



Translational Centre for Speech Disorders

Centre of Research Excellence



Aided AAC: applications in clinical practice

Symposium (*in-person only*): Friday 10 October 2025, 10:00am

Ella Latham Auditorium (1st floor entry), The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne

Entry begins at 9:45am

Session 1: Understanding aided AAC, genetic conditions and research	10:00 – 10:05am	Welcome & introductions Prof. Angela Morgan
	10:05 – 10:25am	Phenotyping can inform AAC decision making Ms. Lottie Morison
	10:25 – 10:40am	An overview of aided AAC: tools and terminology Miss Jen Wong
	10:40 – 10:50am	AAC guidelines, communities & resources Ms. Jenna O'Brien
	10:50 – 11:10am	Morning tea
Session 2: Considerations from consumers and stakeholders of AAC	11:10 – 11:30am	Aided AAC recommendations, funding and navigating the NDIS Ms. Karyn Muscat
	11:30am – 12pm	Changing the Narrative: The Parent and Child Experience with AAC Ms. Mel Anderson and Miss Sarah Anderson
	12:00 – 12:20pm	Mental Health – AAC as means to make decisions about your health Ms. Jacinta Pennacchia
	12:20 – 12:30pm	Panel Q&A
	12:30 – 01:15pm	Lunch
Session 3: Working in collaboration with the multidisciplinary team	01:15 – 01:55pm	AAC and AT: Trials and Alternative Access Ms. Kim Magee, Mr. David Harraway
	01:55 – 02:05pm	Panel Q&A
	02:05 – 02:25pm	Communication Partner Coaching and how to get the most out of AAC Ms. Molly White
	02:25 – 02:45pm	The View of an AAC User Mr. Noah Callan
	02:45 – 03:00pm	Panel Q&A
	03:00 – 03:10pm	Closing and final mentions

This symposium is tailored to those new to aided AAC (e.g. early career clinicians, students). It may also be suitable for those needing a refresher on this topic. We have allocated time after the event for attendees to reach out to speakers and network with colleagues.



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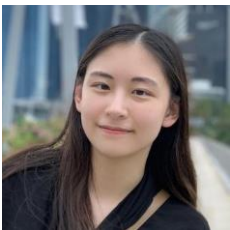
SPEAKERS



Prof. Angela Morgan is a speech pathologist, NHMRC Dame Elizabeth Blackburn Fellow and leads the Speech and Language group at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. Angela is also a Dame Kate Campbell Professorial Fellow of the University of Melbourne. Her expertise is in the diagnosis of child speech disorders. She is Co-Director of the Speech Apraxia and Genetics Clinic at the Royal Children's Hospital with Prof. Amor. Angela leads the CRE – Translational Centre for Speech Disorders.



Ms. Lottie Morison is a speech pathologist and research assistant. Lottie has worked in clinical and research settings as a speech pathologist. Lottie's areas of interest include motor speech disorders, augmentative and alternative communication, and early language and literacy development. Lottie is also a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne.



Miss Jen Wong is a speech pathologist and PhD candidate with the Speech and Language Group at Murdoch Children's Research Institute. Jen works in clinical and research settings as a speech pathologist. Her areas of interest include augmentative and alternative communication, language and literacy development. Her projects involve working with high-tech, aided AAC and childhood dementias.



Ms. Karyn Muscat is a speech pathologist with expertise in augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). Karyn is also a speaker and presenter, having delivered presentations for several national organisations, including AGOSCI and Speech Pathology Australia. She is passionate about sharing her knowledge and experiences with others in the field.



Ms. Mel Anderson is the Director and Chair of the PURA Foundation Australia, a volunteer non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting individuals and families affected by PURA syndrome across Australia and New Zealand. Her involvement with the foundation is deeply personal; Mel's daughter, Sarah, was the first Australian diagnosed with PURA syndrome in 2014. Through her involvement with the PURA Foundation Australia, Mel has been a driving force in advancing research focused on understanding and treating PURA syndrome.

Miss Sarah Anderson is an AAC user who loves Taylor Swift, gardening and the colour purple. Sarah's mother Mel is very supportive of her communication growth. Sarah currently uses the Grid software on a Surface Pro tablet attached to her wheelchair. Mel (Sarah's mother) also uses the same application on the iPad and also keeps a low-tech PODD book in case they are unable to access her device. Sarah will be supported by her carer Liz Stuart.



Ms. Jacinta Pennacchia is a speech pathologist at Glenroy Specialist School and St Vincent's Hospital, and a PhD candidate at Murdoch Children's Research Institute and the University of Melbourne. Jacinta works clinically in AAC and dysphagia with children, adolescents, and young adults with disabilities. Jacinta's research focuses on the mental health of young people with complex communication needs.



Ms. Kim Magee is a speech pathologist and founder of KimTech, providing opportunities to trial low-cost, high-tech communication devices and assistive technology. Kim has led various allied health teams and specialist AT services, including ComTEC and Independent Living Centre (ILC) information and advisory services, 'On the Move' Wizzybug powered mobility for children aged 1-4, the Electronic Communication Devices Scheme (ECDS), and equipment libraries.



Mr. David Harraway is an Occupational Therapist with over 2 decades experience supporting individuals with complex communication needs to identify and set up the right AT for their needs. He currently works for Berry Street Yooralla on the AAC&AT Consultancy Team. In 2023 he completed a Clinical Fellowship in Human Centered CoDesign at Swinburne University. David also helps Co-Moderate one of the largest online Assistive Technology groups and is passionate about people being active participants in the decision-making process for their systems.



Mr. Noah Callan is an AAC user, disability advocate, founder of AAC space, and the AAC & technology coordinator at Kids+. Noah creates content, resources and presentations for distribution to support greater AAC awareness and use for young people with complex communication needs.



Miss Molly White is a paediatric Speech Pathologist with nine years of experience working across educational and community settings. For the past five years, she has focused on AAC, supporting a diverse range of clients, including individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cerebral Palsy, and other physical disabilities. Currently working at Kids Plus Foundation, Molly leads a variety of AAC programs and group initiatives, helping children and families access meaningful communication tools and strategies. Her passion lies in empowering AAC users to express themselves, build relationships, and form lasting social connections.



Ms. Jenna O'Brien is a speech pathologist with extensive practical experience using a range of AAC tools and strategies. She is a state representative of the Australia's Group Supporting Communication Inclusion (AGOSCI). Jenna has presented her work at both national and international conferences on the topics of family-centred practice in AAC, the value of caregiver AAC training programs, and implementing AAC within early intervention. She is completing a Masters of Disability and Inclusion at Deakin University with a special interest in Inclusive Education for AAC Communicators.