

# Agenda

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12 March 2025

## **9:00 am - 10:30 am** **Pre-Conference Workshop 1 by Erin Sheldon**

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Session - [Pre-Conference Workshop](#) - Gilbert Suite

9:00 am

[Embedding robust vocabulary instruction into classroom routines](#)  
[Erin Sheldon](#)

Embedding robust vocabulary instruction into classroom routines

## **9:00 am - 10:30 am** **Pre-Conference Workshop 2 by Kathy Look Howery**

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Session - [Pre-Conference Workshop](#) - Riverbank Room 2

9:00 am

[The lived experience of speaking through a speech-generating device](#)  
[Kathy Look Howery](#)

## **9:00 am - 10:30 am** **Pre-Conference Workshop 3 by Gayle Porter**

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Session - [Pre-Conference Workshop](#) - Riverbank Room 3

9:00 am

[Aided language development](#)  
[Gayle Porter](#)

Aided language development

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12 March 2025

## **10:30 am - 11:00 am** **Morning Tea**

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Session - [Break](#) - Riverbank Foyer

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12 March 2025

## **11:00 am - 12:00 pm** **Pre-Conference Workshop 1 by Erin Sheldon**

---

Session - [Pre-Conference Workshop](#) - Gilbert Suite

11:00 am

[Embedding robust vocabulary instruction into classroom routines](#)

[Erin Sheldon](#)

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**11:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**Pre-Conference Workshop 2 by Kathy Look Howery**

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Session - [Pre-Conference Workshop](#) - Riverbank Room 2

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**11:00 am - 12:00 pm**

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Session - [Pre-Conference Workshop](#) - Riverbank Room 3

11:00 am

[Aided language development](#)

[Gayle Porter](#)

Aided language development

---

12 March 2025

**12:00 pm - 1:00 pm**

**Lunch**

---

Session - [Break](#) - Riverbank Foyer

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12 March 2025

**1:00 pm - 2:30 pm**

**Pre-Conference Workshop 1 by Erin Sheldon**

---

Session - [Pre-Conference Workshop](#) - Gilbert Suite

1:00 pm

[Embedding robust vocabulary instruction into classroom routines](#)

[Erin Sheldon](#)

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**1:00 pm - 2:30 pm**

**Pre-Conference Workshop 2 by Kathy Look Howery**

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Session - [Pre-Conference Workshop](#) - Riverbank Room 2

1:00 pm

[The lived experience of speaking through a speech-generating device](#)

[Kathy Look Howery](#)

**1:00 pm - 2:30 pm**

**Pre-Conference Workshop 3 by Gayle Porter**

---

Session - [Pre-Conference Workshop](#) - Riverbank Room 3

1:00 pm

[Aided language development](#)

[Gayle Porter](#)

Aided language development

---

12 March 2025

**2:30 pm - 3:00 pm**

**Afternoon Tea**

---

Session - [Break](#) - Riverbank Foyer

---

12 March 2025

**3:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

**Early Career Professionals Networking Session**

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Session - [Pre-Conference Workshop](#) - Riverbank Room 4

Kick off your conference experience by connecting with fellow early career professionals in a relaxed and welcoming environment. This dedicated networking session, held in Riverbank Room 4 at 3:00 PM on Wednesday, 12 March, provides a valuable opportunity to meet clinicians from across Australia, share experiences, and build professional relationships before the official welcome reception. No booking is required - simply drop in and join the conversation. Engage in guided discussions, exchange insights, and expand your network in a supportive setting.

3:00 pm

[Early Career Professionals Networking Session](#)

Kick off your conference experience by connecting with fellow early career professionals in a relaxed and welcoming environment. This dedicated networking session, held in Riverbank Room 4 at 3:00 PM on Wednesday, 12 March, provides a valuable opportunity to meet clinicians from across Australia, share experiences, and build professional relationships before the official welcome reception. No booking is required - simply drop in and join the conversation. Engage in guided discussions, exchange insights, and expand your network in a supportive setting.

**3:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

**Pre-Conference Workshop 1 by Erin Sheldon**

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Session - [Pre-Conference Workshop](#) - Gilbert Suite

3:00 pm

[Embedding robust vocabulary instruction into classroom routines](#)

[Erin Sheldon](#)

Embedding robust vocabulary instruction into classroom routines

**3:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

**Pre-Conference Workshop 2 by Kathy Look Howery**

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Session - [Pre-Conference Workshop](#) - Riverbank Room 2

3:00 pm

[The lived experience of speaking through a speech-generating device](#)

[Kathy Look Howery](#)

**3:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

**Pre-Conference Workshop 3 by Gayle Porter**

---

Session - [Pre-Conference Workshop](#) - Riverbank Room 3

3:00 pm

[Aided language development](#)

[Gayle Porter](#)

Aided language development

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12 March 2025

**5:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

**Welcome Reception**

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Session - [Social Function](#) - Foyer E - Exhibition

