



Customised non-electronic communication aids

Product Catalogue 2024





Customised communication aids from Scope

Select, design and maintain personalised low-tech communication aids

Scope's Non-Electronic Communication Aid Service (NECAS) is a team of speech pathologists and communication resource designers who have the expertise and equipment to produce customised, high-quality communication aids for adults and children.

Our team will work with you to design and produce your customised aid.

Advisory session

Not sure what communication aid you need, or need advice on communication aid options and pathways?

A NECAS speech pathologist can provide an advisory session where you can:

- view a range of communication aids
- receive information on the types of communication aids suitable for your situation
- plan together for the support you need
- receive a report with personalised options
- include people from your support network in the session such as family members, your primary speech pathologist (if you have one)*, support workers, positive behaviour support practitioners (if you have one).

*We can work with you and your primary speech pathologist. Or if you need a speech pathologist we can provide information on referral pathway options.

Three hours is required for this service and it is billed at the NDIS speech pathology rate of \$193.99 per hour (total \$581.97). Funding is available by the NDIS under 'Capacity building supports – improved daily living'.

Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display (PODD™) communication book library

\$170 per loan

- Four weeks
- Funding is available by the NDIS under 'Core Supports – Consumables' or 'Capital Supports – Assistive Technology'
- It is highly recommended that you bundle a loan with one of our advisory sessions to support your trial (see above for details).

Customised communication aid/s

Communication aids come in many shapes and sizes. Most need to be customised to suit each person.

Receive customisation support where one of our NECAS consultants can help you finalise and confirm:

- the vocabulary and content that you have prepared for your communication aid
- the specific design features of the communication aid (size, tabs and which symbols to use)



Price Guide

Communication Aid	Example	Price
Comprehensive multi-level communication book (more than 20 pages)	PODD™ communication book	<p>\$1,500 for design, manufacture and delivery of PODD™ communication book (which can be funded by NDIS using Core Supports – Consumables or Capital Supports – Assistive Technology)</p> <p>Plus</p> <p>\$581.97 for three hours of NECAS speech pathology customisation support billed at the NDIS rate of \$193.99 per hour (funded using NDIS Capacity Building – Improved Daily Living)*</p> <p>*Please note you will only be billed for the speech pathology time used (this is variable depending on the customisation support required)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication book without cards (up to 20 pages) • Communication book with cards (up to 10 pages) • Communication board without cards (up to 3 boards per set) • Communication board with cards (one board per set) • Communication board with cards (one board per set) • Communication cards (up to 50) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication book • Communication book with hook and loop tape cards (for example My Day Book) • Communication board with hook and loop tape cards (for example shopping list, chores chart, budget wheel, timetable/calendar/ activity schedule) • Community request cards • Aided language displays • Static timetable, calendar or activity schedule 	<p>\$1,000 each</p> <p>or</p> <p>\$1,500 for up to 3 aids</p>

<p>Highly customised communication aids (and amendments)</p>	<p>NECAS is able to produce a variety of aids using customised materials and sizes.</p> <p>This includes large communication boards for parks, aids printed on a variety of textiles and highly individualised objects of reference.</p>	<p>Contact us for a customised quote</p>
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Funding is available by the NDIS under 'Core Supports - Consumables' or 'Capital Supports - Assistive Technology'.

Please note: We can only accept NDIS plans that have more than 3 months left before expiry, to allow time for consultation, custom design and production of the aids. If you have extenuating circumstances and wish to discuss these requirements, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Standard template communication aids

Do you want a standard template aid? Scope offers a range of communication aids that can be ordered quickly.

Please note: this option does not include customisation support from a NECAS consultant.

The communication aids which can be provided in standard template form (with pre-designed size, layout, materials) include:

Standard template communication aids	Price
Communication book <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre-school - 12 cell• School - 12 cell• Adult - 12 cell Hospital communication book <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child - 12 cell• Adult - 12 cell	\$350 each
Community request cards	\$350 each
Core board	\$350 each
Communication boards (with cards) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First-Then board• Timetable/Visual schedule• Chores chart• Who's here today	\$450 each
My Day book (with cards)	\$550 each

Communication aid implementation, care and maintenance

NECAS speech pathologists can assist customers to successfully implement their communication aids. Options include training and online consultancy.

