

## WHY AAC MATTERS

Effective communication is a fundamental human right and essential for daily life. For individuals who struggle with speech due to conditions like cerebral palsy, autism, Down syndrome, stroke, or other physical and cognitive impairments, AAC opens the door to meaningful interactions, personal expression, and social inclusion.

AAC can significantly enhance the quality of life for individuals with communication challenges. It improves their ability to express themselves and fosters greater independence, confidence, and social engagement.

## BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE TASMANIA



AAC is about ensuring that everyone has a voice. It is a tool for inclusion, enabling individuals who are non-verbal to participate more fully in their communities. By using AAC, individuals can better participate in educational settings, social activities, and everyday conversations.

Taking the time to understand and embrace AAC, can create a more inclusive world where everyone has the opportunity to connect, share, and be heard.

## LET'S TALK

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## WHAT IS AAC?

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) refers to the various methods, tools, and strategies used to support or replace spoken and written language for those who have difficulties communicating verbally. AAC encompasses a wide range of communication options, from simple tools like picture boards and gestures to advanced technologies like speech-generating devices and specialised apps.

## TYPES OF AAC

AAC methods are generally categorised into two types: unaided and aided.

- **Unaided** AAC includes non-verbal communication strategies without physical tools, such as gestures, facial expressions, body language, and manual signs used in sign language.
- **Aided** AAC involves external tools or devices for communication, ranging from low-tech options like picture exchange systems, symbol boards, and communication books, to high-tech solutions like speech-generating devices and software applications on tablets and smartphones.



## SHOP, SHARE AND CARE!



## SALAMANCA MARKET WITH AAC

Unlocking Communication: An Introduction to Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)



# HOW TO GET STARTED WITH AAC

To use the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) below, **also known as a talker or storyboard**, select and show the picture or symbol to your communication buddy to convey a specific need, want, or message.