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13 March 2025

**9:00 am - 9:50 am**

**Opening & Welcome**

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Session - [Plenary](#) - Hall C

9:00 am

[Welcome to Country](#)

9:05 am

[Conference Welcome - Amelia Edwards & Jodie Whitford, Conference Convenors](#)

[Amelia Edwards, Jodie Whitford](#)

Conference Welcome - Amelia Edwards & Jodie Whitford, Conference Convenors

9:20 am

[AGOSCI Welcome - Darryl Sellwood, AGOSCI Chairperson  
Darryl Sellwood](#)

9:30 am

[Official Welcome - Honourable Emily Bourke MLC](#)

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13 March 2025

**9:50 am - 10:50 am**  
**Keynote Address**

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Session - [Plenary](#) - Hall C

9:50 am

[The Meaning of Voice  
Kathy Look Howery](#)

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13 March 2025

**10:50 am - 11:20 am**  
**Morning Tea**

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Session - [Break](#) - Foyer E - Exhibition

---

13 March 2025

**11:20 am - 12:40 pm**  
**Concurrent Session 1a**

---

Session - [Innovate](#), [Include](#) - Hall C

11:20 am

[Including AAC users in conversations about their own lives: what we learned from carrying out a research study with young people with cerebral palsy who use AAC  
Megan Walsh, Chris Pacheco](#)

11:40 am

[Brodie's communication journey!  
Brodie Shaw](#)

12:00 pm

[Empowering Autonomy Through Risk Enablement: Olivia's Decision Adventures  
Marissa Carlyon, Olivia Rowsell](#)

12:20 pm

[Safeguarding Communication for Adults with Communication Disability in Community Programs: The Development of the Communication Toolkit Application](#)

[Amelia Edwards](#)

## **11:20 am - 12:40 pm** **Concurrent Session 1b**

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Session - [Include](#), [Innovate](#), [Interact](#) - Room E1

11:20 am

[InterAACT: Communication, Connection and Community](#)

[Elizabeth Lea](#)

11:40 am

[Children's Perceptions of Natural and Synthetic Voices](#)

[Hannah Osborn](#)

12:00 pm

[A Tool to Support Inclusive Conversations: Talking Mats 'Supporting Communication with AAC' Resource](#)

[Claire Della Torre](#)

12:20 pm

[Use of Talking Mats to gain student voice at the Ponds School](#)

[Betty Campbell](#)

## **11:20 am - 12:40 pm** **Concurrent Session 1c**

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Session - [Innovate](#), [Interact](#) - Room E2

11:20 am

[Rethinking Non-Face-to-Face Therapy Support for AAC Users: Time for a Bigger Conversation](#)

[Rebecca Hudson](#)

Rethinking Non-Face-to-Face Therapy Support for AAC Users: Time for a Bigger Conversation

11:40 am

[Development and Support of Social and Emotional Wellbeing for Individuals with Complex Communication Needs and Coexisting Diagnoses](#)

[Cale Begley](#)

12:00 pm

[We need to fill the gap](#)

[Siobhan Daley](#)

12:20 pm

[Innovations in Communication Partner Training - Integral to AAC success](#)

[Haylee Parfett](#), [Claire Montague](#), [Kelly Pearce](#)

## **11:20 am - 12:40 pm** **Concurrent Session 1d**

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Session - [Include](#), [Innovate](#) - Room E3

11:20 am

[Phonics Implementation with People Who Need AAC: What Does the Evidence Base Say?](#)

[Nick Drover](#), [Jane Farrall](#)

12:00 pm

[Benefits of Synthetic Phonics Approach on Literacy Skill Development for Adult AAC Users](#)  
[Cassandra Cook](#), [Kurt Pollock](#)

12:20 pm

["Navigating High School Transitions for Students with Complex Communication Needs: Physical, Social and Curriculum Inclusion](#)  
[Noosha Hodgen](#), [Lucinda Panitz](#), [Philippa van Dorselaer](#), [Pamela Vavra](#)

## **11:20 am - 12:40 pm**

### **Concurrent Session 1e - Supported Decision Making**

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Session - [Include](#) - Gilbert Suite

11:20 am

[Supported decision-making for students with CCN](#)  
[Erin Sheldon](#)

Supported decision-making for students with CCN

## **11:20 am - 12:40 pm**

### **My Communication Passport**

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Session - [Base Camp](#) - Skyway Foyer

Create a personalised communication passport to share your communication preferences and ensure your voice is heard everywhere you go!

