



Rocky Bay

HEALTH + COMMUNITY

Community Tech Talkers

Abstract

Co-design a workshop to educate and upskill community members on how to become effective communication partners of AAC users.

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Research Objectives

The aim of this research project was to co-design a workshop to educate and upskill community members on how to become effective communication partners of AAC users. This research was conducted in partnership with Murdoch University's School of Psychology and funded by a Lotterywest grant.

This research to practice collaborative study was two phased;

Phase 1: Identifying the facilitators and barriers of AAC use in the CCN community of WA and using those findings to inform co-designed community workshops aimed at empowering families, clinicians, and educators and reducing communication barriers for AAC-users in WA.

Phase 2: Evaluating the feasibility and efficacy of co-designed community workshops for families, clinicians, and educators supporting AAC-users in WA.

This collaboration seeks to create a better understanding of and improve the learning and life outcomes for people with complex communication needs.

Partners

Rocky Bay and Murdoch University.

Approach

The partnership with Murdoch University was to develop, implement and evaluate informative workshops targeting communication partners of people using AAC, focusing on the following cohorts:

- Parent/Carers/Support Workers of a child, teen or adult with complex communication needs
- Clinicians (e.g. psychologist, speech language therapist, occupational therapist)
- Educators (e.g. teachers and assistants)

Results or Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes of this project are:

- Increase awareness and capability to communicate using various forms of AAC
- Add to the evidence-based protocols in WA
- Introduce a new way of supporting community inclusion for people with profound communication and language impairment, helping them to stay connected with their community

Specifically, the research aims to produce the following benefits for each stakeholder:

- Build community support networks and increased participation
- Raised awareness of the research-informed practices of AAC
- Provision of educative materials such as infographics, website, video blogs

Key Contacts

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