

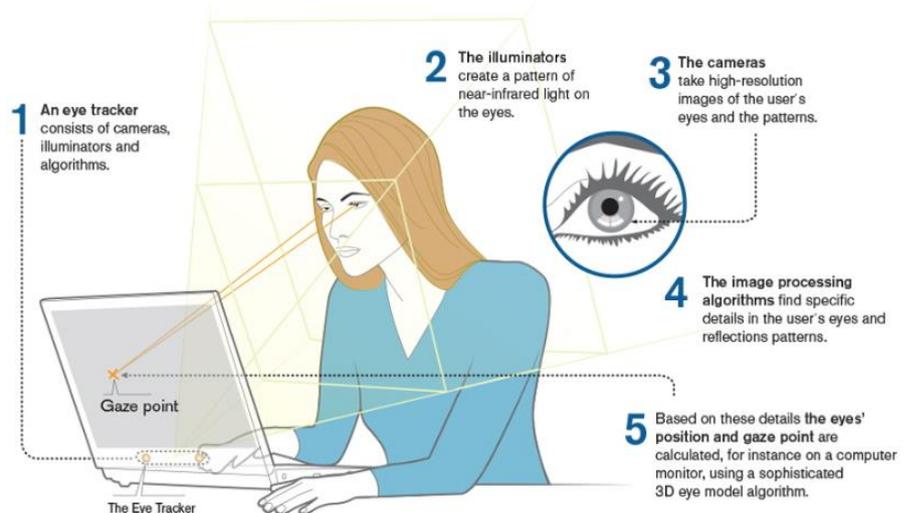
## *Enabling students with physical disabilities to engage in learning and participation at school.*

The Independent Living Centre of WA is introducing a pilot project during Semester 1 of 2018 to support schools to learn about and trial eye gaze technology. This emerging technology allows students to use the movements of their eyes to control a computer or communication device. This can break down the barriers to accessing communication and learning materials for some students with complex physical needs who find it difficult to point or manipulate learning materials.

Within the classroom, eye gaze technology has the potential to increase students' participation in classroom activities, with examples such as turning the pages and engaging with books, completing a painting with their eyes, engaging in play and recreation such as music or games as well as giving access to vocabulary for communication. The long-term potential of eye gaze technology could include students progressing to using eye gaze for full computer access including browsing the internet, using word processing, or controlling their environment (i.e. automated blinds and lighting, TV remotes etc.).

Eye gaze technology can also assist teachers to assess a student's knowledge and understanding when other methods such as writing, pointing or speaking an answer are difficult.

This project will offer clinics onsite at schools to trial eye gaze technology with students who may benefit from its use. Support and training will also be available for schools who already have eye gaze systems, and those who hire the Unlocking Abilities Eye Gaze Kit through ILC within the time of the project. The project will run over semester 1, 2018. There will be no fees charged to schools for the eye gaze clinics or support days during the project.



**An Eye Gaze control set up.** (How do Tobii Eye Trackers Work?, n.d.)

### *Who is eligible?*

Primary and Secondary Schools within Western Australia who are interested in exploring eye gaze technology to support the learning and communication needs of their students with physical disabilities are encouraged to apply. The project will primarily provide support within Metropolitan Perth, with some limited scope for regional clinics.

The project focus is to identify needs across the school, with individual students being referred for clinic days.

## What will this project involve?

Given schools' different needs and access to existing eye gaze technology systems, there are 3 options to choose from when applying to participate in the project, as below:

### 'Have a Go!' Clinic

#### OPTION 1

'Have a Go!' clinics are designed for school staff to see eye gaze technology in action! Explore the potential application for educational and communication, and gather some initial information about students' responses to an eye gaze system.

There are 3 stages to the 'Have a Go!' Clinics:

#### Stage 1: Meeting Day

- A meeting prior to the clinic to discuss the needs of the school and students, plan for the clinic set up, and provide further information to your team regarding the skills involved learning eye gaze and classroom application.

#### Stage 2: Clinic Day

- An eye gaze clinic will be provided across one school day. This will allow up to 5 students to trial the technology – this may include games, communication page sets, or beginning to explore eye gaze for wider computer access.
- Community therapists are invited to attend the clinic day if available, but please be aware that clinic schedules will be determined by school and ILC therapist availability.

#### Stage 3: Summary Reports

- ILC therapists will provide the school with an introductory assessment report outlining the technology trialed, students' current skills and abilities and potential next steps. It is not within the scope of this project to prescribe eye gaze systems for individual students. Please refer to the 'Beyond this Project' section below if you would like to have a student assessed individually for an eye gaze system.

### Support for your school's own eye gaze equipment

#### OPTION 2

For schools who already own eye gaze system(s), this project can provide support and training to utilise the technology to best support students to progress their skills using this access method.

**Further detail of the support available to meet the school's needs will be discussed following the application.**

### Support and training with ILC's Hire eye gaze equipment

#### OPTION 3

ILC offers a range of hire equipment including an 'Unlocking Abilities Eye Gaze Kit' which includes:

- **An all in one computer;**
- **An eye gaze camera; and**
- **A selection of software to explore and develop early eye gaze skills.**

For schools who arrange to hire the Unlocking Abilities Eye Gaze Kit from ILC during the period of the project, support and training to setup and utilise the system to meet your student needs is available. While the support and training does not come at a cost as part of this project, there is a fee involved to hire the Unlocking Abilities Eye Gaze Kit of **\$80 for 4 weeks.**

## How to apply?

We would encourage you to contact Tanith Brien, Speech Pathologist on (08) 9381 0600 or [tanith.brien@ilc.com.au](mailto:tanith.brien@ilc.com.au), or Jen Blaxill, Occupational Therapist on (08) 9381 0600 or [jen.blaxill@ilc.com.au](mailto:jen.blaxill@ilc.com.au) to discuss your interest in the project before submitting your application. Completed application forms should be returned to either Tanith or Jen via email by **COB 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018.**

## These options don't suit our school or students, what else is available?

ILC's Community Allied Health Services are available to support both schools and individuals who may benefit from assistive technology. ILC's experienced therapists can work with you to trial and choose an eye gaze system. We will take care of the process to apply for funding too, and link you in with eligible funding sources. Once the new technology arrives, we will support you to set up, program, and start using it to your full potential. This also includes troubleshooting any technical problems down the track. For further You can find further information at <https://ilc.com.au/allied-health-services/> or contact the team on 9382 0200 or [refer@ilc.com.au](mailto:refer@ilc.com.au)