



Communication for Participation!

Volume 1, Issue 1  
February 2010



West Loddon Mallee

## Regional Communication Service Newsletter

### Supporting people with complex communication needs to be active in their community

Welcome to the first edition of The West Loddon Mallee Regional Communication Service Newsletter!

Our job is to support people with complex communication needs to be active communicators in their community.

#### We provide:

- speech pathology services
- information
- training
- resources
- support to clients with complex CCN, their families, friends and carers.
- Also support retailers, recreation and leisure groups, and any other communication partners.

This newsletter aims to share information about projects, resources, training opportunities and events in the world of CCN (complex communication needs)!

The West Loddon Mallee Regional Communication Service is part of a state-wide network of services.

The West Loddon Mallee Region incorporates the Rural Cities of Mildura, Swan Hill and the Shires of Buloke and Gannawarra.

You will notice that this newsletter is in an "Easier to Read" format.

We are based at Sunraysia Community Health Services Mildura.



#### Who are we?



Amber Baird



Elizabeth Gale



Sharon Champion

#### Speech Pathologists

#### Inside this issue:

Who are we?

Music Shop!

The M3

What is CCN?

We want to hear from you!!

#### Definition of Terms

##### 1. Complex Communication Needs (CCN):

People who cannot speak or have speech that is difficult to understand.

##### 2. Easier to Read: The use of:

- Short sentences
- Simplified language
- Dot points
- More spacing
- Less punctuation
- But still giving lots of good information

### Where are we?

Sunraysia Community Health Services

PO Box 2803

Ramsay Court

Mildura, Vic 3502



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schs@schs.com.au

West Loddon Mallee Regional Communication Service

*Communication for Participation!*

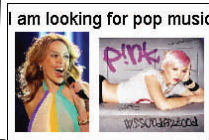


### Music Shop Project.

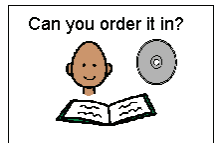
What a great time we had!



Amber and Elizabeth visited Life Skills on Pine for 7 weeks to meet with the clients and develop a communication board for local music shops. The clients at Life Skills on Pine told us the problems they had when trying to buy music independently, and we worked together to develop a communication board for the music shops. The clients then designed their own community request cards, and now everybody who worked on the project has their own set to use next time they

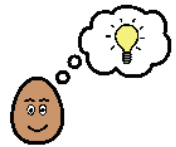


want to visit a music shop.



### We want your ideas!!

We would like you to tell us what you want in these newsletters. For example, we can include useful tips on "being a good communication partner".



Information on local training- where you tell us what you would like training in, and we tell you what is coming up.

Or maybe a guest writer column....Let us know your thoughts!

### Have you seen?

The Dynavox M3 is an electronic communication device. It has a dynamic display touch screen and uses pre-recorded digitised speech for its messages (*What does this mean???* *Contact us!*).



### The Dynavox M3

It uses scene-based functional communication principles and we think it is a great device that is easy for people with CCN to use!

The M3 uses Picture Communication Symbols (Boardmaker) or you can import your own pictures and photos!

The M3 has the ability to connect to the internet too!



Visit the website for more information:

[www.spectronicsinoz.com](http://www.spectronicsinoz.com)