Rosemary Crossley has died



*Rosemary Crossley with her co-author Anne McDonald, 1982  
Photographed by Rennie Ellis*

It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that the Anne McDonald Centre Committee of Management announce the death yesterday of its Director and co-founder, Rosemary Crossley.

Dr. Rosemary Crossley, AM, PhD, died on 10/5/2023. She was 78 years old. She became famous as a therapist with and advocate for people with little or no functional speech.

Crossley was born on 6/5/1945 at Horsham. She was educated at Morongo school and went on to the Australian National University. After a brief period in the Australian Public Service she began working at the Victorian Spastic Centre with people with severe handicaps.

In 1974 she was hired as a playleader at St. Nicholas Hospital, a Parkville institution for severely handicapped children run by the Victorian Health Commission. It was there that she met Anne McDonald. McDonald had severe cerebral palsy, could not walk, talk, or feed herself, and had been diagnosed as severely retarded.

Crossley decided to see if she could find a way for McDonald to communicate by pointing – first at choices on a communication board, then at word blocks, then letter blocks, and finally on a letter board.

This brought Crossley into conflict with her superiors at the hospital, and eventually McDonald asked to leave. The Health Commission refused to allow this, and were taken to the Victorian Supreme Court on a very rare habeas corpus action. Anne won the action, and left St. Nicholas to live with Crossley and her partner Chris Borthwick for the next thirty-two years.

“Annie’s Coming Out”, Crossley and McDonald’s account of their struggle, was an international bestseller and went on many school curriculums. It was later made into a movie of the same name, which won the AFI Best Picture award in 1984.

The court case, the book, and the film exposed the shortcomings of St. Nicholas Hospital and of the system that had created it, and led directly to the closure of the hospital a few years later – the first step in the deinstitutionalisation of care for people with disabilities in Victoria.

In 1986 Crossley founded the DEAL Communication Centre in Caulfield. The Centre began by working mainly with people with cerebral palsy, but soon found itself taking on clients with other diagnoses – Down Syndrome, Rett Syndrome, developmental disabilities, and, increasingly, autism. In case after case Crossley was able to establish a means of communication with the client, demonstrating that their diagnoses of intellectual disability had been made in error.

Crossley described her methods as Facilitated Communication Training, involving coactive hand-on-hand movement at the beginning of the training process. While she always aimed for eventual independent communication, the method was criticised for allowing communicators to impose their messages on their partners.

Nonetheless, many people who Crossley had helped communicate went on to graduate from schools and universities.

When Anne McDonald died in 2010 DEAL changed its name to the Anne McDonald Centre, but the work went on. iPads, in particular, have spread hand-pointing skills more widely, and newer clients were better able to communicate more independently sooner.

Crossley wrote books (including “Speechless”, 1997) lectured at universities and presented papers at conferences around the world. She was awarded an AM in 1986 for services to people with severe communication impairments and took a doctorate in communication from Victoria University in 1998. She was admired for her indomitable spirit, her determination, and her ability to empower others in advocating for themselves and for the people they loved.

Dr. Crossley died of cancer in the Royal Melbourne Hospital on 10/5/2023. She was working till the end: inn the hospital, she was able to assist a nurse who had a foster son with communication handicap with books, boards, and iPad apps.

Together, Crossley and McDonald changed the history of disability. Crossley’s life work of teaching, researching, and advocating for people with little or no functional speech has improved the lives of thousands of the most vulnerable people in many countries and over five decades. Her sharp intellect and wicked good humour will be missed. The world has lost an important voice speaking out for the rights of people with disabilities.