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13 March 2025

## **12:40 pm - 1:40 pm**

### **Lunch**

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Session - [Break](#) - Foyer E - Exhibition

---

13 March 2025

## **1:40 pm - 3:00 pm**

### **Concurrent Session 2a**

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Session - [Interact](#), [Innovate](#) - Hall C

1:40 pm

[The benefits of movement and getting outdoors on communication and social interaction](#)  
[Melissa Riepsamen](#), [Melinda Smith](#), [Laurence Byrne](#)

2:20 pm

[Screech Theatre Performances - Not just for Entertainment](#)

[Dale Gonelli](#)

2:40 pm

[Communication Champions: Revitalising a culture of communication within day and lifestyle services](#)

[Elizabeth Weston](#)

## **1:40 pm - 3:00 pm**

### **Concurrent Session 2b**

---

Session - [Include](#), [Interact](#) - Room E1

1:40 pm

[Making conversations about mental health easier: The role of communication partners according to people with communication access needs](#)

[Eleanor Watson](#)

2:00 pm

[Building Strong Minds: Including People with Cerebral Palsy in Mental Health Care](#)

[Connor Bryant](#), [Nerida Kho](#)

2:40 pm

[Spontaneous use of speech later in life: The potential impact of supported decision making, access to robust AAC, and meaningful community relationships.](#)

[Kimberley Robson](#)

## **1:40 pm - 3:00 pm**

### **Concurrent Session 2c**

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Session - [Innovate](#) - Room E2

1:40 pm

[I used AI to write this paper: communicating with Augmentative Innovation](#)

[Darryl Sellwood](#)

2:20 pm

[Integrating AAC and Gaming: No Longer a Final Fantasy](#)

[Jessica Dickson](#), [Lesley Gallagher](#)

## **1:40 pm - 3:00 pm**

### **Concurrent Session 2d**

---

Session - [Interact](#), [Innovate](#) - Room E3

1:40 pm

[Exploring the tools for assessment of communication in multimodal communication and AAC](#)

[Stephanie Weir](#), [Jenna O'Brien](#), [Sally Clendon](#)

2:20 pm

[Supporting Interaction: Exploring Reports on PODD for Children with Communication Support Needs](#)

[Emma GRACE](#)

2:40 pm



[GLP: Implications for AAC, beyond supporting people who communicate using echoes](#)  
[Bronwyn Wood](#)

## **1:40 pm - 3:00 pm** **Concurrent Session 2e - AAC in Schools**

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Session - [Include](#) - Gilbert Suite

1:40 pm

[What does it mean to know a word? Vocabulary instruction for AAC learners](#)  
[Erin Sheldon, Shannon Braithwaite](#)

What does it mean to know a word? Vocabulary instruction for AAC learners

## **1:40 pm - 3:00 pm** **My Communication Passport**

---

Session - [Base Camp](#) - Skyway Foyer

Create a personalised communication passport to share your communication preferences and ensure your voice is heard everywhere you go!

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13 March 2025

## **3:00 pm - 3:30 pm** **Afternoon Tea**

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Session - [Break](#) - Foyer E - Exhibition

---

13 March 2025

## **3:30 pm - 5:00 pm** **Concurrent Session 3a**

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Session - [Include](#), [Interact](#) - Hall C

3:30 pm

[What I Wish My Teachers Knew](#)  
[Margie CHARLESWORTH](#)

3:50 pm

["I want to do what the others are doing": Accounts of children who use AAC and their parents on inclusive education](#)

[Anna Kopsaftis, Amelia Edwards, Pammi Raghavendra](#)

"I want to do what the others are doing": Accounts of children who use AAC and their parents on inclusive education

4:10 pm

[From Little Things, Big Things Grow: The Impact of an AAC Peer Training Program at an Inclusive Primary](#)

[School](#)  
[Amelia Edwards](#)

4:30 pm  
[The Window](#)  
[Kiah Haysom](#)

### **3:30 pm - 5:00 pm** **Concurrent Session 3b**

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Session - [Interact](#), [Include](#) - Room E1

3:30 pm  
[Bridging the Vocabulary Gap for Students who use AAC](#)  
[Abirami Thirumanickam](#)

3:50 pm  
[Describing the Outcomes of PODD to Support Interaction with Children: Perspectives of Professionals](#)  
[Emma GRACE](#)

4:10 pm  
[Augmentative and Alternative Communication: Access and inclusion for children with sensory disability and additional needs](#)  
[Sarah Marshall](#), [Vicky Cheung](#), [Emma Bugarija](#)

4:30 pm  
[Experiences of Professionals in Using PODD to Support Interaction with Children with Communication Support Needs](#)  
[Emma GRACE](#)

### **3:30 pm - 5:00 pm** **Concurrent Session 3c**

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Session - [Interact](#), [Innovate](#) - Room E2

3:30 pm  
[Building the skills of communication partners](#)  
[Melissa Riepsamen](#), [Melinda Smith](#)

4:10 pm  
[Panel: Things I Wish My Communication Partners Knew](#)  
[Siobhan Daley](#), [Joseph Harrall](#), [Delara Kapadia](#)  
Panel: Things I Wish My Communication Partners Knew

### **3:30 pm - 5:00 pm** **Concurrent Session 3d**

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Session - [Include](#) - Room E3