Contact us for more information

 **1300 472 673**

 **contact@scopeaust.org.au**

Low tech communication aid catalogue

This list is a selection of common communication aids.
Get in touch with us for a customised solution.

Comprehensive expressive communication aids

You can say what you like, regardless of the topic, or who you talk to. This kind of communication aid has the vocabulary and layout you need to communicate throughout your day. Comprehensive aids include communication books and alphabet boards, and contain a range of messages represented by letters, words, photos and other symbols. They often support understanding as well as expression.

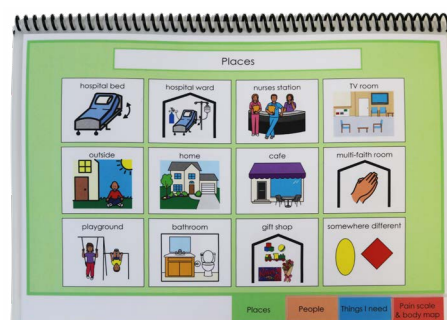
Communication book

Multi-level communication books support speech, or are used instead of speech. They include a large vocabulary, usually represented by symbols (written words, photos and standardised image sets).

They are a visual display used for communication.

The book is usually categorised, with careful word placement for efficient navigation. It is modified to suit the person's access requirements and the vocabulary is personalised to them.

Video: <https://youtu.be/Z3NVNDdpVTE>



PODD™ communication book

A Pragmatic Organised Dynamic Display (PODD™) book is a type of multi-level communication book. It is an organised language system with navigation pathways based on the purpose of your message (for example there is a pathway for asking a question, telling a story, directing a person, or saying something is wrong).

These books are often used to support language development, although the books are becoming increasingly used by adults as well.

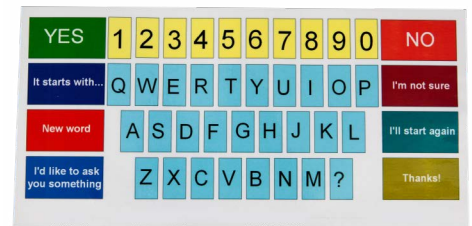
There are many different types of PODD™ communication books. Select your book by considering your physical, sensory and communication needs, and speaking with your speech-language pathologist.



Alphabet board

Just as it sounds, this is a single page with a printed keyboard, either in an alphabetic or QWERTY layout. Often used to support speech, you can point to the first letter, or spell out whole words.

It is most often customised for the person, depending on whether you will point to it, or indirectly scan through the rows. It may include shortcut phrases, for example “new word” or “I’ll start again”. Photos are sometimes added, with the letters in the middle, framed by pictures or photos of important people, frequently requested items, and other useful vocabulary.

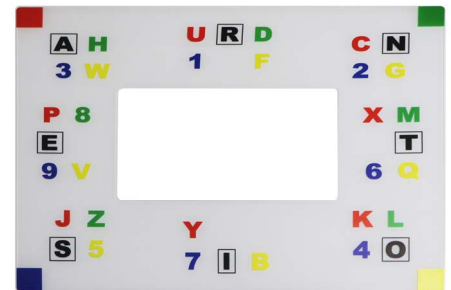


E-Tran board

The Eye-Transfer board is used by pointing with your eyes to spell out words.

This perspex board has a systematic layout with letters and numbers in eight sections. A cut-out in the middle of the board keeps you face-to-face with your conversation partner, who can easily look at the direction of your eye-gaze to see the message you spell out.

E-Tran boards can be customised to your specific needs – this might include pictures or whole words instead of letters and numbers.



Communication aids about you

This category of communication aids is about information for your communication partners. Knowing important things about you will support unfamiliar people to understand you, interact with you, and support effective communication.

Communication profile

This is an at-a-glance guide about your communication. It is most useful for unfamiliar support staff. Usually one page, it contains information about your communication skills and strategies to support positive interactions together.

