

Issue

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# ILC Tech



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Please email us for any additional information about this newsletter



## AGOSCI National Tour

The 2012 AGOSCI National Tour was presented by Dr. Caroline Musslewhite. This one day workshop was hosted by ILC on 24th August and was well attended by approximately seventy-five speech therapists, parents, and educators. Dr. Caroline Musslewhite is a Speech Language Pathologist with more than 25 years experience working with children and adolescents with complex communication needs. Her presentation was motivating and inspiring, and ensured everyone got to take home some useful resources.

Caroline touched on many strategies to promote use and generalisation of AAC devices. In particular she addressed the concept of 'communication circles' which has been developed to promote follow-through in assistive technology. Basically communication circles are an extension of the peer tutors model, where students with disabilities work in small groups with their peers to plan and carry out activities. Caroline talked about the benefits of using the communication circles approach and how it lends itself to generalisation as the AAC user has to use their device in a pragmatically appropriate context. This strategy could work really well for an individual with a disability who is in a mainstream classroom.

Caroline also shared information about her "Out and About" program, to get AAC into the Community. <http://aacintervention.com/home/180009852/180009852/tips/2003/10oct2003/Out%20%26%20About%20Handout.pdf>

Caroline emphasised how 'repetition with variety' is required when learning language on a device. She also shared some of her favourite apps which she uses to elicit language and to practice 'repetition with variety'. Examples included 'My Stuffy Bear', 'Create a Car', 'Clicky Sticky', 'Guess Em', 'My Play Home' and 'What's in the bag?'

Here are some of the useful resources shared from the event:

Sped apps 2 wiki: <http://spedapps2.wikispaces.com> This wiki can be used to make informed decisions about what communication and language apps to purchase by reading reviews from therapists and educators who have used the apps for special education.

Visit Caroline's website for lots of AAC Tips: <http://aacintervention.com/>

The AGOSCI National Conference will be held next year in Sydney. For more information about the conference you can visit <http://www.agosci.org.au> You can also join the AGOSCI list serve to share in discussion about AAC and complex communication needs and stay up to date!

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## Our Service

The ILC Technology service provides information, advice and training on specialised computer access, technologies to support education and augmentative and alternative communication equipment for people of all ages.

Information regarding assistive and educational technologies is available by appointment.

The ILC Hire Service specialises in the short term hire of equipment to provide you with an opportunity to trial before purchase.

## Access to professional development is CHANGING!!!!

With advancements in technology... it seems that access to professional development has changed significantly over the past year or so. Before, we would wait for a speaker to come to Perth to run a workshop, or if we were lucky.... travel interstate to attend conferences. But now, there are many more options available from the comfort of your desk or computer at home.

Access to online training is now easier than ever with a range of live and recorded sessions or webinars (web based seminars) available for most assistive technology products, including communication devices, other hardware, software and apps. Live sessions are broadcast from interstate or overseas so it is important to factor in the time difference! The benefit of live sessions is that you can often interact with the speaker and other attendees, by giving feedback and asking questions. Recorded sessions are useful as you can log on at a time that suits you and your colleagues. All you really need is a computer with the internet and some speakers! For live sessions, you may need a microphone or webcam. It is also possible to link in with local Australia suppliers for assistive technology support for their products. This may be via Skype or another web based forum.

Some examples of available web based training include.....

Ian Bean– for Ablenet. This is a five part webinar series on the use of Assistive Technology to support the communication, learning and leisure needs of people with physical and intellectual difficulties. <http://ianbean.co.uk/ablenetwebinar.html>

Boardmaker recorded training sessions <http://www.mayer-johnson.com/training/recorded/>

A range of self study courses are available for Liberator Devices including Eco, Vantage Lite and Springboard Lite <http://www.prentrom.com/training/courses>

Spectronics have recently launched their 'Spectronics Online' site. Subscriptions are available.

<http://www.spectronics.com.au/online/> .

This subscription offers a range of online videos and resources to assist special needs educators and others to implement iPads with their school. Presentations include 'Apps for Literacy Support', 'Using Apps to support AAC' and 'How to set up your iPad for students with physical disabilities using switches'.

Proloquo2Go webinars <http://www.assistiveware.com/webinars>

ILC Tech have developed a list of **On Line Training Options for Communication Devices and other Assistive Technology**. Visit our website to download the full list <http://ilc.com.au/pages/ilc-tech-resources>

So for your next staff meeting, or interest group... why not plan to access some training via the web! It's free!



