

HEC23517: Investigating the feasibility and preliminary efficacy of an education package to improve speech language pathologists' competence for community aphasia group facilitation

Researchers at La Trobe University are seeking volunteer speech language pathologist research participants to be involved in a PhD research project about an **education package about facilitation of community aphasia groups**.

In the first phase of the research, speech pathologists completed the education package and provided feedback on its acceptability. The goal of this **second phase** of the research is to investigate the impact of updated education package on speech pathologists' self-perceived competence to 1) facilitate community aphasia groups themselves, and 2) provide training and support to other facilitators, including peers with aphasia and volunteers. It is hoped that the education package will contribute to increasing the number of community aphasia groups available in Australia.



You May Qualify if You:

- Are eligible to be a certified practicing member of Speech Pathology Australia
- Live in an Eastern state or territory of Australia (ACT, NSW, VIC, QLD, SA, TAS)
- Currently work with individuals with aphasia living in the community (e.g., hospital/community outpatient services, home-based rehabilitation).
- Have access to a computer with a camera and microphone, and internet sufficient to support meetings via Zoom

You **may or may not** have had previous experience in the delivery of community aphasia groups, and you **may or may not** have received previous training in group facilitation.

Participation involves...

If you decide to take part in the research, you would be asked to:

- Complete a demographic survey (approx. 10 minutes)
- Complete a survey about your self-perceived competence to facilitate CAGs – once before, once immediately after, and once four weeks after completing the education package (approx. 10 minutes each). Participants randomised to the waitlist control will also complete the survey 4 weeks before commencing the education package.
- Complete the **education package** over a **four-week period**, including:
 - Self-paced online modules (approx. 9 hours total)
 - Two small online group workshops over Zoom (2.5 hours each)

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Version dated: 10 Jan 2024

Weeks 1 to 2	End Week 2	Weeks 3 to 4	End Week 4
Complete modules 1-4 at own pace (5hrs total)	Workshop 1 (2.5 hours)	Complete modules 5-7 at own pace (4hrs total)	Workshop 2 (2.5 hours)

- Complete a post-training satisfaction survey (approx. 5 minutes)
- You may also be invited to participate in a semi-structured interview about your experiences of the education package (approx. 1 hour), however this is optional, and will not impact your participation in the education package.

It is estimated that it will take approximately 15 hours of your time over 8 weeks (intervention) or 12 weeks (waitlist control) to be part of this study (please note: the time commitment for the education package itself spans only 4 weeks, as per the table above. There is no time commitment in the weeks between the package and follow-up survey). Your decision to participate in research is voluntary.

Reimbursement for participation

There are no additional costs associated with participation in this research study, nor will you be paid.

For More Information

If you would like more information or are interested in being part of the study, please contact:

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Ethics Approval Number	HEC22039	

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