

Disability Means Possibility


The Non-electronic Communication Aid Scheme (NECAS)



by
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Disability Means Possibility

What is it?

It provides non-electronic communication aids to adults who have complex communication needs in Victoria. It is funded by the Department of Human Services.





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Disability Means Possibility

Background

- The Victorian Government currently funds electronic communication aids through A&EP. (Phone: 9362 6111)
- In 2001 a submission was made which emphasised the importance of Non-Electronic Communication Aids.
- Pilot Project commenced in 2005.
- Ongoing Service Provider announced in 2008.



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Communication Resource Centre

“Supporting people with Complex Communication Needs”

Communicate...Educate...Participate






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Who is Eligible?

Adults who have complex communication needs in Victoria. People with complex communication needs have little or no speech. This includes people who have intellectual, physical and sensory disabilities, acquired brain injury and neurological impairments.





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Who is Eligible?

- Adults with complex communication needs, AND
- Adults who are permanent residents of Victoria and hold a Medicare card, AND
- Adults who are eligible for services under the Disability Act 2006.



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Disability Act

The Victorian Government's Disability Act defines disability in relation to a person as:

- a sensory, physical or neurological impairment or acquired brain injury or any combination thereof, which
 - (i) is, or likely to be, permanent; and
 - (ii) causes a substantially reduced capacity in at least one of the areas of self-care, self management, mobility or communication; and
 - (iii) requires significant ongoing or long term episodic support; and
 - (iv) is not related to ageing; or
- b) an intellectual disability; or
- c) a developmental delay






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Who is NOT eligible?

People are ineligible if they:


- receive support through the Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) or the Transport Accident Commission (TAC)
- receive support through compensation related to their disability
- are pre-school or school aged children

Please Note: Some children who are transitioning from school to an adult placement may be considered.






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What does it provide?





- Individualised Non-electronic Communication Aids
- Telephone support to the people designing the aid
- Advice and Information on Speech Pathology Services
- Open Days
- Information Forums
- Minimum of 1 statewide CCB Project

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It DOES NOT provide:

- Electronic communication devices, computer hardware or software
- Programming of electronic communication devices
- Sensory-focussed resources (eg. sensory books, leisure packs and exploration mats)
- Funding or services in relation to mounting
- Assessment of the person's communication skills and needs
- Individual training or ongoing Speech Pathology support and consultancy
- General group program resources







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Requests...


Should be made by:

- 1) The person with complex communication needs where appropriate
- 2) People who have knowledge and/or skills in AAC eg. speech pathologists
- 3) People who know the person and their needs well







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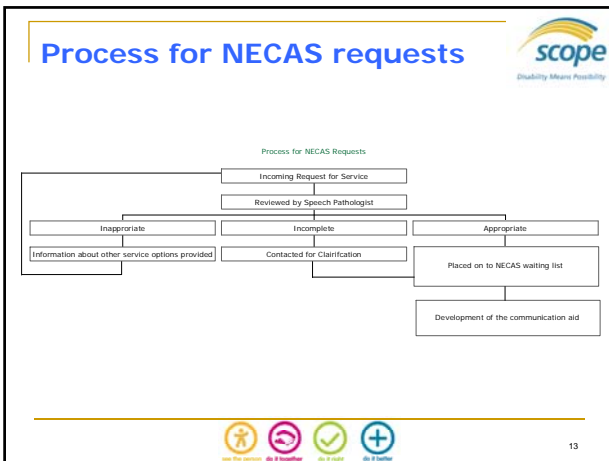
Role of the person requesting the service...



- Select and design an appropriate communication aid
- Complete NECAS application
- Support the implementation of the communication aid.

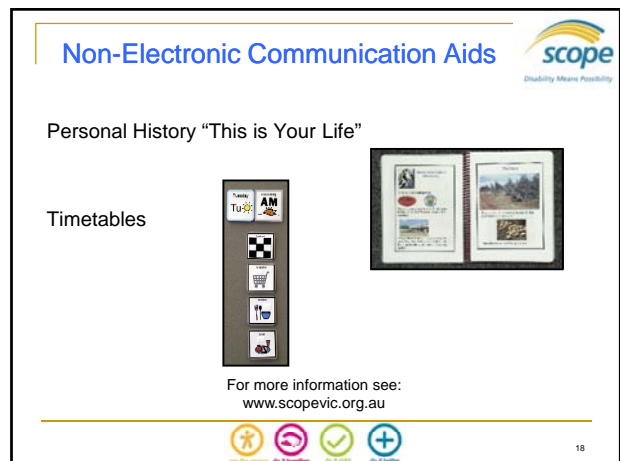
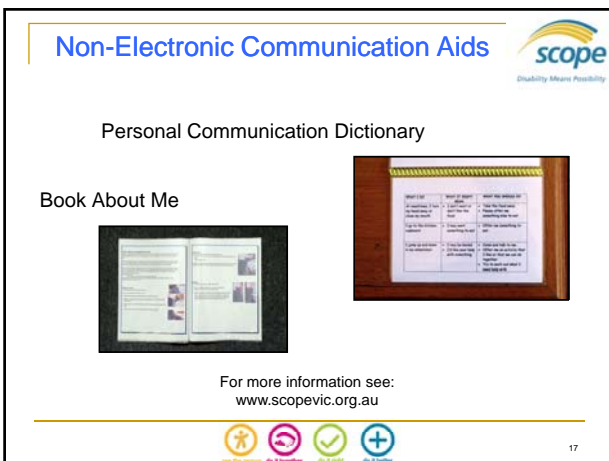



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- ### Application Process
1. Request for service is made and a Service Request Form is completed.
 2. The application is received and reviewed by a Speech Pathologist. More information is obtained if required.
 3. If approved, requests are processed within 4 to 6 weeks.
 4. If requested, a draft of the communication aid is provided for comment.
 5. The draft communication aid is returned, changes are made and the final version is sent.
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- ### Other things to note:
- Priority of Access
 - The Use of Photos
 - Therapists Access
 - Interpreters service
 - Draft Copies - 1
 - Additional Copies - on original application
 - Replacement Aids
 - Changes - minimal vs substantial
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Non-Electronic Communication Aids

Alphabet Boards




Communication Books, Boards, Wallets

For more information see:
www.scopevic.org.au




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Don't know where to start?



- Download service request forms from website
- Phone Support from NECAS therapist
- Speech Pathology Consultancy (DHS, HACC, RCS)
- Request Training in 'How to design Communication Aids' - next central session early 2009
- Attend an Open Day


www.scopevic.org.au




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The story so far....


- Have provided over 600 non-electronic communication aids to adults in Victoria
- Approximately 50% of these were for people who didn't have any sort of communication aid before
- Disability Support Workers continue to be the second most common group of people who apply to the scheme



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