3:30 pm  
["Take the time to get to know us": a framework and toolkit for inclusive research with people with cerebral palsy who use alternative and augmentative communication \(AAC\)](#)  
[Megan Walsh](#), [Brenton Ponza](#), [Darryl Sellwood](#)  
"Take the time to get to know us": a framework and toolkit for inclusive research with people with cerebral

palsy who use alternative and augmentative communication (AAC)

**3:30 pm - 5:00 pm**

### **Concurrent Session 3e - AAC in Schools**

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Session - [Include](#), [Innovate](#) - Gilbert Suite

3:30 pm

[Vocabulary in Action: Practical ideas to support AAC learners in the classroom and beyond](#)  
[Shannon Braithwaite](#)

Learning vocabulary is essential for AAC users, as it helps them organise their thoughts, express ideas, and better understand others. For AAC learners, a strong vocabulary also forms the foundation for reading and writing.

But building this vocabulary doesn't happen on its own. Teachers and therapists need effective, engaging strategies to make vocabulary instruction a daily part of their classrooms and therapy sessions. This can be a challenge, and many educators need support to implement strategies that truly work.

In this session, we'll dive into practical, hands-on activities designed specifically to help AAC learners build their vocabulary. We'll explore fun and engaging ways to teach new words, helping students not only learn language but also use it in their everyday lives. You'll also learn how to support educators in building capacity so that vocabulary instruction becomes a natural, ongoing part of their teaching practice. Whether you're working in the classroom, therapy room, or at home, you'll leave this session with practical, ready-to-use ideas that can make an immediate impact on your students' communication skills. Let's work together to give AAC learners the vocabulary they need to thrive!

3:50 pm

[Invested Teaching - Communication in the Curriculum](#)  
[Amanda Hartmann](#), [Emily Seoud](#), [Michaela Coleman](#)

Invested Teaching - Communication in the Curriculum

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13 March 2025

**5:00 pm - 6:15 pm**

### **This is Not About Me: Documentary Screening and Q&A with Jordyn Zimmerman**

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Session - [Presentation](#) - Gilbert Suite

5:00 pm

[This is Not About Me: Documentary Screening and Q&A with Jordyn Zimmerman](#)  
[Jordyn Zimmerman](#)

This is Not About Me: Documentary Screening and Q&A with Jordyn Zimmerman

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14 March 2025

**8:50 am - 9:00 am**

### **Welcome**

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Session - [Plenary](#) - Hall C

8:50 am

[AGOSCI Awards - presented by Sheridan Forster](#)

[Sheridan Forster](#)

AGOSCI Awards - presented by Sheridan Forster

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14 March 2025

**9:00 am - 10:00 am**  
**Keynote Address**

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Session - [Plenary](#) - Hall C

9:00 am

[Words worth sharing](#)

[Jordyn Zimmerman](#)

Words worth sharing

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14 March 2025

**10:00 am - 10:30 am**  
**Morning Tea**

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Session - [Break](#) - Foyer E - Exhibition

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14 March 2025

**10:30 am - 12:30 pm**  
**Concurrent Session 4a**

---

Session - [Include](#), [Innovate](#), [Interact](#) - Hall C

10:30 am

[Counselling with AAC users: learning from practice](#)

[Johanna Schmidt](#)

10:50 am

[Communication is the tip of the iceberg: Overcoming hidden barriers to realise inclusive mental health care for people with communication access needs.](#)

[Eleanor Watson](#)

11:10 am

[Grumpy Old \(AAC\) Woman](#)

[Meredith Allan](#)

11:30 am

[Emotion Work and People with Communication Disabilities](#)

[Margie CHARLESWORTH](#)

11:50 am

[The Link Between Inclusion and Advocacy for a World that Aims to Give Agency and Participation](#)

[Ben Keely](#), [Kelly Savage](#)

12:10 pm

[Finding their voices. Learning from those who were considered too disabled to talk.](#)  
[Tracey Campbell](#)

## **10:30 am - 12:30 pm** **Concurrent Session 4b**

---

Session - [Include](#), [Innovate](#) - Room E1

10:30 am

[The AAC Mentor Program at Southern Support School](#)  
[Tracey Hanigan](#) education, [Madeleine Polegaj](#), [Simon Ellaby](#), [Joseph Reynolds](#)

11:10 am

[Long term Implementation of Robust AAC in a Special Educational Setting](#)  
[Brett Pearson](#), [Emma Pearson](#), [Helen Tainsh](#), [Jane Farrall](#)

Long term Implementation of Robust AAC in a Special Educational Setting

11:50 am

[Innovative practice working with complex communication and vision impairment in the special school setting in Queensland](#)  
[Catriona Pine](#), [Sara King-Koi](#)

Innovative practice working with complex communication and vision impairment in the special school setting in Queensland

