

The Hopkins Centre

Research for Rehabilitation and Resilience

Designing the social environment for people with ABI in the community using communication partner training: A blueprint for social connection

Clare Morgan (ABIOS)

&

Sue Wright (ABIOS, STEPS)

Bold ideas. Better solutions.



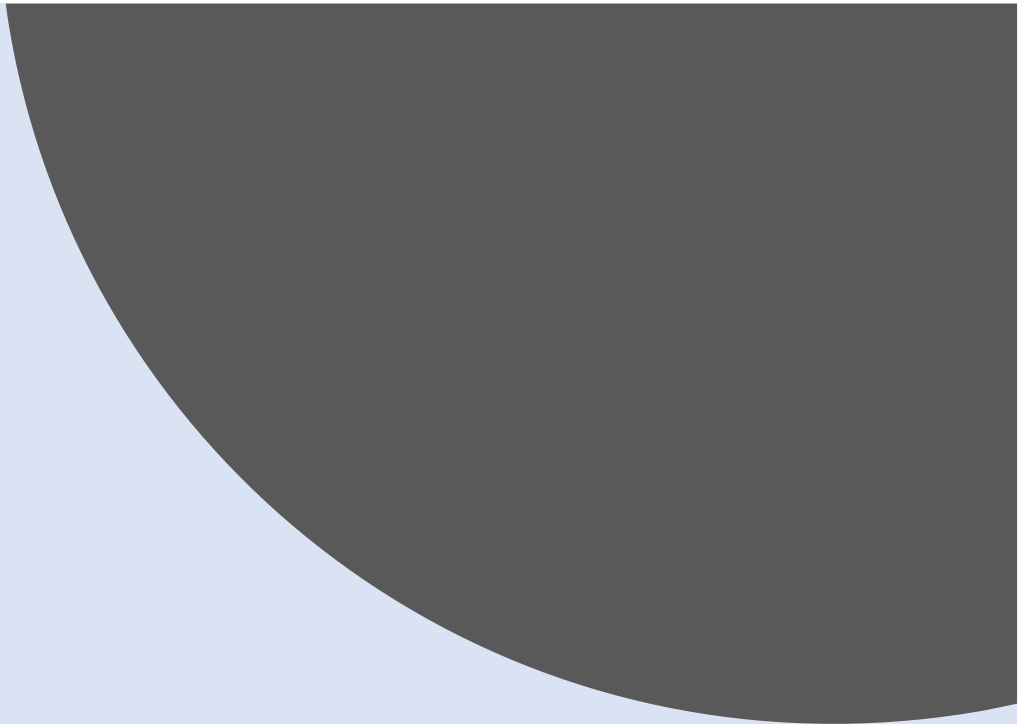
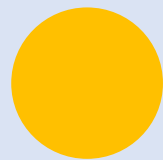
MENZIES
HEALTH INSTITUTE
QUEENSLAND

Metro South Health

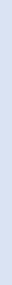


A joint initiative of the
Division of Rehabilitation, Metro South Health, and
Menzies Health Institute Queensland, Griffith University.

