



Complex Communication needs



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Who are people with complex needs



People with complex needs are people who need a lot of support every day.



They may be people who

- have more than one disability
- do not communicate by speaking.

They may use other ways instead.



Elephant In The Room's Speech Pathologists will look at the way you communicate.



We want to find out what works best for you. We will spend time with you and learn how you communicate.

Communication



Our Speech Pathologists will make sure you can exercise your rights to be heard and listened to and understand what is being communicated to you



You have a right to choose who you communicate with and how you communicate.



You have a right to make decisions in all areas of your life and express your feelings



You also have a right to ask for or reject information, objects or actions..

There are lots of ways people communicate.



A person with very complex needs could have a book about themselves to carry with them. The book can help other people get to know them.



Spending time with a person and learning how to communicate together. This is called Intensive Interaction.



Using technology like computers. An example is something called a BIGmack. A BIGmack has a button on it. The person can press a button on the BIGmack to make something happen. It can also help them learn how to make choices.



Using objects to communicate.

An object can be anything. Using objects can help people with complex needs communicate and make choices.

You can learn that when you show someone a cup, it means you want a drink



Some people with very complex needs can use pictures or symbols to make choices or say what they want.

One way is to stick some pictures onto a mat or board.



The pictures can be used to

- say what is happening that day
- help the person choose things they want
- help someone say how they feel.



Using signs

This is when you use your hands to communicate

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Please get in touch with us if you have any questions, ideas or comments.

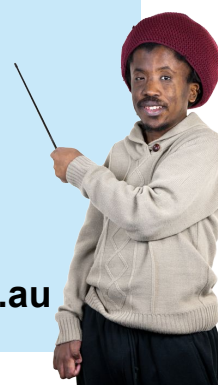
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