12:10 pm

[Sustainable AAC supports in the education context: The AAC in classrooms project](#)  
[Harmony Turnbull](#), [Tracey Hanigan](#), [Felicity Lovatt](#)

## **10:30 am - 12:30 pm** **Concurrent Session 4c**

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Session - [Innovate](#), [Include](#) - Room E2

10:30 am

[It takes a village: identifying and providing essential telepractice strategies for quality AAC intervention for people with complex physical disabilities outside major metropolitan centres](#)  
[Cassie Doyle](#), [Kimberley Quan](#)

11:10 am

[AAC from Afar: Improving Telehealth Trials](#)  
[Lilla O'Keeffe](#), [Sarah Stewart](#)

AAC from Afar: Improving Telehealth Trials

11:30 am

[Innovating to interact and include - Evaluating a multidisciplinary, multi-modal training approach for AAC Teams in regional Australia](#)  
[Helen Dimond](#), [Tammie Cunningham](#)

11:50 am

[Bridging the Gap: Empowering Remote Communities with AAC Access in Cape York and the Torres Strait](#)  
[Lilla O'Keeffe](#), [Maria Hill](#)

12:10 pm

[Indigenous data sovereignty and governance: Considerations for AAC practice with Yolŋu families](#)  
[Rebecca Amery](#), [Julie Gungunbuy Wunungmurra](#)

## 10:30 am - 12:30 pm Concurrent Session 4d

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Session - [Innovate](#), [Interact](#), [Include](#) - Room E3

10:30 am

[Building Employer Confidence to recruit and retain employees with communication disability and low literacy.](#)

[Sarah Mitchell](#), [Katie Lyon](#), [Jacob Matthew](#)

Building Employer Confidence to recruit and retain employees with communication disability and low literacy.

10:50 am

[Communicate and Connect: Capacity building in residential services](#)

[Bronwen Jones](#)

11:10 am

[Play and Chat: Creating Communication Accessible Parks and Play Spaces](#)

[Sarah Mitchell](#)

Play and Chat: Creating Communication Accessible Parks and Play Spaces

11:30 am

[Communication for NOW to support communication in the future: Exploring and promoting shared meaning in interactions between adults with severe and profound intellectual disability and their partners](#)

[Sheridan Forster](#), [Meredith Prain](#)

11:50 am

['Walling' A way to grow AAC Culture and AAC skills in communities](#)

[Jenny Barnes](#)

12:10 pm

[Be Safe Online: Resourcing young people with communication disability, cognitive impairment, and low literacy levels](#)

[Katie Lyon](#)

## 10:30 am - 12:30 pm Concurrent Session 4e - AAC in Numbers

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Session - [Innovate](#) - Gilbert Suite

10:30 am

[Similar students, different AAC outcomes: What explains Australia's magic?](#)

[Erin Sheldon](#), [David Niemeijer](#)

Similar students, different AAC outcomes: What explains Australia's magic?

11:30 am

[Measuring AAC User Linguistic Competence: A Novel Approach](#)

[Erin Sheldon](#), [David Niemeijer](#)

Measuring AAC User Linguistic Competence: A Novel Approach

## 10:30 am - 12:30 pm Party Pit Stop

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Session - [Base Camp](#) - Skyway Foyer

Get creative and transform your mask into a party masterpiece with jewels, colors, and endless flair—perfect to wear at the conference dinner!

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14 March 2025

**12:30 pm - 1:30 pm**  
**Lunch**

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Session - [Break](#) - Foyer E - Exhibition

**12:30 pm - 1:30 pm**  
**Panel: "It's my voice": The ethics of prescribing and changing AAC systems**

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Session - [Interact](#), [Innovate](#) - Hall C

12:30 pm

[Panel: "It's my voice": The ethics of prescribing and changing AAC systems](#)

[Kathy Look Howery](#), [Gayle Porter](#), [Hannah Gutke](#), [Meredith Allan](#)

Panel: "It's my voice": The ethics of prescribing and changing AAC systems

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14 March 2025

**1:30 pm - 2:50 pm**  
**AAC in Schools**

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Session - [Innovate](#) - Gilbert Suite

1:30 pm

[Coaching for Confident Classrooms: Unlocking the Magic of AAC](#)

[Amanda Hartmann](#), [Shannon Braithwaite](#)

Coaching for Confident Classrooms: Unlocking the Magic of AAC

**1:30 pm - 2:50 pm**  
**AGM**

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Session - [Social Function](#) - Hall C

1:30 pm

[AGM](#)

AGM

**1:30 pm - 2:50 pm**  
**Poster Presentations**

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Session - [Poster Presentations](#) - Foyer E - Exhibition

Please click [here](#) to review Posters

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14 March 2025

**2:50 pm - 3:10 pm**  
**Afternoon Tea**

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Session - [Break](#) - Foyer E - Exhibition

---

14 March 2025

**3:10 pm - 4:50 pm**  
**Concurrent Session 5a**

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Session - [Innovate](#), [Interact](#) - Hall C

3:10 pm

[Supporting Emergent Communicators: More than Aided AAC Modeling](#)  
[Jane Farrall](#), [Helen Tainsh](#)

4:30 pm

[The Diary of a Workshop Presenter: building capacity for communication partners](#)  
[Kate Munro](#)

**3:10 pm - 4:50 pm**  
**Concurrent Session 5b**

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Session - [Innovate](#), [Include](#) - Room E1

3:10 pm

[From cats sitting on puzzles to reading books and road trips: Using analogies to illuminate concepts in AAC.](#)  
[Janelle Sampson](#)

From cats sitting on puzzles to reading books and road trips: Using analogies to illuminate concepts in AAC.