Book About Me

This customised book can help communication partners, including support staff and new contacts, know important things about you, like how best to support you. It contains current information about your support needs, abilities and interests. It can include information about your daily routine, what you can do independently and where you might need assistance. It includes strategies to ensure your communication is recognised. In this way, the book allows for consistent and predictable support from your carers.



It is recommended a Book About Me is always maintained and up to date.

Video: <https://youtu.be/T70PH5oxeC0>

Personal Communication Dictionary

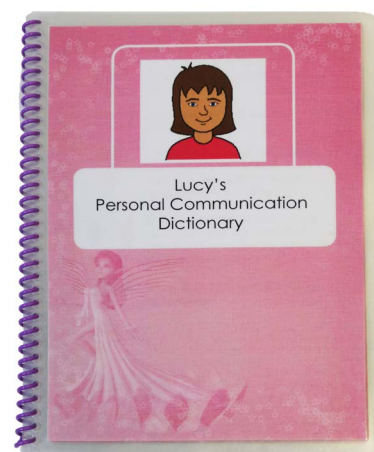
It is often helpful to have a reference for the ways a person communicates, especially if a new person would need information to interpret your communication.

A personal communication dictionary records what your communication looks and sounds like. It includes three columns:

1. Your behaviour, body language, expressions, and vocalisations
2. What this means
3. How the person can best respond to you.

A Gesture Dictionary is similar, it shares your key word signs and gestures, especially where they are unique to you.

Video: <https://youtu.be/gVd5bxpqdX0>



Personal history

Information and photos of your life and family history can be a conversation starter and help others get to know you.

It's your story; include your memories, your skills and interests now, future aspirations and dreams.

A shared topic, shared points of reference and vocabulary will help you connect with new people.

Chat book

Also known as a remnant, memento or conversation book or a chat box.

This is a collection of recent memorable times you have had. It is made as a way to share information about activities and events you have experienced without needing words. Include an object, a crunchy leaf, a ticket stub, a heading, and a sentence about the activity. Keep it at hand and look through the book with others frequently.



Personal history book



Targeted Expressive Communication Aid

You can use a targeted communication aid to send a message in a given situation, routine or about a specific topic. These aids can assist you with active participation and choices.

Low-tech conversions of high-tech communication aids

Adapt your high-tech system to a paper-based version. There are many reasons you want a book or a board that corresponds with your Speech Generating Device.

Your high technology AAC system may go flat or need repairs. You may be somewhere where the environment is not suitable (for example in the shower, pool, or in rain/snow). There may even be times where people with you won't use it. In these times, you still need to have a way of communicating.

A low-tech copy can also be useful when you and your family are learning a high-tech language system together.

Most adaptations require customisation. The vocabulary is reduced and must be selected carefully; and the design will include pathways for navigation.

Electronic communication device overlays

Overlays are a feature of some Speech Generating Devices. You change the overlays to suit the topic of your conversation. Standardised overlays can be designed for any activity.

Activity specific communication board

These are also known as aided language stimulation boards – named for their interactive nature and used by both people in the conversation.

The communication board includes a table with rows and columns of images representing words, and sometimes phrases.

Examples include Watching TV, Bathing, Playing catch, Lunch time.

The board is customised to suit the user's needs in a known situation. It includes topic-specific words with vocabulary to make comments and ask questions.

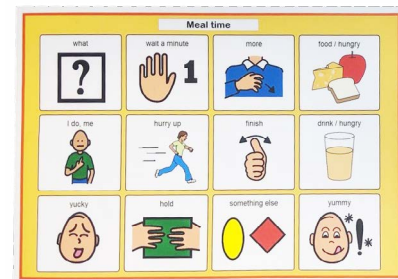
Use it to talk about something specific, either by pointing, or scanning through the symbols indirectly.

Core board

This is another kind of aided language stimulation board, this one with more “core” words, and less specific vocabulary.

Core words make up about 80% of what we say. Core words add meaning to our message, for example “go” “out” “stop” “you” and “me” are all core words. They become more powerful when combined.