## Environmental Controls—Upcoming Workshop & New Products

Our OT's Linda and Jess have been researching lots of new products in the area of Environmental Controls. "Environmental Control Units (ECU's) are purpose– designed devices that enable an individual to control their environment using alternate means. An example would be using an ECU to turn lights on and off, or air conditioning on or up" (Lifetec, Queensland). These every tasks can be made more accessible with this technology. For more information about Environmental Controls

[http://www.lifetec.org.au/uploads/factsheets/ECU\\_elec.pdf](http://www.lifetec.org.au/uploads/factsheets/ECU_elec.pdf)

ILC Tech will be running an upcoming workshop on this topic, as an introduction to the sector. This training is targeted towards Occupational Therapists, other Allied Health Professionals & Service Providers, interested in getting up to date with Environmental Control Systems & Technology. This session will allow you to:

- Identify features across range of Environmental Control Units (ECUs)
- Describe and categorise the different types of ECUs available
- Experience and discover different ways people with a disability can use ECUs as well as gain knowledge of resources and funding (including the Equipment for Living Grant)

**Where: Independent Living Centre, Nedlands**

**When: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012 1:00 to 4:00pm Cost \$35**

**TO REGISTER** <http://introduction-to-environmental-control-units-efbevent.eventbrite.com/>

For any enquiries please contact - Jessica Rigden 9381 0619 or [Jessica.rigden@ilc.com.au](mailto:Jessica.rigden@ilc.com.au).

We have recently purchase some new environmental control products for our demonstration library.

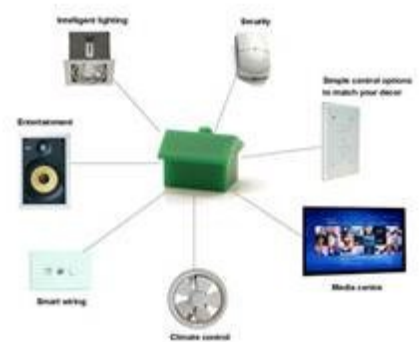
**Control Omni** [http://www.zyteq.com.au/products/environmental\\_control/control\\_omni](http://www.zyteq.com.au/products/environmental_control/control_omni)

This is a programmable remote control with a built in mobile phone, which has been adapted for people with disabilities. It can be accessed by the touch screen or via external switches with a range of scanning modes. Auditory prompts can be programmed and remote control buttons on the touch screen can be set up with text or symbols.

**Big Jack** [http://www.zyteq.com.au/products/environmental\\_control/bigjack](http://www.zyteq.com.au/products/environmental_control/bigjack)

The Big Jack is a simple infra-red transmitter. It can be programmed to control up to 6 functions using remote switches. It can learn the intra red codes from existing remotes, such as TV or DVD player.

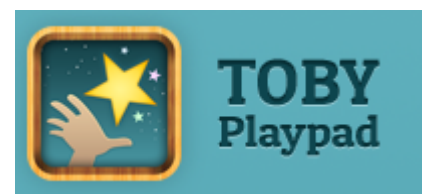
**For more information about these new products, please feel free to contact our ILC Tech Occupational Therapists on 9381 0600 or [technology@ilc.com.au](mailto:technology@ilc.com.au)**



## TOBY Play Pad App

The TOBY PlayPad is a new iPad App for children with Autism that has been designed here in Australia. TOBY stands for 'Therapy Outcomes by You'. It is designed to empower parents to carry out early intervention with their child. TOBY Playpad delivers a range of lessons including on iPad activities as well tasks in the natural environment. For more information

<http://tobyplaypad.com/>



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## 2013 Tech Country Visits

ILC Tech is now taking expressions of interest for country visits. We are funded to provide a limited number of appointments in country areas each year. Appointments will be held with a Speech Pathologist and/ or Occupational Therapist from the Technology Service.

Technology workshops may also be available on request. Workshops do incur a fee.

To arrange a trip to your town, follow these steps:

1. Start discussions between local allied health teams, schools, LAC's and families regarding which individuals may benefit from an appointment to look at communication aids, computer access, other educational technology etc.
2. Contact Jessica in ILC Tech on 93810600 or [jessica.rigden@ilc.com.au](mailto:jessica.rigden@ilc.com.au) to book a visit
3. Complete referral form (provided by Jessica) for each client requiring an appointment.
4. Jessica will review the referrals and coordinate appointments with the local referrer

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AT ILC

Environmental Controls Workshop

22nd October

TO REGISTER <http://introduction-to-environmental-control-units-efbevent.eventbrite.com/>

Magic Carpet & Eye Control Demonstration

1st November

TO REGISTER <http://magic-carpet-and-eye-control-efbevent.eventbrite.com/#>

TOBY Playpad Introduction—Details coming soon

## Calendar of Events

Event Title	Date/ Place	More Information
Autism: The Whole Child Conference	Perth—11th November Albany— 9th November	<a href="http://www.autismwest.org.au/index.php/services/11-conferences.html">http://www.autismwest.org.au/index.php/services/11-conferences.html</a>
National Disability Services Conference (WA)	8th—9th November (ILC will be presenting at this conference)	<a href="http://www.nds.org.au/news/article/1987">http://www.nds.org.au/news/article/1987</a>