3:30 pm

[Visionary Leadership, Innovative Practices: A Three-Year Journey of Transforming Communication Accessibility at St. Patrick's Special School](#)  
[Cathy Sires](#)

3:50 pm

[CAS or Can't? Building a Communication Accessible School.](#)  
[April Beaton](#)

4:10 pm

[From process to progress: The real goal of writing goals.](#)  
[Janelle Sampson](#)

4:30 pm

[Discovery of Communication Access at Victorian Library Services – Understanding facilitators, barriers and gaps through a staged approach](#)



[Nora Halpin](#)

Discovery of Communication Access at Victorian Library Services – Understanding facilitators, barriers and gaps through a staged approach

### **3:10 pm - 4:50 pm** **Concurrent Session 5c**

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Session - [Innovate](#), [Include](#) - Room E2

3:10 pm

[AAC research in Australia: Strengths, challenges, and future directions](#)

[Abirami Thirumanickam](#), [Darryl Sellwood](#), [Eleanor Watson](#), [Emma GRACE](#), [Pammi Raghavendra](#), [Rebecca Amery](#)

AAC research in Australia: Strengths, challenges, and future directions

4:30 pm

[Key Word Sign and Gesture - An inclusive strategy for promoting language and learning through embodied action](#)

[Leigha Dark](#)

### **3:10 pm - 4:50 pm** **Concurrent Session 5d**

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Session - [Innovate](#), [Interact](#) - Room E3

3:10 pm

[Empowering Communication: Eye Gaze and Head Tracking Technologies](#)

[Sarah Stewart](#), [Emily Swanson](#)

Empowering Communication: Eye Gaze and Head Tracking Technologies

3:30 pm

[Advancing Communication Through the Eye Gaze Learning Workbook: Clinical Insights and Innovations](#)

[Amy Litton](#)

Advancing Communication Through the Eye Gaze Learning Workbook: Clinical Insights and Innovations

3:50 pm

[Minspeak in Action: Tools for Spontaneous Interaction](#)

[Delara Kapadia](#), [Siobhan Daley](#)

Minspeak in Action: Tools for Spontaneous Interaction

4:10 pm

[Harnessing Data for Enhanced AAC Outcomes: A Realize Language Workshop](#)

[Freya Allen](#), [Leah Cardwell](#)

Harnessing Data for Enhanced AAC Outcomes: A Realize Language Workshop

4:30 pm

[There's More to Touch than Meets the Eye: Optimizing Touch Access for AAC Users](#)

[Stacey Fisher](#)

There's More to Touch than Meets the Eye: Optimizing Touch Access for AAC Users

### **3:10 pm - 4:50 pm** **Concurrent Session 5e - AAC in Schools**

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Session - [Innovate](#) - Gilbert Suite

3:10 pm

[AAC as a Tool for Feelings, Regulation and Problem Solving](#)

[Amanda Hartmann](#)

AAC as a Tool for Feelings, Regulation and Problem Solving

4:10 pm

[AAC vs Visual Tools: Let's compare strategies and focus on connection](#)

[Amanda Hartmann](#), [Shannon Braithwaite](#)

AAC vs Visual Tools: Let's compare strategies and focus on connection

## **3:10 pm - 5:40 pm**

### **Festival Faces**

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Session - [Base Camp](#) - Skyway Foyer

Step into the festival vibe and get ready for the Conference Dinner with dazzling face painting and decorative designs! Whether you want a touch of sparkle or a bold look to match the dinner theme, we've got you covered—fun for all ages!

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14 March 2025

## **7:00 pm - 11:00 pm**

### **Conference Dinner**

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Session - [Social Function](#) - Hall F

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15 March 2025

## **8:50 am - 9:00 am**

### **Welcome**

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Session - [Plenary](#) - Hall C

8:50 am

[AGOSCI volunteer acknowledgement \(Melissa Bakes\) and AAC user achievements \(Darryl Sellwood\)](#)

[Melissa Bakes](#), [Darryl Sellwood](#)

AGOSCI volunteer acknowledgement (Melissa Bakes) and AAC user achievements (Darryl Sellwood)

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15 March 2025

## **9:00 am - 10:00 am**

### **Keynote Address**

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Session - [Plenary](#) - Hall C

9:00 am

[Multi-modal interaction for communication and language development.](#)

[Gayle Porter](#)

Multi-modal interaction for communication and language development.