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**Awards**

Member of the Order of Australia (A.M.) 1986  (for services to people with severe communication impairments)

Yungaburra Fellowship, 1990

Thesis Prize Victoria University 1998

Australian Group on Severe Communication Impairment (AGOSCI)\_ Award for Service to AAC, 2011 (Appendix 1A)

**Educational Qualifications**

B.A. (A.N.U.), 1966

Dip. Ed. Primary & Sp. Ed. (Melb.) 1977

M. Ed. (Melb.) 1991 (Thesis – Inclusion of AAC users in mainstream secondary schools)

Ph.D. (V.U.) 1998 (Thesis – Breaking the Silence – Institutional Responses to People who Use Atypical Communication Strategies)

**Employment History**

1966-70 Federal Public Service, Research Assistant/Computer Programmer

1971 Travelling overseas

1972-73 Spastic Society of Victoria, Group Supervisor

1974-80 Health Commission of Victoria, Playleader

1980-82 Health Commission of Victoria, Library

1983 Film Australia, Production Consultant, **Annie's Coming Out**

1984-85 Spastic Society of Victoria, Teacher

1985-92 DEAL Communication Centre Inc., Co-ordinator

1992 Syracuse University, Lecturer in AAC

1993 > DEAL Communication Centre/ Anne McDonald Centre\_ Inc., Director

**Guest Lecturer**

Deakin University (Geelong, Australia) 1990 et al – Inclusion of Students Using AAC;

La Trobe University (Melbourne, Australia) 1991 – OT & AAC;

Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD) 1992 – AAC & FCT;

Lesley College (Boston, MA) 1992 – AAC & FCT;

Syracuse University (N.Y.) 1992 et al –In addition to single lectures and presentations I delivered a one semester post-graduate course devoted entirely to AAC.

University of New Hampshire (Durham, NH) 1992 – AAC & FCT University of Wisconsin at Madison (WI) 1992 et al – AAC & FCT;

Christchurch University (Christchurch, NZ) 1993 – AAC & FCT,

Northern Illinois University (Dekalb, Il) 1993 - FCT

University of Eastern Michigan (Ypsilanti, MI) 1993 – AAC & FCT

University of Texas at Austin (TX), 1994 – AAC and FCT;

University of Texas at Denver (TX), 1994 – AAC and FCT,

University College, University of London, Bloomsbury 1994 – AAC & FCT

University of Cologne (Germany) 1994 et al – AAC & FCT

Chapman University (Orange, CA) 1995 et al – AAC & DS, FCT

Whittier College (Whittier, CA) 1995 et al – AAC Technology, FCT

University of Maine (Orono, ME) 1997 – AAC & FCT

Monash University (Melbourne Australia) 1999 – Usefulness of e-Mail for AAC users

Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine (Shanghai, China) 2007 et al – AAC & CP, AAC & ASD

Victoria University (Melbourne, Australia) 2010 – 2 one-semester courses on AAC

**Publications**

**Books**

***Annie's Coming Out***, 1980, Penguin Books, Melbourne (with Anne McDonald)

***Annie — Licht Hinter Mauern***, 1990, Piper, Munchen (with Anne McDonald)

***Re-Inventing the Wheelchair - Technology and People with Handicaps***, 1993, Swinburne University of Technology, (with Chris Borthwick and Anne McDonald)

***Facilitated Communication Training***, 1994, Teacher’s College Press, Columbia University, N.Y.

***Gestützte Kommunikation: Ein Trainingsprogramm***, 1997, Beltz Verlag, Basel

***Speechless***, 1997, Dutton, N.Y.

***Il Metodo Della Comunicazione Facilitata***, Quaderni di Savona Provincia, 1998

**Book Chapters**

Law and Legal Aid, in ***Into the Streets***, Disability Resources Centre, Melbourne, Aus. 1981

Communication and Disability, in ***Mainstreaming***, Ballarat CAE, Aus. 1981

Some Behaviours of Health Professionals when Confronted by Severe Disabilities, in ***Advances in Behavioural Medicine***, v. 2., Cumberland College of Health Sciences, Aus. 1982

Victorian Attitudes - Life in St. Nicholas' Hospital, in ***Accommodating the Disabled***, International Year of Disabled People, Aus. 1982

Taking the Test: A Facilitator’s View, in Biklen, D., & Cardinal, D., ***Contested Words, Contested Science***, Teachers College Press, 1997

**Journal Articles**

**Refereed journals**

Lending a hand - a personal account of facilitated communication training, ***American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology***, 1992, 2, 18