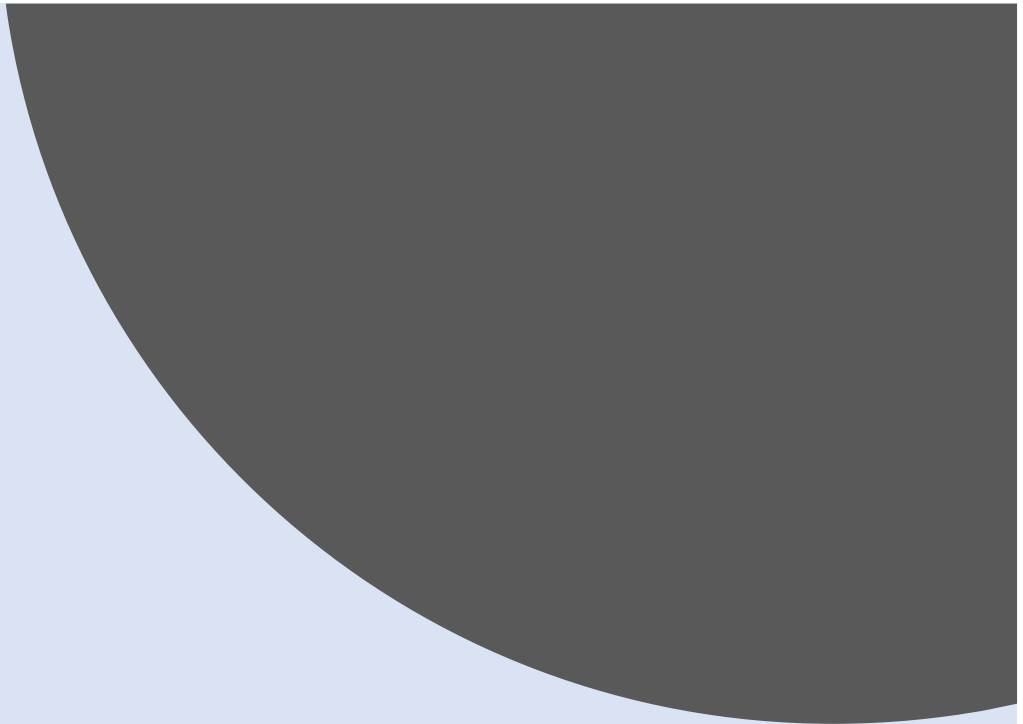
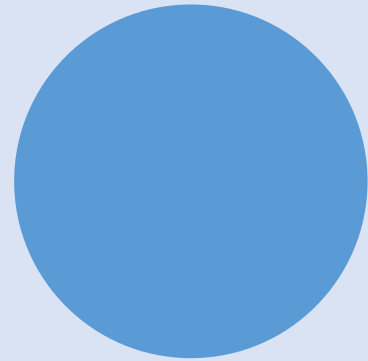
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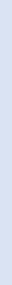
What did I know?



- Communication impairments post ABI are common and persistent
- Vulnerable, socially excluded & poor quality of life
- Families and social peers are left to manage
- Accessibility to most aspects of social participation can decrease over time
- Traditional focus has been on the person with ABI
- Access to 'therapy' often – redesign the social context
- Community support groups are complex → leaders require education & support

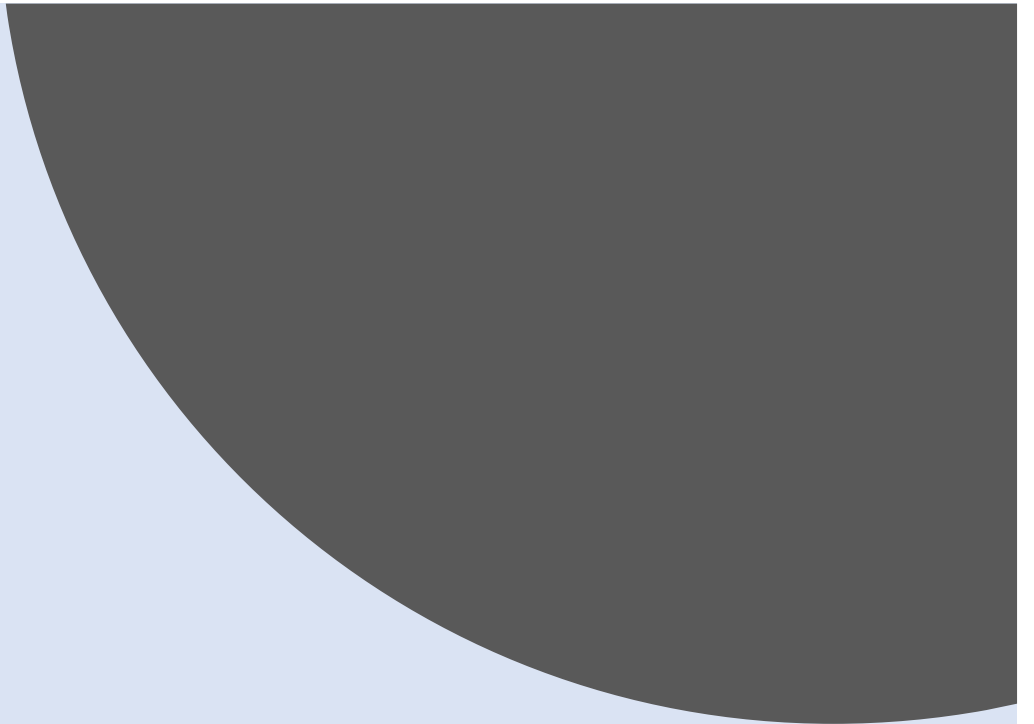
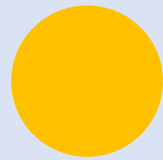
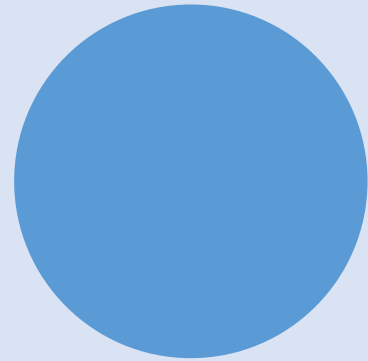


What did I ask myself?

