

# Meeting royalty

My favourite AAC story is from the time I met Princess Diana, in 1986. She was walking up the line of people waiting to greet her, exchanging 'hello's' and pleasantries until she got to me.

At this time my speech device was a Canon, and it would print my words on a thin strip of paper, like a label maker. I was really nervous, and not a fast typer at the time, so it was taking me longer than usual. A bodyguard came up to move Diana along and keep the line moving at a fast pace. Instead of leaving me with a smile as she could have, Diana looked at the bodyguard and said "Excuse me, but Melinda is speaking to me". Of all the people in that room, Princess Diana was the one who was willing to take the time and slow down to hear what I had to say. She got my message, read it and put it away in her purse. Later, when I wrote my first book, I sent her a copy, expecting nothing of it, however I got a typewritten letter in response. So that is my story about meeting Princess Diana.



**Dr Melinda Smith**

OAM. artist, writer, performer and adult who uses AAC



# Taking control

Once when I was in holiday care my wheelchair back started coming off. I backed up to a wall, and I used my communication device to let the carer know. I knew something was wrong and I took some control of it because I could communicate. I was able to use my communication device to calm the carer down.



**Dale**

Adult who uses AAC



# Talking to the doctor

My favourite AAC story is when my child used her talker to tell the Dr how she was feeling before the procedure was going to happen.

Up until that moment the Dr was talking to myself then he realised she was listening and then he redirected his attention straight to her and asked if she had any questions

