learn about different devices and software.

I enjoyed listening to school programmes by College Row in Bunbury and TAVSgruppen in Denmark and listening to other mothers on The Road to AAC which introduced me to Microboards.

I was fortunate enough to meet up with several other mothers from the Cri du Chat Syndrome Association. After being motivated from four days at ISAAC we decided to set up #AACAugust to support families using AAC on our associations Facebook page. We had an exciting month of sharing ideas, supporting and learning from each other.

We have since trialled the new Tobii Dynavox i-110 on a PODD 60 and hope this will be funded through NDIS for the beginning of High School next year.

So, again, many thanks for this opportunity, I hope other families will be able to experience such opportunities to support their AAC journey. Looking forward to AGOSCI 2019!

With very best wishes,

Sasha Arnoux





MY FIRST EXPERIENCE AT ISAAC CONFERENCE

2018

BY LISA HO

Hi, my name is Lisa Ho. Thanks to AGOSCI Australia for the scholarship, I was able to attend my first ISAAC Conference. It was held at Gold Coast Exhibition and Convention Centre on 23-26 July 2018. It was also the first time that the Conference was held at the Asia-Pacific Region and Australia is proud to be the host. At the opening ceremony Meredith Allen was proclaimed the current ISAAC President. It was a momentous occasion. At the end of the Ceremony we all stood up and sang the song "I am Australian" by The Seekers.

I was overwhelmed by the participants at this Conference; there were more than 2000 participants from over 70 nations. They include therapists, organisers, support workers, parents, promoters, sponsors, teachers and people who use AAC (PWUAAC). The Conference was preceded by a Pre-Conference Workshop at Griffith University and a camp at Curriculum Special school. Although I didn't attend these activities, the people who attended were very excited by their experience.

There were many opportunities for participants to be actively involved at this Conference. For the first time, the Conference introduced the 'Dare to Lead' Workshop which is a leadership program for PWUAAC. I was excited because I wanted to improve my professional and leadership skills. I was fortunate to be one of the four people to be selected for this program. Leadership development needs support, opportunity and mentorship. At the Conference we attended a four-hour workshop on what leadership involves and we got to select our choice of mentor to work with. My mentor is Beth Moulam, a lovely young lady from York, UK. Over the 12 months or so, I will be in regular contact with her via FaceTime to support and guide me through the program. So far, it has been going well towards achieving my leadership goal. I also took advantage of a video presentation competition. My dad and I put together a 5 minute video. There were a total of 18 entries from all over the world.

There were many highlights at this Conference. Apart from meeting old friends from previous Big Mouth Camps and AGOSCI Conferences, I have the opportunity to meet new friends from other countries such as Thailand, US, UK, Singapore and many more. I met Dr. Jordan Nguyen, a handsome looking ABC TV presenter, an inventor and a bio-medical engineer who turned up this Conference. No wonder lots of us love his presentation. Another highlight was a Speed Dating Workshop and I wasn't the only one who got excited about it. The best highlight was listening to the winner of the ISAAC2018 Outstanding Consumer Lecture Award. Congrats to Mke Ninces of New Zealand. She is young and she has achieved so much in her life. To see her using her toes instead of her finger to operate her AAC was simply inspirational. My other highlights were the social events, a visit to DreamWorld wildlife sanctuary and a dinner dance as well as the BBQ and dance at the Gold Coast Casino.



THE CONFERENCE SHOWS THAT ISAAC IS A STRONG VOICE THAT SPEAKS FOR ALL PWUAAC. MANY COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ALL OVER THE WORLD AND THOSE IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION LOOK TO ISAAC FOR LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATIONS IN AAC.

I would recommend attending an ISAAC Conference at least once. The next conference will be at Mexico 2020.

Thank you AGOSCI for the scholarship. It has been my window of opportunity to understand the diversity of Access All Area.



The videos can be viewed on YouTube by searching 'international society of augmentative isaac' or by visiting this link: <https://bit.ly/2CMau0s>

Look out for my video, titled, 'In Search of My Voice'.

THE AAC COMMUNICATORS CLUB

BY **FIN COLL** (AAC Communicator) & **DARREN TRENTPOHL** (Speech Pathologist)

The AAC Communicators Club started early in 2018 and a half day get-together for kids using high tech and/or large vocabulary communication aids. The purpose was to meet other kids using the aids, and have lots of fun together. It was the brainchild of Fin Coll, who when offered a range of cool Speech Pathology goals for 2018, suggested that what he wanted to do most was meet other kids using device. Fin attends his local State School, and does not have any other AAC Communicator role models. He is 9 years old, in grade 4, uses an Accent to communicate, and loves the Richmond Tigers. We have had 3 club events so far.

To let you know a bit more of what we do, here is a transcript of a conversation that Fin had with his Speech Pathologist Darren Trentepohl.



DARREN

D So Fin, tell everyone about how the AAC Communicators Club started.

F We thought about kids learning to use devices coming together to teach and help each other.

F Why did you think about AAC Communicators Club?

D I wanted to make an event that would help you come together with other AAC communicators, to play and meet others using devices and learning to use their devices and have fun. Plus when I asked you about your 2018 Speech goals, you weren't interested in my goals - you just wanted to meet other kids using devices.

D Tell everyone when and where we meet.

F In the school holidays, because we are not at school and have time to do it. Tell them where we meet?

D I thought you were going to do that?

F No, you.

D Caloundra Community Centre. And do you know what was the part of the day I liked the best?

F Yeah, awesome, cool

D The food that the families brought, it was tasty.

FIN

D Readers might like to know what your favourite activity was.

F What's the time Mr Wolf, because you get scared.

D And do you want to talk about who organised it?

F Yeah, volunteers – families and Speech Pathologists; no politics

D How many kids have come to the club?

F I think 7 AAC Communicators

D Should we do it again?

F Yes, it is popular and get to eat your chips that your boys loved, and I ate it all. Mum told me just one! Please more AAC Communicators come.



2018 AGOSCI NATIONAL TOUR

SPEAK UP & BE SAFE FROM ABUSE

AGOSCI TASMANIA

AGOSCI Tasmania was thrilled to be able to host a site for the 2018 AGOSCI National Tour in Hobart in October 2018. This important topic presented by Scope Australia offered People with Complex Communication Needs, advocates and others working in community services an empowering opportunity to develop their awareness, knowledge and response to abuse and neglect. Naomi Rezzani from Scope in Victoria and Heath Mollineaux from Hobart facilitated the session. This included sharing of communication strategies and tools to enable discussion and understanding of people's experiences and concerns around abuse and neglect.

AGOSCI Tasmania was fortunate to be generously supported by Allison Standen (Labor MP for Franklin) and Josh Willie (Labor MLC for Elwick) to fund the attendance of two adults with Complex Communication Needs to attend the workshop.

Thankyou to all who supported and participated in the workshop.

Stay connected to AGOSCI's website and facebook page for more opportunities to bring our AAC community together in Tasmania.

➔ www.agosci.org.au

f www.facebook.com/AGOSCI/

AGOSCI MELBOURNE

We had a great attendance rate (~19) - of two people with complex communication needs, disability support workers (and team leaders), speech therapists, and a couple of social workers. From speaking to people over the day, the overall feedback was positive - a really important topic to be talking about, and one that should get out to more people.

The resources were determined to be the most useful part of the workshop. For those who are interested in the resources but were not able to attend the workshop or the webinar please contact AGOSCI and we may be able arrange something for you. The Department of Education and Training in Victoria have developed a 'Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships' suite of learning materials, which are really prescriptive for teachers and other educators to use as a preventative measure of safeguarding against violence and abuse for people with disabilities.

➔ If you would like to read more about it please visit <https://bit.ly/2COiFcJ>

Georgia



RESEARCH CORNER - ALISON MOORCROFT

INAUGURAL AGOSCI ANNUAL RESEARCH GRANT

This year, AGOSCI introduced a research grant to the value of \$1000 to support the growth of research which will contribute to enhanced outcomes and participation for people with complex communication needs. The executive would like to congratulate Dr Andy Smidt and her research team on their receipt of this award. Andy plans to use the grant to create a range of videos of people with complex communication needs using different types of AAC to interact with a communication partner in natural settings. These videos will be used for a specific study on the assessment of people with complex communication needs and will later be available as a resource for use in university courses on AAC, ensuring AGOSCI's investment has a lasting impact on the speech pathology profession. Watch this space for updates on Andy's work as it progresses.