Getting the words out; Facilitated Communication Training, ***Topics in Language Disorders,*** August 1992, 12, 4, 29 (with Jane Remington-Gurney)

Getting the words out: Case Studies in Facilitated Communication Training, ***Topics in Language Disorders***, 1992, 12, 4, 46

Preliminary Validation of Facilitated Communication; A correction, ***Topics in Language Disorders***, 13, 4, 1993, xv-xvi

Sarah; A Case Study in Facilitated Communication Training, ***European Journal of Disorders of Communication***, 1997, 32, 1, 61

Language and Retardation, ***Psycholoquy***, www.cogsci.soton.ac.uk/cgi/psyc/newpsy?10.038, On-line refereed journal sponsored by the American Psychological Association (APA), 1999 (with C. Borthwick)

Permanent Vegetative State: Usefulness and limits of a prognostic definition, (with Borthwick, C) 2004, ***Neurorehabilitation*** 19:4 381-389

[Extending communication for patients with disorders of consciousness.](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22928842)(by using MRI) (with Liang X, Kuhlmann L, Johnston LA, Grayden DB, Vogrin S, Fuller K, Lourensz M, Cook MJ.), 2014, ***J Neuroimaging*** 24(1):31-8

**Other journal articles**

Care, Kill, or Cure, ***Australian Child and Family Welfare***, Spring 1981

Care, Kill, or Cure - A Postscript, ***Australian Child and Family Welfare***, Summer 1981

Disabled Medicine, ***New Doctor***, Australia, Autumn 1983

I would prefer to be blind, ***Equal Opportunity Forum,*** Australia, Number 18, December 1984

Apraxia; An Unrecognized Cause of Severe Communication Impairment, ***Australian Communication Quarterly***, v.3., Spring & Summer 1987 (with Margaret Batt and Jane Remington-Gurney)

Silent Witnesses; The Court System and People Who Use Non-Speech Communication, ***Talking Politics,*** USA, 1990, v.1, no.3

Silent Witnesses, ***Interchange,*** USA, 1990, v.4, no.3

Facilitated Communication Training, ***Communicating Together*** Canada, 10, 2, 1991, 20-23,

Getting the Words Out: Facilitated Communication Training, ***Education Quarterly*** Australia, Number 2, August 1991, 7-9

Facilitated Communication; Some Further Thoughts, ***Communicating Together*** Canada, 11, 1, 1993, 14-16

Flying High on Paper Wings, ***Interchange***, (Special Issue) World Rehabilitation Fund, USA, April 1993

Getting the Words Out, ***Network***, N.Z. 3, 1, 1993, 12

Can’t Speak Doesn’t Mean Can’t Think, ***Down Syndrome News*** USA, 17, 2, 1993, p.20

Literacy and Facilitated Communication Training, ***Communicating Together***, Canada, 11, 2, 1993, 16-17

Responding, ***Communicating Together***, Canada, 11, 4, 1993, 19-20

Finding the Source but not Turning Out the Light, ***Communication Outlook***, USA, Winter 1994

Passing the Test (with Graham, H) ***AGOSCI News***, Aus., March 1995 10-12

Resourcing Non-Speech Students Undertaking Post-School Education, ***AGOSCI News***, Aus., August 1997, 14-18

Left Speechless, ***Early Intervention News***, Aus., July 1997, 1-4

An Overview of AAC and FC, ***Spotlight on Developmental Disabilities,*** USA, Vol. 2, No. 1, Winter 1999, 1-6

Telstra's Failure to Communicate, ***AGOSCI News***, Aus., June 1999, 34-35

Language and Retardation, ***AGOSCI News***, Aus., December 1999, 38-41 (with Borthwick, C)

Introducing Augmentative Communication to China, ***AGOSCI In Focus***, Aus., 2009, 28:1 28-29

**Editorial Duties**

Issue Editor, Topics in Language Disorders, August 1992

**Conference Presentations**

**Australian Association for Speech and Hearing (AASH), 1988, Brisbane**

* Operating an AAC Centre

**International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) Biennial Conference, 1988 , Anaheim, California**

* Unexpected Communication Outcomes by Persons Diagnosed as Autistic and Intellectually Impaired

**International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) Biennial Conference, 1990, Stockholm**

* Communication Training Using Facilitated Communication (with Remington, J. and Batt, M.)
* Facilitated Communication in Mainstream Schools (with Remington, J. and Batt, M.)
* Facilitated Communication - Parent Perspectives (with Remington, J. and Batt, M.)