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15 March 2025

**10:00 am - 10:30 am**

**Morning Tea**

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Session - [Break](#) - Foyer E - Exhibition

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15 March 2025

**10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Concurrent Session 6a**

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Session - [Interact](#), [Include](#) - Hall C

10:30 am

[Parents' lived experience of their role in mediating community environments to facilitate the participation of their child with Complex Communication Needs](#)

[Caitlin Slaney](#)

10:50 am

[Dear Speechies...Lessons from Parents' Lived Experiences](#)

[Kylie Barsby](#), [Amanda Lott](#)

11:30 am

[Journey to Robust Communication for Children with Complex Support Needs: A Collaborative Approach](#)

[Jessica Preston](#), [Samantha Hodge](#)

11:50 am

[Walking Together on the Road to Communication Autonomy](#)

[Hannah Gutke](#), [Claire Andersen](#)

12:10 pm

[The importance of movable goal posts and how to navigate timelines set by others when supporting your loved one who uses AAC – presentation for parents and other informal supports](#)

[Madeline Lamb](#), [Toni Green](#)

**10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Concurrent Session 6b**

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Session - [Interact](#), [Include](#), [Innovate](#) - Room E1

10:30 am

[Expanding Access: Alternative Methods for Using Voiceitt Speech Recognition Technology](#)

[Jessica Dickson](#), [Tanith Brien](#)

10:50 am

[Innovative AAC options for phones, digital media and gaming platforms](#)

[Edwina Pursehouse, Lisa Gore](#)

Innovative AAC options for phones, digital media and gaming platforms

11:10 am

[Alternative Access Methods for iOS in AAC](#)

[Stephen Williams, Emily Swanson](#)

Alternative Access Methods for iOS in AAC

11:30 am

[Enhancing AAC Outcomes: An Informed App and Page Set Selection Framework](#)

[Claire Della Torre](#)

11:50 am

[Switching and getting unstuck – The Switching Access Measure \(SAM\) Journey](#)

[Louise Ganser](#)

12:10 pm

[Beyond Batteries: Unleashing the Power of Low-Tech AAC for Liberator Language Systems](#)

[Stephen Williams, Lilla O'Keeffe](#)

## **10:30 am - 12:30 pm Concurrent Session 6c**

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Session - [Include](#), [Innovate](#) - Room E2

10:30 am

[Enablers and Barriers in AAC use when working with Adults with Acquired Brain Injury](#)

[Chantelle Hutchinson](#)

11:10 am

[Feature Matching Considerations for AAC in Adult Neuro Rehabilitation](#)

[Freya Allen, Leah Cardwell](#)

Feature Matching Considerations for AAC in Adult Neuro Rehabilitation

11:30 am

[Leading their way: AAC and MND](#)

[Leanne Shane](#)

11:50 am

[Opinions and perspectives of AAC users in a Victorian community setting: an inclusive qualitative study](#)

[Grace Scheiner, Cailey Waterman](#)

12:10 pm

[Redefining mentoring in unique communication scenarios](#)

[Kate Munro, Janelle Sampson, Margie Charlesworth, Erin Morley](#)

## **10:30 am - 12:30 pm Concurrent Session 6d**

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Session - [Include](#), [Interact](#), [Innovate](#) - Room E3

10:30 am

[Best Care for People with Communication Disabilities: Communication Accessible Emergency Health](#)

[Keith R. Mc Villy, Amber Smith, Katie Lyon](#)

Best Care for People with Communication Disabilities: Communication Accessible Emergency Health

11:10 am

[The Training Experiences and Knowledge of Australian Supporting Workers in Assisting People with Communication Support Needs](#)  
[Clancy Conlon](#)

11:30 am

[Moving from “engineering the environment for communication” towards building capable environments](#)  
[Laura Jones](#), [Debbie Lobb](#)

11:50 am

[Preparation and Competency of Speech Pathologists to Practice in Augmentative and Alternative Communication](#)  
[Stephanie Weir](#), [Sally Clendon](#)

12:10 pm

[Starting with Partnership: designing a Master of Speech Pathology with people with a disability, carers and communities](#)  
[Meredith Allan](#), [Jemma Skeat](#), [Jo Watson](#)

## **10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

### **Concurrent Session 6e - Challenging AAC Practice**

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Session - [Innovate](#) - Gilbert Suite

10:30 am

[Are we approaching AAC modelling all wrong? Lessons from early language development and motherese](#)  
[Erin Sheldon](#), [David Niemeijer](#)

Are we approaching AAC modelling all wrong? Lessons from early language development and motherese

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15 March 2025

## **12:30 pm - 2:30 pm**

### **Alpacaslimey**

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Session - [Base Camp](#) - Skyway Foyer

Alpacaslimey is a small business that creates slime, including Australia's first Less Mess Slime! It is a great sensory item to improve fine-motor skill development and is also great for stress relief. The first twenty people can join Alpacaslimey to create their very own slime! Limited spots available, arrive promptly to secure your spot.