FUTURE CONTRIBUTIONS

If you would like to contribute to the research section of AIF (for example with a researcher profile, study overview/summary, or advertisement for participant recruitment), please contact Alison at agosciqld@agosci.org.au

RECENT SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS IN THE FIELD OF AAC

Authors of systematic reviews provide the highest level of evidence by searching for, appraising, and summarising all of the literature on a specific topic. In 2018 there have been a variety of systematic reviews published in the field of AAC and complex communication needs, some of which are summarised below:

Donato, C., Spencer, E., & Arthur-Kelly, M. (2018). A critical synthesis of barriers and facilitators to the use of AAC by children with autism spectrum disorder and their communication partners. *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 1-12. doi:10.1080/07434618.2018.1493141

The aim of this review was to critically synthesize barriers and facilitators to the use of AAC systems by children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their communication partners. Qualitative data related to barriers and facilitators were synthesized from 42 studies located using a systematic search. The critical synthesis identified 5 themes to which barriers and facilitators are related: (a) Intervention Services and Service Providers, (b) AAC Systems and Technologies (c), Communication Partners of Children with ASD, (d) Parents of Children with ASD, and (e) Children with ASD. The findings suggest that barriers and facilitators to the use of AAC vary across individuals, AAC modalities, and environments.

Ripat, J., Verdonck, M., Gacek, C., & McNicol, S. (2018). A qualitative metasynthesis of the meaning of speech-generating devices for people with complex communication needs. *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 1-11. doi:10.1080/07434618.2018.1513071

The aim of this metasynthesis review of published qualitative research was to investigate the lived experience and meaning ascribed to speech-generating devices (SGDs) by people with complex communication needs and their familiar communication partners. The meta-synthesis included 21 original articles and resulted in the identification of six main themes, each of which was comprised of two or more sub-themes that related to the experience of using SGD: It's an Inefficient Voice, It's Not a Natural Voice, Making the Most of This Voice, It's My Voice, It's More Than a Voice, and Having a Voice: Being Heard. The findings depict how use of an SGD is a complex process of understanding the limitations of the device, acknowledging expectations of society, using strategies to optimize communication, being aware of what an SGD represents, and using the SGD to enable social participation and a sense of empowerment.

Moorcroft, A., Scarinci, N., & Meyer, C. (2018). A systematic review of the barriers and facilitators to the provision and use of low-tech and unaided AAC systems for people with complex communication needs and their families. *Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology*, 1-22. doi:10.1080/17483107.2018.1499135

The aim of this review was to synthesize the barriers and facilitators to the provision and use of low-tech and unaided AAC systems. Qualitative data was extracted from 43 included articles and was analysed with reference to the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF). Most barriers and facilitators were coded as contextual factors within the ICF. Of most prominence were environmental factors, including attitudes of and supports provided by professionals, family members, and the society at large. Themes were also identified which related to the personal factors, including the user's own attitude, socioeconomic status, and culture. Beyond these contextual factors, the remaining codes related to body functions such as cognition and movement. There are numerous barriers to the provision and use of low-tech and unaided AAC systems, which may contribute to the inadequate use of these systems by people with complex communication needs.

O'Neill, T., Light, J., & Pope, L. (2018). Effects of interventions that include aided augmentative and alternative communication input on the communication of individuals with complex communication needs: A meta-analysis. *Journal of Speech, Language & Hearing Research*, 16(7), 1743-1765. doi:10.1044/2018_JSLHR-L-17-0132

The purpose of this meta-analysis was to investigate the effects of AAC interventions that included aided AAC input (e.g., aided AAC modeling, aided language modeling, aided language stimulation, augmented input) on communicative outcomes (both comprehension and expression) for individuals with developmental disabilities who use AAC. A systematic search resulted in the identification of 26 single-case experimental designs and 2 group experimental designs. AAC interventions that included aided AAC input in isolation, or as part of a multicomponent intervention, were found to be highly effective across participants of various ages, disabilities, and language skills. The interventions typically included aided AAC input in conjunction with expectant delay, direct prompting (e.g., spoken, gestural), contingent responding, and openended questions. The interventions were found to be highly effective in supporting both comprehension and expression across the domains of pragmatics, semantics, and morphosyntax. Outcomes related to expression were reported more often than outcomes related to comprehension. Aided AAC input may reduce input-output asymmetry and enhance expression and comprehension for individuals who use AAC; the evidence suggests that partners should utilize this strategy.