**Australian Association of Special Education Conference, 1990, Canberra, ACT, Australia**

* Communication Training Involving Facilitated Communication
* Integration of Facilitated Communication Users into Mainstream Schools (with Remington, J.)

**Association for People with Severe Handicaps (TASH) Annual Conference, 1990, Chicago**

* Facilitated Communication
* The Right to Communicate (Keynote Address)

**Australian Society for the Study of Intellectual Disability (ASSID)/NCID Conference, 1991, Geelong, Victoria, Australia**

* Facilitated Communication Training - Pre-conference Workshop
* Getting the Words Out

**International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC), Biennial Conference, 1992, Philadelphia**

* Facilitated Communication Training - pre-conference workshop
* Mute Does Not Equal Dumb: Severe Communication Impairments and Intelligence;

**Geneva Centre, 1992 Symposium on Autism, Toronto, Canada**

* Facilitated Communication - New Insights into Autism (Keynote Address)

**International Association for the Scientific Study of Mental Deficiency (IASSMD) Conference, 1992, Brisbane**

* Facilitated Communication Training: the DEAL Experience (with Anne Bourke, Alice Owen)
* Failure to Communicate: Validation of facilitated communication (with Jim Allen, Helen Graham)
* Clever Hans or Clever Hands: a case study of a user of facilitated communication (with Jane Remington-Gurney)

**Association for People with Severe Handicaps (TASH) Annual Conference, 1992, San Francisco**

* Facilitated Communication Training - Pre-conference workshop
* Severe Communication Impairments and Intelligence

**American Association for Mental Retardation (AAMR), NY State Conference, 1992, Albany**

* Getting The Words Out (Keynote Address)
* Validation Of Facilitated Communication

**Autism Society of Georgia State Conference, 1993, Atlanta GA**

* Facilitating Communication For People With Autism (Keynote Address)
* Current Issues In Facilitated Communication Training

**Syracuse University, NY, Facilitated Communication Institute (FCI) International Conference, 1993,**

* Getting the Message (Keynote Address)
* Current Issues In Facilitated Communication Training

**World Down Syndrome Congress, 1993, Los Angeles, CA**

* Getting the Words Out (Keynote Address)
* Facilitated Communication Training for People with Down Syndrome

**Syracuse University, NY, FCI International Conference, 1994**

* Facilitating Communication for People with Down Syndrome (With Laura Meyers)
* Passing the Test

**Australian Group on Severe Communication Impairment (AGOSCI) Annual Conference, 1994, Sydney**

* Getting the Message (with Helen Graham)

**International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC), 1994 Biennial Conference, Maastricht**

* Whose Voice Is It Anyway? (with Anne McDonald)
* Passing the Test (with Helen Graham)

**Syracuse University, NY, FCI International Conference, 1995**

* Facilitating Communication for People with Acquired Communication Impairments

**Australian Group on Severe Communication Impairment (AGOSCI) Annual Conference, 1995, Brisbane**

* Augmentative Communication For People With Down Syndrome

**Australian Society for the Study of Intellectual Disability (ASSID) Annual Conference, 1995, Melbourne, Australia**

* Recent Research on the Validity of FCT.

