

What is the Anne McDonald Centre?

The Anne McDonald Centre is a non-government, non-profit organisation that has provided services to people with little or no speech since 1986.

Most of our funding comes from Trusts and Foundations and private donations. Donations above \$2.00 are tax deductible.

What does the Anne McDonald Centre do?

We help people who are able to hear but unable to talk, or to talk clearly, as a result of autism, cerebral palsy, stroke, acquired brain damage, Down syndrome, Rett syndrome, cognitive impairment or other disabilities.

How does the Centre operate?

Clients are seen as frequently as needed. Whenever possible, we also work with the client's family and staff from the facilities the client attends. If clients can't travel to the centre, staff may be able to visit them.

**From 1986 to 2011
the Anne McDonald Centre was known as
DEAL Communication Centre.**

What services does the Centre offer?

Our expertise includes speech pathology, special education and augmentative communication. Our team undertakes assessments and provides on-going therapy.

We have a library of communication aids ranging from simple picture boards to sophisticated talking computers and iPads. We have switches, supports and other equipment needed to allow people with severe physical disabilities to operate communication devices.

Many items may be borrowed for short periods. We do not sell equipment, but we help people to obtain free communication aids through the state-funded Electronic Communication Devices Scheme.

What does the Anne McDonald Centre charge?

There is no set fee for individuals attending the Centre unless they have funding from other agencies. However, it is expected that clients with resources will make a donation to the Centre at each visit.

Set charges do apply to some out-of-centre services – please contact us for further information.

What can I expect if I come to the Centre?

After assessing each individual's communication needs and abilities

- ✓ we try to find the best means of communication for people who have no speech and no alternative means of communication.
- ✓ we give people who have limited means of communication, such as a symbol board, a chance to try more powerful alternatives – speech synthesizers, for example.
- ✓ we help parents, therapists, caregivers and teachers discover new communication possibilities.
- ✓ we establish training programmes to improve client and carer skills.
- ✓ we lend communication aids so that people can practice their skills and make informed decisions about obtaining equipment.
- ✓ we enable clients to obtain electronic communication devices and communication boards and books.
- ✓ we support clients and their teams in the use of their new communication aids and strategies.

**Donations to the Anne McDonald Centre
are tax deductible.**

Anne McDonald had cerebral palsy. She couldn't walk, talk or feed herself. After fighting her way out of an institution for people with profound intellectual disability she wrote a book, graduated from university, and spent her life working for a world in which everyone has both the right and the means to communicate.

Anne died in 2010.

When and where?

The Centre's hours are 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday. Appointments may be made for other times if needed. It is important to ring before coming to the Centre, as staff may be out on home visits. Please contact us at the address below.

***Anne McDonald Centre,
538 Dandenong Road
Caulfield 3162 Australia
Telephone 03 9509 6324
Facsimile 03 9509 6321
admin@annemcdonaldcentre.org.au
ABN 68 933 715 36
Dr Rosemary Crossley AM, CEO***

Inability to communicate is the most devastating of all disabilities

Without communication, you can't enjoy an education, have a full social life or even ask for a drink. You are doomed to life as an observer. With communication you can become a *participant*.

Communication is the passing of information from one person to another by any means – signs and gestures, alphabet boards, text messages, speech synthesizers, anything. All people, whatever their age, education or intelligence, need to communicate.

The Anne McDonald Centre enables people with communication disabilities. We help them to achieve their communication goals and be fully participating members of society.

