



## High Technology AAC Systems

Communication difficulties are common in adults and children as a result of injury or conditions such as head injury, stroke or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) offers individuals with complex communication needs a means of achieving their communication goals in circumstances where this may not be possible. Individuals with communication difficulties can benefit from using an external resource (aided AAC), which may complement or be integrated with an individual's current communication skill set (gestures, body movements, eye movements). High technology systems utilize electronic devices and specialized software.

### Dynamic Display



The display of a dynamic display device changes when a picture/symbol/icon is selected. Dynamic display devices allow for extensive amounts of vocabulary as each page can then be extended into another. Dynamic displays also have many options for the use of an alternate mouse, for example, eye gaze, head tracker or switch technology. Examples of dynamic display devices include the Tobii Dynavox Indi (Image on left).

### Static Display

A static display device has a stationary or fixed display and when a picture or symbol is selected the display remains in the same format. This type of display allows users to remember the layout of the display. Some static display devices may or may not have a voice output function, so that when a picture or symbol is selected, the symbol/ word is spoken through digitised speech. Examples of a static display device include the GoTalk Device which allows communication partners to record messages corresponding with the appropriate symbol or picture presented on the display layout.



(Above: GoTalk20+ Device)

## Single Message Devices

Single message devices make use of a voice-output communication device which records speech and then plays back a single message. These devices can be accessed by touching a single switch. An example of single message devices is the BIGmack.



(Above: BIGmack Communicator)

## Sequenced Message Devices



(Above: QuickTalker S and 1)

Similar to single message devices, sequenced message devices record a sequence of messages to be produced from one switch. Some devices allow for sets of messages to be stored. The messages are recorded using digitised speech. Examples of sequenced message devices include Smooth Talker, Big Button Communicator and QuickTalker S and 1.

## Text-to-Speech and Spelling Devices

Text-to-speech devices refer to any software or device that generates speech output. The majority of high-tech AAC devices have a voice output function. The user may use symbols, photos or spelling input for synthesized speech. Examples of text-to-speech devices include the Allora Speech Generating Device, LightWriter Speech Generating Device and Click2Speak Text-to-Speech Software.



(Above: LightWriter SL45)

There is a varied range of AAC products available, contact ILC Tas for more information or arrange an appointment to see or try them in the display centre.