STUDIES SEEKING PARTICIPANTS

Service and support networks
Jane Adams – University of New South Wales

This study aims to learn more about how parents/ carers of primary school-aged children with disability develop and use their unique network of services and supports, how that fits in with their family life and activities, and what makes it easier or more difficult to use their available resources in the way they feel is most useful. The geographical region we are recruiting participants from includes Western Sydney, South-Western Sydney, Northern Sydney, Central Coast, Southern NSW, Nepean/ Blue Mountains and the ACT.

➔ www.parentnetworks.org

Exploring factors related to the use and non-use of AAC systems
Alison Moorcroft – The University of Queensland

This study aims to explore why parents of children with complex communication needs choose to use or not use AAC systems with their child. We are seeking parents from any location who have been asked to use an AAC system with their child who is aged 0 - 8 years to complete an online survey. It does not matter if you are still using the AAC system or not. Parents who complete the survey will go into the draw to receive a \$50 Coles-Myer gift card.

➔ For further information or to participate, please go to www.aacsurvey.com

WELCOME TO LAMP LAND!

WHAT IS LAMP?

Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP) was first described by John Halloran, Cindy Halloran and Mia Emerson. It is a therapy approach, also an App (LAMP Words for Life) and a language file found on some dedicated devices.

LAMP therapy focuses on giving an individual access to single words (usually core vocabulary) on a voice output device that uses consistent and unique motor patterns.

There are five elements that interact to support language connections.

READINESS TO LEARN

Make friends with your Occupational therapy colleagues and utilise their expertise for ideas.

Identify what activities motivate your client/child and use these activities when teaching. If you are both having fun then it is an ideal environment for learning to occur. Sensory techniques to increase arousal (e.g. movement) as well as calm a person (e.g. deep pressure) can also be critical when supporting someone to be able to focus and learn. Some activities such as swinging up and down can help motivate a child as well as support their sensory needs.

SHARED FOCUS

Follow the child's lead around their interests & activities.

CONSISTENT AND UNIQUE MOTOR PATTERNS

LAMP is based on consistent and unique motor patterns for each individual word. Once the location of a word is learnt it cannot be changed. If a person is searching for a word through icon recognition then categorisation and location of a word on the device, accessing a word cannot become automatic. This requires a person to think about the operational component of the device and reduces the automaticity. We want all people to be able to focus on the conversation around them, not on 'where is the word in my device'. If the location of vocabulary is

constantly changing then the person will not be able to automatically access their communication. Our brain develops consistent motor patterns e.g. tying shoelaces, playing piano, hitting some buttons on your mobile phone. LAMP is based on utilising consistent motor patterns.

AUDITORY SIGNALS

Particular motor movements lead to a consistent and immediate response. E.g. hit the icon sequence for 'eat' and you hear 'eat'.

NATURAL CONSEQUENCES

Provide a natural consequence for communication attempts e.g. if they say 'eat' you can either give them some food, or say 'no, we just had lunch', or if it is your child pretend to 'eat' them with tickles and hugs.

HOW DO I DO IT?

Find an AAC system that supports consistent and unique motor patterns with voice output (usually something that supports a LAMP vocab file).

1. Choose your vocabulary to cover a range of pragmatic functions. These could include...

Directive	Recurrence	Assistance	Ownership
Go	More	Help	My
Stop			Your
Turn			

2. Learn where the vocabulary is in your device and practice before trying with a client. It is hard to juggle a device, toy and support a child to learn all at once.

➔ Cheat sheets for LAMP can be made using the PASS software
www.prentrom.com/support/PASS

Your		
My		
Go		
Help		
More		
Stop		
Turn		

3. Select goals that can be used across a few different activities. These goals could be used with a spinning top or wind up car.

- Client will use 'go', 'stop' and/or 'turn' as a directive.
- Client will use 'help' to request assistance.
- Client will use 'more' to request recurrence.

For activity ideas, see next page.



ACTIVITY IDEAS: STAGE ONE

‘GO’ - model and teach this word when pressing the button to make the toy spin. After initial teaching, prompt the client to use this word to request the button be activated.

