

Project Profile presented by

## The Hopkins Centre

Research for Rehabilitation and Resilience

# COMMUNICATION PARTNER TRAINING



## Project aims

Communication Partner Training (CPT) teaches families, friends and members of support networks the best ways to communicate with people with brain injuries. Communication difficulties are a common and persistent consequence of Acquired Brain Injury (ABI). People with communication challenges are vulnerable and highly susceptible to social exclusion and poor quality of life, particularly in the community context. Families and friends are often left to manage as formal support systems fluctuate or can even withdraw. Beyond the hospital door, accessibility becomes problematic within both health and non-health systems and also socially. Families and friendships burn out.

This project has taken an existing evidence-based CPT program called TBI Express (for people with traumatic brain injury and their families) and tailored it to the community-based context of peer leaders (people with experience of ABI who lead community programs). CPT enables people to engage in better conversations more often through training and supporting peer leaders and health professionals together.

CPT shifts the emphasis and responsibility from the person with TBI to the conversation partner, in this case, the STEPS (Skills to Enable People and communities) Peer Leaders. The program is an effective, feasible and acceptable approach that supports STEPS leaders to engage people who have communication difficulties. STEPS Program Leaders across Queensland who participated in the study, are now using new skills to enhance the social participation of people with ABI in their community-based STEPS Network Groups.

## Project investigators

Ms Clare Morgan – Acquired Brain Injury Outreach Service, Metro South Health; Prof. Elizabeth Kendall – The Hopkins Centre and Menzies Health Institute Queensland, Griffith University; Prof. Leanne Togher – The University of Sydney; Dr Emma Power – University of Technology; and Ms Emma Finch – University of Queensland and Metro South Health.

## Funders

Motor Accident Insurance Commission (MAIC).



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\* This is just one of a suite of projects focused on improving outcomes for people with brain injuries. If this area interests you, please contact us.

A joint initiative of



Metro South Health



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