



Australian Government

CHCDIS013 Assist with communication using augmentative and alternative communication methods

Release: 1

CHCDIS013 Assist with communication using augmentative and alternative communication methods

Modification History

Not applicable.

Application

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to assist people with complex communication needs to communicate through effective use of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) strategies and devices. It does not include matching AAC systems to the person's needs, as this is carried out by an allied health professional as part of the development of an individualised plan.

AAC refers to methods that replace or supplement speech to address the needs of people whose oral speech skills limit their ability to meet their participation and communication needs.

AAC systems comprise communication aids, symbols, strategies, devices, tools and techniques and methods that may be aided or unaided.

This unit applies to disability support work in a variety of contexts. Work performed requires a range of well developed, person-centred skills where some discretion and judgement is required and workers will take responsibility for their own outputs.

The skills in this unit must be applied in accordance with Commonwealth and State/Territory legislation, Australian standards and industry codes of practice.

No occupational licensing, certification or specific legislative requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Disability Support

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

Elements describe the essential outcomes

1. Identify the current communication needs

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.

- 1.1. Interpret individualised plan and familiarise self with augmentative and alternative communication (AAC)

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| of the person. | requirements of the person with disability. |
| | 1.2. Work in collaboration with the person, family, carer or others identified by the person, to confirm the person's communication needs and preferences. |
| | 1.3. Adhere to protocols around cross-cultural communication and uphold the rights and dignity of the person. |
| | 1.4. Document the outcomes of this process according to organisational policies and procedures. |
| 2. Identify and access AAC systems. | 2.1. Provide information to the person with disability on the AAC options that are available within their individualised plan to address communication needs. |
| | 2.2. Consult with the person to confirm their preferred AAC systems. |
| | 2.3. Consult with the person or others identified by the person, to refer them to other professionals and service providers when communication needs are beyond the scope of own job role, in consultation with supervisor. |
| | 2.4. Work within scope of own job role to assist the person to access AAC systems and seek advice from supervisor when required. |
| | 2.5. Provide and support opportunities for the person to communicate using their AAC systems. |
| | 2.6. Identify opportunities to assist the person to increase communication vocabulary. |
| | 2.7. Work with the person to support them to maintain contact with other AAC users or support people. |
| 3. Identify barriers to using AAC systems. | 3.1. Consult with the person with disability to identify barriers to the effective use of AAC systems. |
| | 3.2. Work with the person and others identified by the person to overcome the barriers. |
| | 3.3. Consult with the person to identify difficulties experienced when communicating and respond within scope of own job role. |
| | 3.4. Work with the person and others identified by the person to refer difficulties outside scope of own job role to supervisor or other professionals or service providers. |
| 4. Report on implementation of communication strategies. | 4.1. Comply with organisational reporting policies and procedures to monitor implementation of communication strategies in consultation with the person with disability. |
| | 4.2. Complete, maintain and store documentation and reports according to organisational policies and procedures. |

Foundation Skills

Foundation skills essential to performance are explicit in the Performance Criteria of this unit of competency.

Unit Mapping Information

No equivalent unit.

Links

Companion Volume implementation guide are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/pages/trainingdocs.aspx?q=5e0c25cc-3d9d-4b43-80d3-bd22cc4f1e53>

Assessment Requirements for CHCDIS013 Assist with communication using augmentative and alternative communication methods

Modification History

Not applicable.

Performance Evidence

Evidence of the ability to complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit in the context of the job role, and:

- assist at least one person with complex communication needs to use AAC systems, including:
 - confirming communication needs and preferences in collaboration with the person
 - assisting the person to select and access aided or unaided AAC systems within their individualised plan that meet their needs and preferences
 - identifying barriers to effective use of AAC by the person and implementing strategies to overcome barriers
 - completing reports and documentation according to organisational policies and procedures.

Knowledge Evidence

Demonstrated knowledge required to complete the tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit:

- definitions of communication and different mechanisms people use to communicate
- how people with disability communicate and how to facilitate and support their communication
- principles and practices of AAC
- types of AAC and how they support people to communicate with others:
 - high-tech
 - low-tech
 - multi-modal
- components of AAC systems that are aided or unaided and their correct use for the person's needs and level of communication, including:
 - communication aids
 - symbols
 - strategies
 - devices
 - tools
 - techniques and methods for use

- roles and functions of allied health professionals in assessing communication needs and establishing and implementing a person's AAC system
- cross cultural communication protocols
- strategies used to provide and support opportunities for the person to use AAC in all settings and facilitate communication partnerships with others
- work role boundaries, responsibilities and limitations
- organisational policies and procedures for:
 - documenting and reporting
 - referrals.

Assessment Conditions

Skills must be demonstrated in a disability support workplace, with the addition of simulations and scenarios where the full range of contexts and situations have not been provided in the workplace.

Assessment must ensure access to:

- AAC devices
- individualised plans and any equipment outlined in the plan
- organisational policies and procedures relating to AAC
- opportunities for engagement with people with complex communication needs.

Assessors must satisfy the Standards for Registered Training Organisations' requirements for assessors.

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