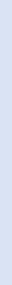


What if ..

- I could redesign the way we have traditionally addressed the treatment of people with impaired communication & enable them to engage in better conversations more often in their own communities?
- the focus was taken off the person with ABI to be the communication expert, and educated their support networks instead?
- that involved training peer leaders (people with lived experience with ABI) as well as health professionals together?



What happened next?





THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY



Research collaboration

Professor Leanne Togher
Assoc Prof Emma Power
Dr Emma Finch
Professor Elizabeth Kendall



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

Sue Wright
STEPS Leaders
Ray Quinn



Queensland Government

method



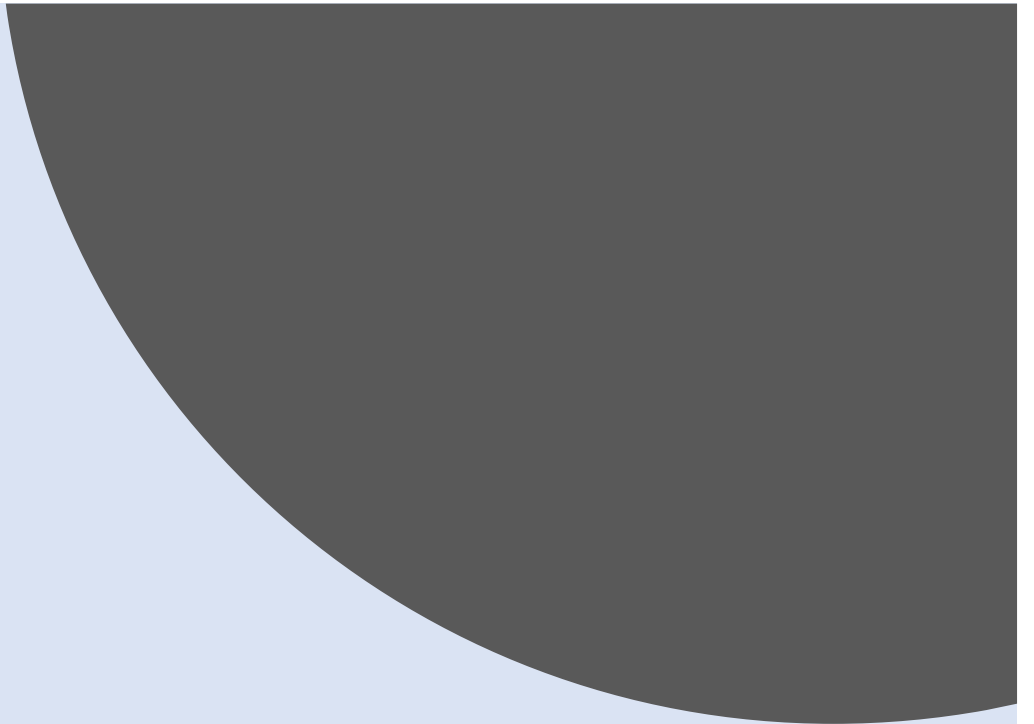
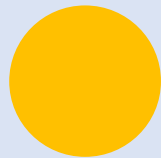
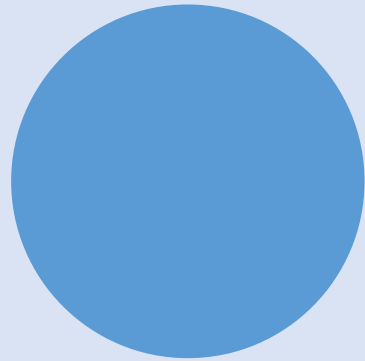
method

Phase 1

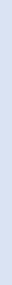
- Participant feedback
 - I find it difficult to manage.....
 - people who talk too much, & don't let others have a say
 - people who are aggressive in how they talk to others
 - people who cannot speak (are non-verbal) and do not have another means to communicate
 - people who talk about topics that are not being discussed at the time (they go off-topic)
- CPT content development

Phase 2

- Delivery
- Evaluation



What was achieved?

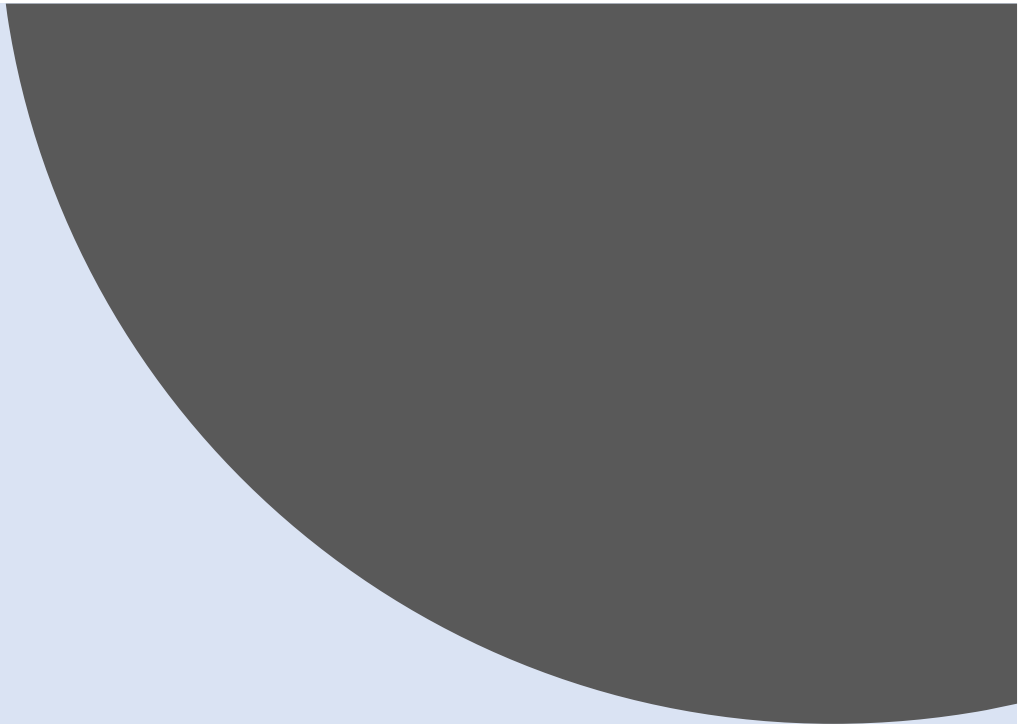
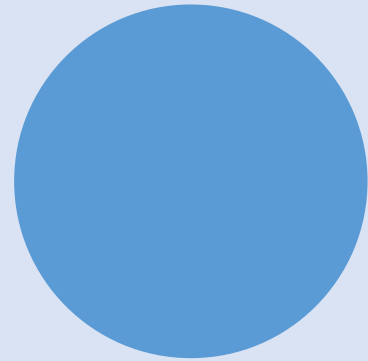


what was achieved? cont'd

- Statistically significant ($p < .05$) improvements:
 - 1) changes in awareness of communication difficulties,
 - 2) confidence interacting with people with communication difficulties following ABI, and
 - 3) knowledge of effective communication strategies from pre to post training
- Maintenance at 3 months post training

**Sue Wright –
Manager,
STEPS Program
(ABIOS)**





Benefit of the collaboration
to STEPS Leaders

Acceptability

- 97% felt that how the CPT was delivered was suitable
- 91% felt that the content of the training was appropriate
- 97% said that they would recommend the CPT to others
- At 3 months post CPT: 89% felt that their new knowledge had enhanced the social participation of a person with impaired communication in their STEPS group

