

AAC – A COMMUNICATION ALTERNATIVE OR THE LANGUAGE OF APARTHEID? - A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE.

Author

B-J Dee-Price

Short Abstract

The presentation claims that despite its language richness, status within an international community and credentials as an evidenced-based practice, AAC is a victim of social separation, the effects of which are most profoundly borne by the people who rely upon it for communication.

Using a largely visual format, the author has used the lens of a camera to illustrate the concepts of citizenship, social capital and empowerment and to highlight the significant gulf that currently exists between the AAC language user and social inclusion. Referring to key international and domestic examples of social policy the presentation will call upon the field of AAC to direct more attention to the role of advocacy, community awareness raising and social change. Finally, through the use of images, the presentation will provide a glimpse of what AAC inclusion might hope to look like in the future of Australian society.