Video: <https://youtu.be/Ao0kf9QvyYo>



Activity specific communication board for meal time



Core board

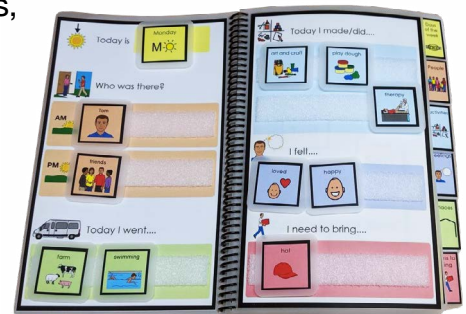
My Day book

Use these cards, stored in a book, to share information about the things that you do in your day. The pages are colour coded to provide a structure to guide you.

The symbols on the cards represent people, places, activities, feelings and things, and are visual reminders of what you can talk about.

My Day Books support you to share the things that you have been doing, where you have been, people you saw, how you have felt, anything different or special that has happened, and may also include other information, such as reminders for the next day.

Video: <https://youtu.be/j0lnz6ncLYg>



My Day book

My News page

Use a water-soluble pen to mark the key messages about your day. Whether for home, school or work, record what has happened during the day. There are a variety of ideas for different formats such as a fill in the blanks board or a News bookmark.

Community request cards

This is a set of cards for use with unfamiliar people in social situations. They are meant for a quick transaction, used to request items and services while you are out in the community. Instead of using speech to request an item or a service, show the card instead.

The card gives details of your request, for example, 'an order for a small latte with one sugar'.

The card tells the person what to do, for example, 'put the change back in my wallet.'



Visual supports

Cues and reminders help us to make sense of our day, remember events, and understand steps in a task. They can communicate abstract information, such as 'now' and 'later'. The visual detail supports our understanding of speech, it is more stable and lasts longer than spoken words.

Budget wheel

This is a helpful planning tool to help manage your money. Each "slice" of the wheel represents the cost of an item or activity. As you spend, the purchased item is placed on the wheel. When the wheel is full, no money is left.



Chores chart

Also known as a jobs board or duty roster, a chores chart can be used by the whole household and encourages active participation. You may find yourself more independent and in control with a visual reminder of the jobs to do at home or work.

Detachable cards of photos or pictures show the daily or weekly tasks, for example 'unpack the dishwasher', 'feed the fish', 'fold the laundry'.

Photos of the person responsible for each task are added to the board. Moving the tasks to "done" can give a sense of accomplishment and may even motivate you more.



Video: <https://youtu.be/SrJtBblYOcA>

Menu planner

Use a menu planner with your family or housemates and select your meals each week from a set of customised cards. You can customise the board to your preferences, for example add a master chef each night!

Dining out? Pre-select your choices before going to the canteen or tuck shop.



Shopping booklet

Pre-plan your grocery shopping and make choices about what you eat. A shopping list is a visual reminder about the items that you need to buy in picture or photo format.

Shopping lists are customised to your grocery and personal items. The booklet includes printed symbols of common fruit and vegetables, meat and dairy products, personal care items and other household needs. It is designed to easily fit into a pocket or bag. Mark off each item with water-soluble markers and wipe clean for next use.



Shopping booklet with detachable cards and list

Shopping list with cards

Alternatively, detachable cards and a portable list may accompany the booklet. Select cards with items you need and move onto your shopping list. Take the shopping list with you when you go.

Task schedule

Task schedules break down activities and routines into steps, for example making a meal, a craft activity, or washing your hands.

You can reference these steps as you complete the activity, enabling you to be independent.

Task schedules are also a useful guide for any person providing you with direct support. We all have our preferred way of going through our activities of daily living.

For example, a dressing task schedule is useful for the person who helps you get dressed. Sometimes different people might help you get dressed, if they change your routine it can be distressing. Getting dressed in the way you prefer allows you to assist; you are able to anticipate the next step.

Any task can be broken down into a sequence of steps and personalised to maximise your independence, choice and control.



Task schedule: Making a Vegemite sandwich

Who's here today board

This board displays the whereabouts of different people, so you know who to expect at your house.

