

Redefining Mentoring

Let us tell you more about the project!



AGOSCI

The Project

In June 2024, Two Way Street and AGOSCI were excited to be awarded a three-year Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) grant funding to explore and redefine mentoring practices for and by PWCD. The project aims to review current mentoring practices and experiences, then call on the creativity of our whole community to create a collaborative and nationally available toolkit specifically designed for PWCD.



Project Aim

How do people with communication disability (PWCD) successfully learn from or mentor each other when the process requires the same skill set as the purpose?

This project aims to explore and define the variety of ways that mentoring could occur in unique communication scenarios.

Our goal is to create a toolkit that can be used individually, in groups, with a peer mentor or within existing service options such as day programs, schools, allied health services or community based programs.



What is mentoring?

The Merriam Webster dictionary defines mentoring as the influence, guidance, or direction given by a mentor. In traditional mentoring there is a reciprocal relationship that involves transfer of knowledge and sharing experiences between two individuals; a mentor and a mentee.

The mentor is typically more experienced and guides or supports the mentee while the mentee is someone who seeks to grow - either personally or professionally.

Essentially mentoring is one of the strategies we use to enable us to be who we want to be and do what we want to do.



Redefining mentoring

Just like the topics we explore, our choice of mentors is also diverse and self-directed. We can't just be assigned a mentor or told who to connect with; influence comes through meaningful connections.

For instance, we might follow someone on social media or hear them speak at an AGOSCI conference, leading us to reach out and learn more. Over time, these connections can grow or fade based on our shifting interests and perspectives.

That's why our redefined approach to mentoring includes a variety of mentor-like experiences, from traditional models to other less obvious random acts of mentoring.



3 key project stages

Stage 1

Learn

July 2024 - June 2025



Stage 2

Create and Trial

July 2025 - June 2026



Stage 3

Toolkit

July 2026 - June 2027



Stage 1: Learn

We have started by reviewing existing research on peer mentoring and gathering insights from past and current programs. Community consultations will help identify gaps and best practices. We'll share our findings, ideas and resources with PWCD, their families, educators, and service providers for their feedback.



Stage 2: Create and Trial

We will deep dive into Phase 1 information. This will happen through longer interviews with stakeholders identified in Phase 1 - conducted by lived experience project coordinator and speech pathologist.

We will continue communication and learning loop as we collate all data, analyse and create a report in accessible format with findings and recommendations.



Stage 3: Toolkit

Creation of 'toolkit' (to be determined in Phase 2) that includes 'programs', resources, guidelines and knowledge base.

Review, pilot and adapt based on input from whole community.

Emphasis on sharing and awareness of resources to all stakeholders who may benefit from use of the tools.



AGOSCI Conference 2025

We want to hear from you!

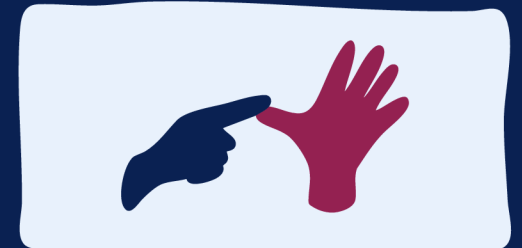
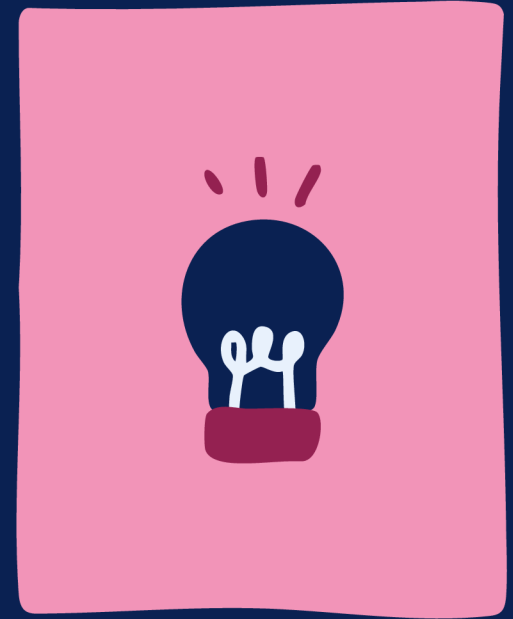
Every day of the conference we are giving away a \$100 voucher.

To enter the draw you can

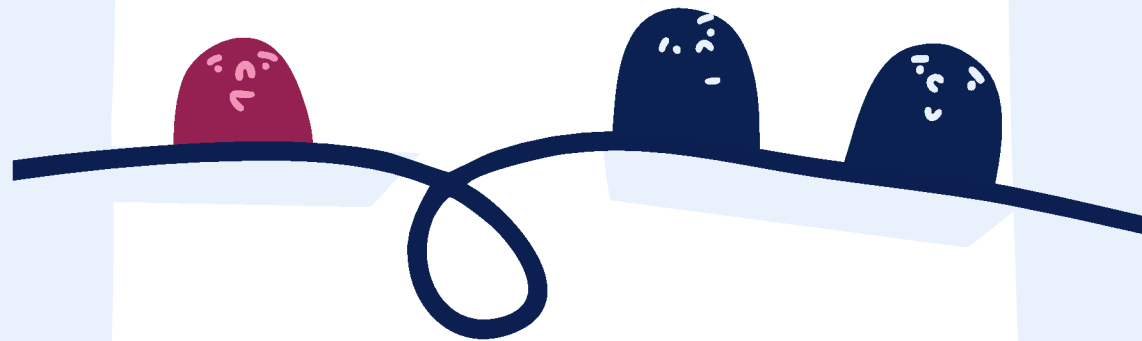
- fill in an electronic survey
- fill in a paper survey form
- film a video.



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scan the QR code to visit the
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www.twowaystreet.com.au/mentoring