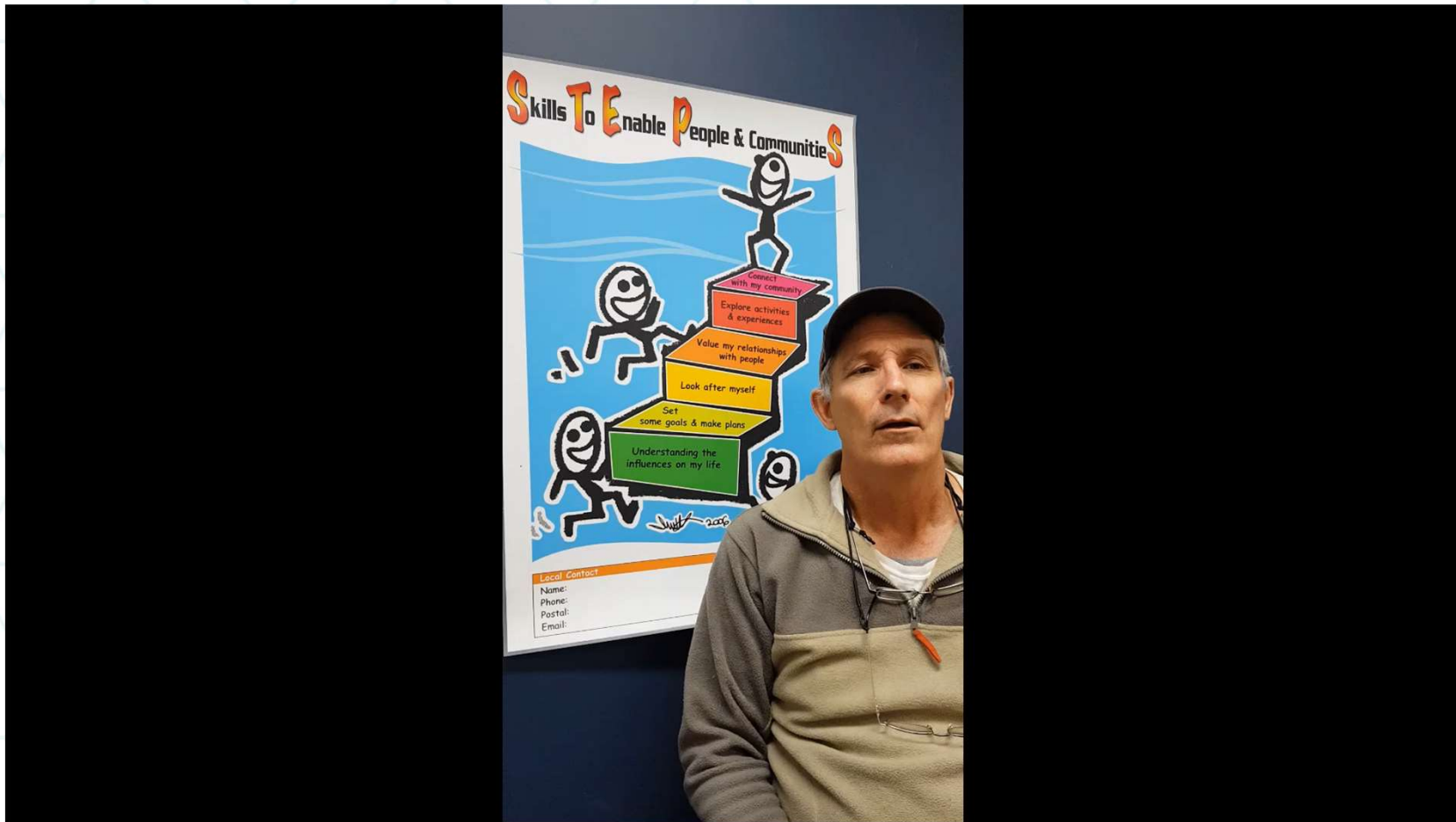
Benefits of
the
collaboration
for the
STEPS
Program

- **STEPS model: peer – prof workforce**
- **Consumer engagement focus**
- **Challenges of community groups**
- **Request from Leaders for years re: effective communication skills to enhance participation of grp members**
- **Good investment for the STEPS Program**
- **Formalised the outcomes of the research into practice**
- **Future goal – online resource**

**Danny –
STEPS Leader
&
research
participant**



Video clip - Danny



What does this all mean?

Evidence that TBI Express is an effective CPT package when modified for this context

It is effective to train PWABI and service providers in specific CPT content

Process is acceptable

Process is feasible

Evidence of an increased sense of self worth for STEPS Leaders

Increase in social participation of people with communication impairments in STEPS groups

CPT content now embedded into STEPS Leader training

Access to valuable online resources – TBI Express website

A Speech Pathology working party across the brain injury continuum, PAH

Refresher CPT training for STEPS Leaders

Consider developing a digital resource for STEPS

Write it all up 😊

Contact info...

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<http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/tbi-express/>