It can prepare you for unexpected changes and provide reasons why staff are away.

The Who's Here Today board is tailored to your needs. Cards use customised photos of your household, support workers and visitors.



Video: <https://youtu.be/QwPiCqZiQOk>

Object symbols

Known as objects of reference, objects are used instead of printed symbols. They can be sequenced to represent upcoming activities.

The objects need to look, feel or have shared characteristics of what they represent, for example a towel that smells like chlorine for swimming.

Objects of reference can be used for making choices and indicate preference.



Timetables

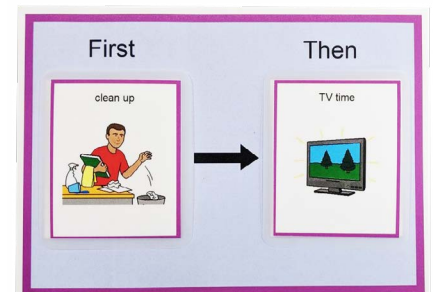
There is a peace of mind that comes with knowing what is happening now and what you are doing next. It can remove anxiety to have a visual reminder of when something will happen. There are various types of timetables, adapted to best suit the person and situation. Visual aids can break down time in a meaningful way, to maximise your independence, choice and control.

First-then board

This two-part schedule provides an image, usually on a card, that represents what is happening now and another of what is coming next.

It can support you to transition between activities, or to share a preferred item. The second item is often a motivator to complete the first, for example “first wash hands - then screen time”.

Video: <https://youtu.be/uhclOE1e79I>



First-then board

Activity schedule

This schedule has three or more items listed. Images represent activities, either on detachable cards or printed directly onto the page.

An example is a list of activities in a morning routine: get dressed - breakfast - brush teeth - wait for bus

Activity schedules of routines and regular activities support independence and control, reducing reliance on prompting and reminders from others.

Video: https://youtu.be/IN_FXjLSeOk



Activity schedule

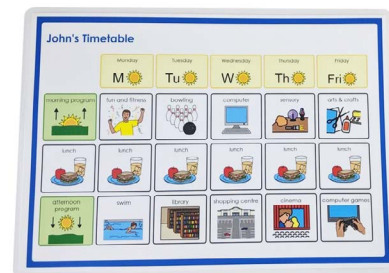
Picture timetable

This can be a daily or weekly schedule of important events and information.

Timetables are usually made using detachable cards, so that changes can be anticipated and accepted.

Examples include medical appointments, car-pooling schedules, or a countdown to a big event.

Display and storage are also customised. For example, showing only 2-3 activities at a time, compared with every activity over the whole week.



Picture timetable

Cues book

Visual, touch, smell and sound cues can help make sense of the 'here and now' in your world. Written as a booklet or a single page, family and support workers can provide consistent sensory signals to you during your daily routines.

These can alert you to an event or activity that is about to occur, for example a warm facecloth to cue you before a meal or a holding your thumb to cue you TV time is finished.

Visual supports for behaviour

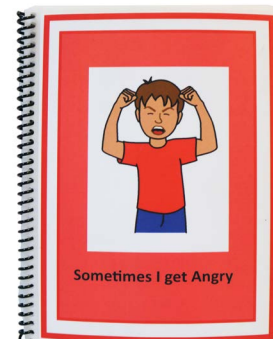
Social stories™ and picture stories

Stories are tools to help you better understand a situation and any expectations on you. Using pictures and direct sentences, stories are carefully written to reinforce appropriate behaviour.

Examples include, crossing the road safely, going on a plane, keeping hands to myself.

Behaviour script

A briefer story, usually one page. Scripts may even call out an inappropriate behaviour and remind the person of an alternative choice.



Social story:
'Sometimes I get angry'

Acknowledgment:

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**Our products are
backed by best
practice principles
and over 70 years
of helping people
participate in life.**





Interested in ordering a customised communication aid?



As Australia's leading disability service provider, we're here to work with you, your family and your support network, so you can be whoever you want to be.



Contact our team



1300 472 673



contact@scopeaust.org.au



scopeaust.org.au