## **12:30 pm - 1:30 pm**

### **Lunch**

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Session - [Break](#) - Foyer E - Exhibition

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15 March 2025

## **1:30 pm - 3:30 pm**

### **Concurrent Session 7a**

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Session - [Include](#), [Innovate](#) - Hall C

1:30 pm

[Including Everyone – Adopting a Universal Language System in Inclusive Schools](#)

[Kathy Look Howery](#)

2:50 pm

[Developing Print Concepts: Supporting Autistic Literacy Learners to Move to Conventional Literacy Instruction](#)

[Jane Farrall](#)

3:10 pm

[Adapting Early Literacy Assessment Tasks](#)

[Sally Clendon](#)

## **1:30 pm - 3:30 pm Concurrent Session 7b**

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Session - [Interact](#), [Innovate](#), [Include](#) - Room E1

1:30 pm

[‘I’ve never done anything like this before’: Integrating reflective practice, research, community and clinical service delivery to build the evidence base in culturally responsive AAC with First Nations families](#)

[Rebecca Amery, Laura Ferrie](#)

1:50 pm

[Empowering Communication: Innovating AAC Access in Ghana through Training, Mentoring, and Device Donation](#)

[Amy Litton](#)

2:10 pm

[How therapy group programs can be a stepping stone to community engagement and participation](#)

[Melissa Riepsamen, Melinda Smith](#)

2:30 pm

[“There’s still really a long way to go”: Mainstream teachers’ perspectives on culturally and linguistically inclusive communication in school settings.](#)

[Trini Lam](#)

2:50 pm

[The Friendships and Social Relationships of Students with Complex Communication Needs In and Outside of Special School Settings](#)

[Hui Jun Ho](#)

3:10 pm

[Empowering Connection: Resources to Boost Inclusive Interactions for Students with Complex Communication Needs](#)

[Kathleen Johnston, Madeleine Lock](#)

## **1:30 pm - 3:30 pm Concurrent Session 7c**

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Session - [Innovate](#), [Include](#) - Room E2

1:30 pm

[Parent and Therapist Partnerships in AAC: Sustaining Success as Children Become Teenagers](#)

[Gemma Holleran](#), [Laura Greene](#)

1:50 pm

[Empowering Parents: Strategies for Speech Pathologists in AAC Trials and Interventions](#)

[Sarah Stewart](#), [Emily Swanson](#)

Empowering Parents: Strategies for Speech Pathologists in AAC Trials and Interventions

2:10 pm

[What is family centred practice really?](#)

[Jenna O'Brien](#), [Kylie Barsby](#)

2:30 pm

[Speech Pathologists working in schools, what is the 'right' model?](#)

[April Beaton](#)

2:50 pm

["AAC is hot sh\\*t!". Facilitating a positive narrative around AAC for speech language pathologists](#)

[Clancy Conlon](#)

3:10 pm

[Neurodiversity-Affirming Practice – Exploring the Knowledge and Perspectives of Australian Speech Pathologists](#)

[Stephanie Weir](#)

## **1:30 pm - 3:30 pm**

### **Concurrent Session 7d**

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Session - [Interact](#), [Include](#) - Room E3

1:30 pm

[Understanding Communication About Sexuality for Adolescent AAC Users with Cerebral Palsy](#)

[Megan Walsh](#), [Penelope Manning](#)

1:50 pm

[Insights from the co-design of a website about sexuality for people with Communication Access Needs](#)

[Jaquie Mills](#), [Lud Allen](#), [Eli Dickenson](#)

2:30 pm

[Navigating Sexuality Support for Adolescents with Cerebral Palsy who use AAC: Perspectives, Challenges, and Key Themes](#)

[Megan Walsh](#), [Penelope Manning](#), [Chris Pacheco](#)

## **1:30 pm - 3:30 pm**

### **Concurrent Session 7e - Challenging AAC Practice & Engaging AAC**

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Session - [Innovate](#), [Interact](#) - Gilbert Suite

1:30 pm

[Busting Myths: Regulation and AAC](#)

[Jordyn Zimmerman](#)

Busting Myths: Regulation and AAC

2:30 pm

[AAC FUN should be done! AAC activities to engage ALL learners!](#)

[Amanda Hartmann](#), [Shannon Braithwaite](#)

AAC FUN should be done! AAC activities to engage ALL learners!

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15 March 2025

**3:30 pm - 4:00 pm**  
**Afternoon Tea**

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Session - Break - Foyer E - Exhibition

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15 March 2025

**4:00 pm - 4:30 pm**  
**Closing Ceremony**

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Session - Plenary - Hall C

4:00 pm  
[Closing Ceremony](#)

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