**Communication Aid Users' Society (CAUS) First National Conference, May 1995, Melbourne, Australia**

* Non-Speech Communication In Australia – a history

**International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) Biennial Conference, August 1996, Vancouver, Canada**

* AAC For People Diagnosed As Being In Persistent Vegetative State (with Chris Borthwick)

**Australian Group on Severe Communication Impairment (AGOSCI) Annual Conference, 1996, Melbourne, Australia**

* AAC For People Diagnosed As Being In Persistent Vegetative State

**Maine Facilitated Communication Conference 1997**

* Facilitating Communication – Pre-conference workshop
* Breaking the Silence – A History Of Augmentative Communication (Keynote Address)
* Matching Topics and Technology

**Communication Aid Users' Society (CAUS) Second National Conference, April 1998, Brisbane, QLD, Australia**

* Facilitated Communication: What is it? Who is doing it?

**Syracuse University, NY, FCI Biennial Conference, May 1998**

* Mute Does Not Equal Dumb – Keynote Address

**Centro Studi Sulla Communicazione Facilitata, International Conference, May 1998, Savona, Italy**

* Disibilitata e Communicazione – Keynote Address

**International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) Biennial Conference, August, 1998, Dublin, Ireland**

* Beyond the Labels - Communication impairment and cognitive assessment (with C. Borthwick)
* Gagged in the Box - Non-speech Communication and the law (with C. Borthwick)
* It Takes Two to Tango - Feedback and AAC success (with C. Maloney & R. Ryall)
* Unexpected Recovery of Speech Following Facilitated Communication Aid Use

**International Conference on Home Rehabilitation of Brain Injured Children,  April 1999, Loana, Italy**

* Home Rehabilitation in Australia

**Finnish Association for Autism, Seminar on Communication, April 18, 1999, Helsinki, Finland**

* Augmenting the Speech of People with Autism by using AAC

**Accessibility and Usability Conference, Monash University, June 1999, Melbourne, Vic., Australia**

* **No Speech Required - Internet Access for Non-Speech People**

**1st International Conference on Autism in the Middle East, Kuwait City, Kuwait, 14-16 Feb, 2000, Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science**

* Augmenting the Speech of People with Autism

**International Society for Augmentative & Alternative Communication (ISAAC), Biennial Conference, August 2-6 2000, Washington DC**

* Whither AAC? - Mini Seminar (with C. Borthwick)
* Failing Technology - Whose fault? - poster (with C. Maloney)
* Head or Hands - AAC for Girls with Rett Syndrome (with K. Johnson, C. Maloney and R. Ryall)
* Facilitated Communication: Outcomes That Cannot Be Ignored – poster (with M.Chadwick)

**Fragile Suisse Congress, August 25-6 2000, Basel, Switzerland**

* Persistent Vegetative State - Fact or Fiction – Plenary Address  Communication Strategies for People with Severe Brain Damage

**West Coast Symposium on Facilitated Communication, March 1-3 2001, Whittier CA**

* High Tech, Low Tech - Communication Strategies for People using FC

**Australian Group on Severe Communication Impairment (AGOSCI) 5th Biennial Conference, May 25-27 2001, Adelaide**

* Facilitated Communication: Outcomes That Cannot Be Ignored
* A Communication Kit for Use in Hospitals—poster (with C. Maloney & R. Ryall)
* Failing Technology - Whose fault? —poster (with C. Maloney)

**Il Tesoro Sommerso — Ricerca e riabilitazione nell’autismo, November 2001, Verona, Italy**

* Breaking the Silence – Facilitating Communication for People with Autism—Keynote Address

**Syracuse University, NY, Narrating Disability, FCI Biennial Conference April 25-26 2002**

* Communication for Life — Pre-Conference Workshop
* Speaking up in Many Voices (with Chaim Shlomo Lowinger)

**International Society for Augmentative & Alternative Communication (ISAAC), Biennial Conference, August 12-15 2002, Odense Denmark**

* Facilitated Communication Training: A Strategy for Improving Manual Selection Skills (Pre-Conference Workshop)
* From Typing to Speech - Unexpected Speech Development in AAC Users - Miniseminar
* B.A.Bar - Not an Elephant, a Bar-code Reading VOCA (with L. Zimmerman) - poster
* A Communication Kit for Use in Hospitals (with R. Ryall) – poster