‘STOP’ - model and teach this word when the toy stops spinning.

‘TURN’ - model and teach this word when turning the top into the toy. After initial teaching, prompt the client to use this word to direct you to turn the top.

‘HELP’ - model and teach this word when the client requires assistance activating the toy.

‘MORE’ - wait for the client to request recurrence once the toy stops.

ACTIVITY IDEAS: STAGE TWO

‘MY TURN’ - model the phrase when using the toy. Prompt the client to use the phrase when they want a turn.

‘YOUR TURN’ - model the phrase when it is the client’s turn.

‘MORE GO’ - prompt the client to request recurrence once the toy stops.

‘STOP TURN’ - prompt the client to direct when to stop turning the top into the toy.

STEP UP THE ACTIVITY BY:

Focusing solely on two to three word phrases as per stage two activities. For example, **‘HELP TURN’** to request assistance when turning the top of the toy.

More core words can be targeted such as ‘want’, ‘on’, ‘in’, ‘slow’ or ‘fast’ to provide a wider variety of two word phrases. For example:

‘WANT PUT IN’ - wait for the client to request insertion of the top into the toy.

‘WANT MORE’ - wait for the client to request recurrence once the toy stops.

‘PUT ON’ - allow the client to request the toy be put on a surface before activating the toy.

‘WANT GO’ - wait for the client to request pressing the button on the toy before activating it.

‘GO FAST’ - prompt the client to direct the speed of the toy.

‘GO SLOW’ - prompt the client to direct the speed of the toy.

STEP DOWN THE ACTIVITY BY

decreasing the number of words targeted to ensure the client understands the single words.





FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LAMP

For more information about the LAMP Therapy approach, or to find a Speech Pathologist who can help you to implement it, please contact Liberator staff.

Please get in touch with the authors with any questions and we will be happy to help you.

➔ Additionally the website for the centre for AAC and Autism has more information also:
www.aacandautism.com

f For people interested in LAMP via Facebook, search 'LAMP Words for Life Users Group'.
www.facebook.com/groups/1541091616125345/

▶ Lindsey Cargill, a LAMP trainer in USA has a great YouTube channel with some videos:
www.youtube.com/user/LindseyCargill/videos

▶ John Halloran has some great instructional on how to use the LAMP WFL app on his YouTube channel. Search 'WordToob' or visit www.youtube.com/channel/UCHqHfGc3ofH8Q0RSgc9iOSA

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CLICK TIPS FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to our first set of 'Click Tips'. Here I hope to give you some inspiration, motivation and opportunities to learn. We all know that we currently live in a climate when information is readily available on the internet. This information is only a click away, but it can be hard to navigate through. Each edition of AIF we will try to share some new ideas. The first list is by no means the only list, rather, just a few of my current favourites.

FACEBOOK

UNCOMMON SENSE BLOG

A beautifully written blog and Facebook page by a Mum and now newly qualified Speech Pathologist who has a child who uses AAC to communicate. Her honest and real posts provide perspective, reassurance and quality information. A 'must visit' page for new and experienced AAC families.

 www.facebook.com/Uncommon-Sense-Blog-123130417730793/

AAC MOTIVATE AND MOVE OUT OF THE WAY

This is a Facebook group that anyone can join. Moderated (developed and looked after by) the great Kate Ahern. Kate is an AAC specialist in the United States and a mum of a tween who uses AAC. This page provides a platform for questions and sharing of information and resources. There are some great files linked to this page. Highly recommended for families and therapists alike.

 www.facebook.com/groups/421704261346486/

BEENLEIGH SPECIAL SCHOOL

This south east Queensland State school's Facebook emerged into the AAC spot light late in 2018. It shared some lovely videos for book week about how to read using a variety of AAC strategies. In between its personal school posts there are some lovely videos about AAC users successes and ideas for supporting language development.

 www.facebook.com/beenleighspecialschool/

YOUTUBE

Don't wait to communicate: A lovely starting point presented by Dana Neider – Hosted by Centre for Technology and Disability.

