

Are you an effective communication partner for people with complex communication support needs?



Have you ever seen those awesome folks who seem to know just how to 'hear' from others who don't use words. They can facilitate a conversation through noticing and reflecting communication that's not limited to spoken words. There's all sorts going on in that context. You can see it and hear it. We're awed by it because it confirms for us what we already knew about the people involved . . . that they, and we, are ALL communicators.

But how is it done? Could it be a set of skills we could all learn?

Imagine what that would mean for your interaction and relationships with people you know, love and work with, who have complex communication support needs.

youniverse



is delighted to offer, subject to a minimum number of enrolments,

a community-accessible, practical learning opportunity, for you to develop your effectiveness as a communication partner for people who have complex communication needs. From August to October, the course will run as full and half day workshops, over seven Saturdays and one Sunday. The venue is Edith Cowan University, Mt Lawley.

The cost is pre-payment of \$650 pp , including course resources.

Register your interest & contact details asap via email to hello@youniverse.org.au

You will be contacted shortly with more detailed information.

The history



Self-determination and social relationships can flourish when the essential building blocks of communication and literacy are in place. In 2012, Youniverse had the opportunity to further our vision for people having choice, control and friends. The Disability Services Commission provided funding to Youniverse to bring together a

collective of key partners, including Edith Cowan University, The Independent Living Centre, and the DSC Positive Behaviours Strategy, to oversee the development of two new units of tertiary study. The aim was to promote expertise and understanding in the area of Complex Communication Needs. The two units, **'Complex Communication Needs: Being an Effective Communication Partner'** and **'Complex Communication Needs: Literacy, Language and Communication Instruction for All'** have been developed in the context of a Graduate Certificate of Education (Special Education: Complex Communication Needs).

The present

From August to October 2014, Youniverse is offering a non-tertiary, community-accessible version of the unit, **'Complex Communication Needs: Being an Effective Communication Partner'**. The course will run as full and half day workshops, over seven Saturdays and one Sunday.

The future

In 2015, both new units will be offered by ECU, on-campus and on-line, as components of a [Graduate Certificate of Education](#). A limited number of places will be available for members of the community to audit the course (with no assessment component).



The facilitators

Jaquie Mills is the parent of a young man with Complex Communication Needs and is passionate about communication as a human right for all people. She has taught in the area of inclusive education at ECU for the past 5 years and has been the project manager for the development of the new Graduate Certificate in Complex Communication Needs which will commence in 2015. Jaquie is also Chair of the

Positive Behaviour Strategy Guiding Committee and has developed the 'Is There a Better Way?' workshops for the disability sector as part of her work with Youniverse. 'Is There a Better Way?' explores the importance of human rights, communication and relationship for people whose behaviour can sometimes be seen as challenging.

Laura Jones passionately believes that everyone can learn to communicate, to read and to write if they are appropriately taught and supported. It is this passion which has driven her involvement as co-course writer in the newly developed Graduate Certificate in Complex Communication Needs at Edith Cowan University. Originally a dual qualified teacher-conductor from the UK, Laura Jones has worked closely with students with complex disability and their families in Western Australia for the last ten years in a range of settings including early Intervention parent and child groups, mainstream and education support primary school classrooms, conductive education programmes, hospital school services and emergent communication and literacy group programmes for young adults.



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