**Seventh Biennial ISAAC Research Symposium, Odense, Denmark, August 16-17, 2002.**

* What constitutes evidence in AAC (with C. Borthwick)

**Kuntoutusohjaaja Autismi, August 19-20, 2002, Helsinki, Finland**

* Facilitated Communication Training - Workshop

**Inaugural World Autism Congress, November 10 - 14 2002, Melbourne, Vic., Australia**

* Beyond The Labels - Communication Impairment and Cognitive Assessment in People With Autism - poster
* Breaking The Silence - Enabling People Without Functional Speech To Use Complex Typed Language - poster
* From Typing To Talking - Development of Functional Speech after Using Communication Aids and Computers which Speak What Is Typed - poster

**TASH Annual Conference, December 10-14 2002, Boston MA, USA**

* Enabling Communication Aid Users to Achieve Their Potential
* Breaking the Barriers to Communication (with Chaim Shlomo Lowinger)
* A Voice on Shabbos: Empowering Jewish AAC Users (with Chaim Shlomo Lowinger)

**Australian Group on Severe Communication Impairment (AGOSCI) 6th Biennial Conference, March 21-3 2003, Sydney, NSW, Australia**

* The Epistemology of AAC (with C. Borthwick)
* B. A. Bar - Not an Elephant, a Bar-code Reading VOCA (with L. Picking) – poster

**West Coast Symposium on Facilitated Communication, 3-5 April 2003, Whittier CA**

* Getting a Life

**Australian Group on Severe Communication Impairment (AGOSCI) 7th Biennial Conference, 31 Aug – 3rd Sept, 2005, Brisbane, QLD, Australia**

* Communication Intervention With People Described As Being In Vegetative States (with C.Borthwick)
* Autism, Movement Disorders and AAC (Miniseminar)

**Australian Council for Rehabilitation of Disabled (ACROD) Ageing and Disability Conference 2005, Hobart, Tas, Australia**

* Giving Voice to People Without Functional Speech: Communication for people whose speech doesn’t meet their needs. – Pre-conference workshop

**Novitatechfest Assistive Technology Conference Adelaide SA March 10, 2005**

* Augmenting the speech of people with autism/ASD

**Communicare, Independence and Participation Conference, April 15-17 2005, Heidelberg, Germany**

* How Do You Get There From Here – the journey to independent communication aid use
* Never Too Young – Augmenting the speech of preschoolers

**Flinders University, Adelaide, SA, Australia April 4, 2006 – Workshop sponsored by Autism SA**

* Getting Started with Augmentative and Facilitated Communication
* Literacy – Making Language from Letters

**Queensland Government Technology Survival Skills Program, Brisbane, QLD, Australia July 8, 2006**

* Augmenting the communication of children with delayed speech FCT – The Independence Debate
* FCT – Protective Behaviours

**Syracuse University, FCI Biennial Conference, July 17-21 2006, Syracuse NY**

Roads to Independence

**International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) Biennial Conference, 2006, Düsseldorf, Germany**

* Autism, Movement Disorders and Augmentative Communication
* For Better or Worse – Augmentative Communication and Computer Technology
* AAC Intervention with People Described As Being In Vegetative States
* Autism is a World: Challenging Assumptions About Low Functioning Autism  (with S. Rubin)

**Autism SA, Facilitated Communication – An Introductory Workshop, November 4, 2006, Adelaide SA Australia**

* Fostering Independence

**Australian Group on Severe Communication Impairment (AGOSCI) 8th Biennial Conference, 2007, Melbourne, Vic., Australia**

* Autism is a World: Challenging Assumptions About Low Functioning Autism (with S. Rubin)

**Inaugural International Conference on Rehabilitation of Children with Cerebral Palsy, Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, October 2007, Shanghai, China**

* Improving the communication of children with cerebral palsy who do not speak clearly or fluently (keynote address)

**QLD FCT Workshop, March 10th 2008, Brisbane, QLD, Australia**

Developing Independence

**International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) Biennial Conference, August 2008, Montreal, Canada**