 www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6JIPP725KM

FREE AAC ONLINE COURSES AND LEARNING MODULES

AAC IN THE CLOUD

Each year a family run company 'CoughDrop' host a FREE online AAC conference. They invite professionals and families from all over the world to share information through online presentations. Some really big names in AAC donate their time to education and inspire families and therapist. The best thing about this online conference is that they share their videos on youtube after the conference to be viewed when ever it suits you.

 www.aacconference.com

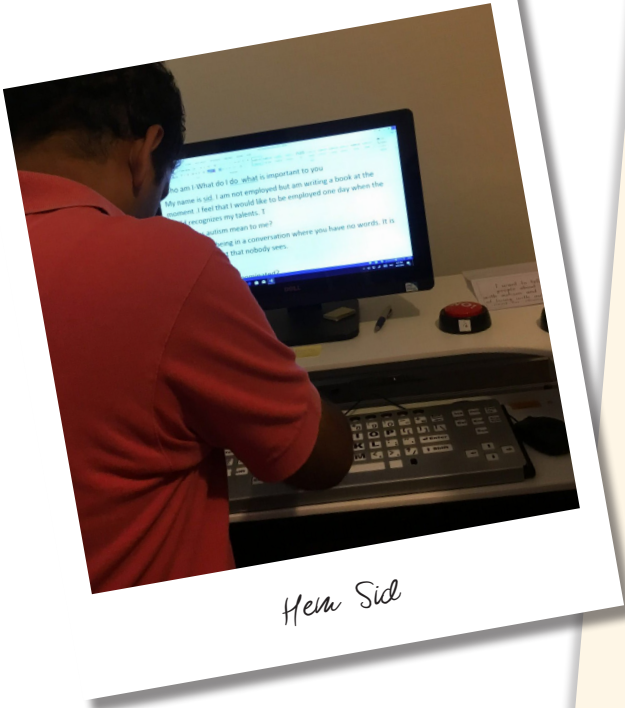
 Search 'AAC in the cloud' on YouTube

COMMUNICATION TRAINING

SERIES – By Angelman Syndrome Foundation
An oldie but a goodie. This training series was first published a couple of years ago but it provides some lovely information about where to start with AAC and how to introduce new language. Click the link 'See webinar list and recordings' to start you off.

 www.angelman.org/resources-education/communication-training-series/

HEM'S POEM



Hem Sid

The night is dark and quiet
I am home and still

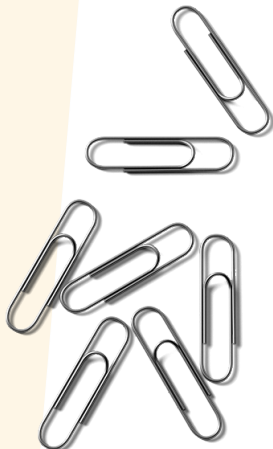
On my day off time is like lead
It drops me in a pit

Comraderie is lovely
Very old friends tonight

My time goes in little breaths
I remain trapped in it.

Lost my voice
Not my mind
Lost my way
Not my will.

Life is a gift
Always a surprise
Till unwrapped, totally unknown
May not be what you wished for
The universe sent it
More I cannot say



TalkingMats



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 - ✓ Foundation Training calendar now on website.
 - ✓ Registrations open.
 - ✓ Book now to become certified.
 - ✓ Resources can be purchased in Australia.

Choosing a communication device

How we can help....

The questions here are a starting point. They are based on our three pillars. Zyteq's clinical team can assist to find the right device. We do this through phone and face-to-face consultations, guided device evaluations (hire and trial), clinic days around Australia, information sessions and other educational activities. Please give us a call to discuss the next steps. You can book a call at a time that suits you from the button on our home page.

Team Zyteq



Access

- What is the most efficient way for the device user to operate the device?
- Where will the device be used?
- What positions and locations are needed?
- Are multiple access methods needed?
- What are the portability options?
- Occupational Therapists can advise.

Connect

- What communication functions are needed e.g. phone and SMS, email, social media?
- Are additional functions needed e.g. environment control, internet or games?

Communicate

- How will messages be generated?
- What language representation method is suitable?
- What user interface is best?
- How will the message be expressed?
- Who are the communication partners?
- Speech Pathologist can advise here.

Zyteq Pty Ltd

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REGISTRATION OPEN: 28 February 2019

ABSTRACTS CLOSE: 8 March 2019

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 28 May 2019

