

## How to use switches to communicate: Switch progression for people with complex physical disabilities

Some individuals with physical and/or sensory disabilities can find it difficult to use their fingers or hands to point, touch or indicate directly to communicate when using augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). So if people can't point, what do you do?

Learn how to eliminate access as the barrier to independent communication.

This full day workshop is presented by a Speech Pathologist and has a deliberate focus on supporting people with little or no speech and complex access issues to communicate through an alternative access strategy known as switching.

### Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of access methodologies (e.g. direct, switch, eye gaze)
- Understand the four competencies required for communication independence
- Identify the stages involved in switch progression
- Design custom teaching tools and individualised activities and programs that match and challenge an individual's switching skill level.

### Participant pre-requisites

Intermediate computer skills are required.

To get the most out of the workshop, participants are required to bring a Windows laptop with the following installed:

- Microsoft Office Suite (including PowerPoint)
- Adobe Lightroom (5 day free trial available [here](#)).
- Clicker 7 installed (1 month free trial available [here](#)).

### Audience

This workshop is suitable for therapists, educators, support workers and family members who are supporting people who have already had an assessment completed by a trained Speech Pathologist and/or Occupational Therapist and have been deemed appropriate for switch access. This workshop has a focus on implementation strategies, not assessment. Please consult a Speech Pathologist and/or Occupational Therapist prior to attending this workshop to determine if switch access is suitable for the individual/s you are supporting.

### Catering

Tea and coffee will be provided. Please bring your own lunch or purchase at one of the many cafés and eateries in the area.

**Time:** 9:30am - 4:00pm  
**Venue:** Multicultural Hub  
506 Elizabeth Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000  
**Cost:** \$330.00 per participant

[Click here to download an application form for this workshop](#)