

# TalkingMats™ - Foundation Course

Implementing a TalkingMats® approach with people who have communication difficulties.

Course Descriptor	
Course Name:	TalkingMats™ - Foundation Course Implementing a TalkingMats™ approach with people who have communication difficulties.
Course Duration:	2 x 3hr training sessions conducted over 2 days.
No. per session	8 participants per session (maximum).
Presenter	Workshops will be delivered by an Accredited TalkingMats™ trainer speech pathologist experienced in using TalkingMats™ and communicating with people who have complex communication needs.
Brief description	This workshop will focus on supporting people who have little or no speech to meaningfully engage, control and contribute to discussions utilizing a conversation strategy known as TalkingMats™. Through video interaction guidance, participants will practice the TalkingMats™ framework and have an opportunity to reflect on their skills to support people who have little or no speech to co-design plans and effectively make their own decisions.
Workshop content	This workshop will cover the following topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are ‘communication difficulties’?</li> <li>• The Communication Continuum: How different people communicate in different ways</li> <li>• Understanding and using the TalkingMats™ framework</li> <li>• Thinking creatively about how to use TalkingMats™ in your own setting using video interaction guidance</li> <li>• Reflecting on your own communication</li> </ul>
Workshop style:	As part of this course, participants are required to develop their own TalkingMat™ and video record an interaction. Participants will be eligible for a <b>Foundation Certificate</b> upon successful completion of this course.
Learning Outcomes:	On completion of the program, participations will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the range of communication difficulties that a person may present with.</li> <li>• Be better equipped to recognize different types of communication.</li> <li>• Have an understanding of what decision making and co-design looks like for a range of communicators.</li> <li>• Have an awareness of the TalkingMats™ strategy that exists to enable a person to effectively communicate.</li> <li>• Have foundation TalkingMats™ skills and knowledge.</li> </ul>