

NSW Speech Pathology EBP AAC Interest Group

Terms of Reference 2026

Last Updated: October 2026

Introduction

The Speech Pathology AAC EBP group discusses Speech Pathology EBP issues related to Augmentative Alternative Communication. The group strives to adhere to Evidence Based Practice.

The specific aims of the group include:

· To review literature and evidence in AAC

· To provide a forum for peer support, guidance, and reciprocal education

· To exchange ideas, e.g., clinical guidelines, QI projects, Education projects

· To review and implement best practice and common procedures in AAC assessment and intervention

· To maintain affiliation with NSW Evidence Based Practice network

· To develop member skills around critiquing and practical application of research

Operation

The NSW EBP AAC Interest Group is supported by at least two Co-Leaders, as well as a Clinical Researcher Leader and Steering Committee Representative.

It operates primarily through online meetings, but with resources and chat functions available at any time to members through Microsoft Teams.

The meetings will operate to an agenda, sent out one week prior to meetings. All agenda items should be forwarded to the Chairperson one week prior to meetings. Minutes will be taken by members on a rotation, with members expected to volunteer one week prior to the meeting, if they have not done so this financial year.

Membership

As part of the NSW Speech Pathology EBP Network, the AAC group welcomes **practising speech pathologists** working in this area **within NSW (and also ACT on request**).

The NSW EBP AAC group encourages **active membership.** Members are required to attend at least **2 meetings each year**. Meeting responsibilities include: co-leading journal article discussion on a rotating roster, sharing reflections on implementation of evidence (or equivalent activity) and contributing towards the production of at least **one critical appraisal of research paper, with use of appropriate appraisal tools**.

Student Speech Pathologists can participate in meetings with their CE as appropriate.

Meetings

The NSW AAC EBP group will meet bimonthly (6 times annually), Fridays 12pm, via telehealth. The meeting dates will be set at the first meeting of each financial year (July meeting). A meeting will go ahead with **a minimum of 4 attendees**.

Unless otherwise specified, meetings will include the critique and discussion of up to 2 journal articles, with different members co-leading discussion on a rotation determined via member volunteering.

Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference (TOR) will be reviewed on an annual basis. The group leaders and academic links will also be reviewed on an annual basis to give other members opportunities to be involved in the group.