* Using typing to support speech for people with autism

**International Seminar on Speech Therapy, Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, November 29-30, 2008, Shanghai, China**

* Autism, Movement Disorders and Augmentative Communication

**2nd Chinese International Conference on Speech Therapy, 2009, Beijing, China**

* Communication Aids Programmed in Mandarin

**Australian Group on Severe Communication Impairment (AGOSCI) 9th Biennial Conference, May 7-9, 2009, Canberra, Australia - Communication- Feel the Power**

* Empowering People with Autism by Presuming Competence
* **Syracuse University, Institute for Communication and Inclusion, Summer Institute, July 2009, Syracuse, NY**
* Empowering People with CCN by Presuming Competence
* Something to Say and the Means to Say It – Essentials for Crafting a New Narrative
* Saying What You Mean, and Meaning What You Say

**Disability Services, Communication for All, November 24th, 2009, Hyden W.A. Australia**

* Empowering People Without Functional Speech
* Technology and Independence
* Saying What You Mean and Meaning What You Say

**West Coast Symposium on Facilitated Communication, July 23, 2010, Los Angeles, CA**

iPaddling to the Shore – Trying to find out what we don’t know

**International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) Biennial Conference July 27-9 2010, Barcelona, Spain**

* Victorian Attitudes -- AAC v. IQ (poster)
* Breaking the Silence – establishing the first AAC Centre in China (poster)

**Kyriakon School, Sept 23, 2011, Jakarta Indonesia**

Facilitated Communication Training – Getting Started  Technology & Independence

**Australian Group on Severe Communication Impairment (AGOSCI) 10th Biennial Conference, 11-14 May 2011, Adelaide, SA, Australia**

* Actualising the Right to Communicate (with C.Borthwick) Increasing Participation in AGOSCI by People with Autism

**National Disability and Carer Congress, Make Every Australian Count, May 2, 2011, Etihad Stadium, Melbourne, Vic, Australia**

* The Future of Disability
* **Institute for Communication and Inclusion, Summer Institute, MIT Media Labs, July 20 -22, 2011, Boston, MA**
* Facilitating Communication and Supporting Typing – Learning from History  Using iPads as Communication Aids
* **National Schools Disability Stakeholder Forum, DEEWR, Sept 6th 2011, Sydney, Australia**
* Equipping Inclusion – Using Assistive Technologies to Support the Education of Students with Disabilities

**Penyelenggara YaKiTa, April 18, 2012, Lubuk Pakam, Medan, Indonesia**

Using Technology to Increase Independence  Presuming Competence

**Kyriakon School, April 21, 2012, Jakarta Indonesia**

Presuming Competence

**International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) Biennial Conference August 2012, Pittsburgh, PA, USA**

* iPads and Assessment – a game changer
* No Talking in Class – Rejection of AAC in Schools (poster)

**University of New Hampshire and Syracuse University Summer Institute on Technology and Inclusion, August 2012, Concorde NH**

iPads and AAC – an App Tour.

**Syracuse University, Institute for Communication and Inclusion, Summer Institute, July 2013, Syracuse, NY**

* Carpet Boards - Crawling to Independence
* Defending the Right to Communicate (with C. Borthwick)
* Skilling Up iPads for Communication, Therapy and Education

**Australian Administrative Appeals Tribunal – Disability Awareness Training for Tribunal Members, Sept 2, 2013, Sydney Australia**

Communication Issues for People with Disability (with F. Vicary & M.Edmonds)

**Syracuse University, Institute for Communication and Inclusion, Summer Institute, July 2014, Syracuse, NY, USA**

* Has Video Killed the Academic Article? (with C. Borthwick)
* Modifying Proloquo2Go to Suit the User

**International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) Biennial Conference July-August 2014, Lisbon, Portugal**

* Has Video Killed the Academic Article? (with C. Borthwick)
* Self-Taught Literacy – a new paradigm Paradise Lost (poster with C.Borthwick)
* **Kyriakon School, Oct 11, 2014, Jakarta Indonesia**

Using iPads as Communication Aids