

**Support Statement to the NDIA for Funding for the
AGOSCI Biennial 2021 Conference**

Plain language version

Written in December 2020

About AGOSCI

AGOSCI is Australia's Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) community.

We're a not-for-profit organisation, run by volunteers.

What do we do?

We raise awareness in the community about communication supports needs.

We teach the community about AAC and help people who use AAC to have a voice and participate in the community. We help people to connect.

We help people with communication support needs who may use AAC to communicate.

We run events and activities in each state. We deliver conferences and run a National Tour every 2 years.

We run a website and social media pages (Facebook) for our members. We publish the AGOSCI In Focus magazine every 6 months.

We're passionate about AAC – it's everything we do.

What is AAC?

There are many forms of AAC. Some examples include:

- gesture
- touch
- signs
- pictures
- writing
- communication devices.

People who use alternative and augmentative methods of communication may also use speech.

- AGOSCI raises awareness and teaches people in the community about communication supports needs.

More information

Find out more at: <https://www.agosci.org.au/>

About The Biennial Conference

The AGOSCI Biennial Conference is a 4 -day conference.

There will be workshops and presentations.

People with communication support needs will be sharing their stories.

You can learn the latest information about AAC and communication support needs.

You can meet others who are also interested in communication support needs.

These people might be presenters, researchers, specialists, the AGOSCI committee and people with communication support needs and their families.

When: 1 September to 4 September 2021.

Where: Hobart, Tasmania.

Conference Goals

The conference goals:

- Include people who are learning to use AAC.
- Include times during the program for AAC communicators to connect with their siblings.
- Include family and teaching information.
- Make it easy for all people to get to the conference.
- Make it easy for everyone to join activities at the conference.

We have run Biennial Conferences before. The 2019 conference was in Perth. The 2017 conference was in Melbourne. The 2021 conference will be our 15th conference.



Photo from the 2019 Biennial Conference in Perth, WA

<https://www.facebook.com/events/perth-convention-and-exhibition-centre/agosci-conference-2019-building-connections-changing-practice/419328038645971/>

Why is the Biennial Conference important?

It is important for people with communication support needs across Australia:

- To have chances to meet and socialise with others. Everyone has communication needs!
- To have a say and be a part of wider discussions about communication support needs.

People who attend the conference can become a part of a community that works for inclusion and a voice for all.

Support Item	Support Item Reference Number	Description	Price
<p>Capacity Building: Skills development and training</p> <p>For the AGOSCI Biennial Conference (AAC User Registration)</p> <p>+</p> <p>First support worker/carer entry</p>	09_009_0117_6_3	<p>This support item provides individual life skills development and training including public transport training and support, developing skills for community, social and recreation participation.</p>	\$660.00**
<p>Capacity Building: Skills development and training</p> <p>For AGOSCI annual membership</p>	09_009_0117_6_3	<p>This support item provides individual life skills development and training including public transport training and support, developing skills for community, social and recreation participation.</p>	\$55.00* <i>please refer to snip below for membership rates</i>
Total Price			\$715.00

* AGOSCI membership rates from the AGOSCI webpage
(<https://www.agosci.org.au/join-AGOSCI>)

- Parent/guardian or unpaid carer of a person with CCN - \$55.00 (AUD)**
Subscription period: 1 year, on: January 1st
No automatically recurring payments
- Parent/guardian or unpaid carer of a person with complex communication needs - 2 year membership - \$100.00 (AUD)**
Subscription period: 2 years, on: January 1st
No automatically recurring payments
- Person with complex communication needs - \$55.00 (AUD)**
Subscription period: 1 year, on: January 1st
No automatically recurring payments
- Person with complex communication needs - 2 year membership - \$100.00 (AUD)**
Subscription period: 2 years, on: January 1st
No automatically recurring payments

** <https://agosci2021.org.au/registration/>

Warm regards and thanking you for your consideration,

Clinician Signature:

Clinician Name:

Clinician Contact Details: