

# Communication Access

## Stories from our community



### Just because I can't talk, doesn't mean I have nothing to say!

#### Hoang's Story - Being welcomed at the St Mary's House of Welcome

Hoang is a Vietnamese man who had a brain injury as a teenager. He does not use speech and communicates using body language, facial expression and voice sounds.

Hoang needs support to live in his community. Staff supporting Hoang realised how important it was for him to maintain his connections to his Vietnamese culture and how much he enjoyed spending time around people who spoke Vietnamese.

Over the last few years Scope staff have supported Hoang to attend a Vietnamese social group at the St Mary's House of Welcome in Fitzroy. People at the House of Welcome have taken the time to get to know Hoang. They have now learnt what Hoang's movements, facial expressions and sounds mean. Because they can communicate, Hoang has developed friendships with people in his Vietnamese community.

#### People made this place communication accessible by:

- taking time
- getting to know Hoang
- learning from others who know Hoang well
- knowing how Hoang communicates
- using Hoang's communication method
- treating Hoang with dignity and respect.



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To find out more about Communication Access, please contact  
Scope's Communication and Inclusion Resource Centre:

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