Bridging the Digital Divide: People with aphasia's experiences of Internet use

Jennifer Lee, Peter Worthy, Ryan Deslandes, Bridget Burton, David Copland, Phill Jamieson, Kim Barron, Leanne Togher, Kirstine Shrubsole, Ciara Shiggins, Sonia Brownsett, Annie Hill, Janet Wiles, Alexander Haslam, & Sarah J. Wallace



Project aims

The Internet is used for managing healthcare and finding

support. For example, booking doctors' appointments.



Scan to find out more:



Some people with aphasia may find it hard to use the

Internet.

We want to create computer software to make it

easier for people with aphasia to use the Internet.





What did we do?

We asked 9 people living with aphasia to:



Share stories of Internet use



Give ideas to help Internet use



Choose the most important ideas to help Internet use

What did people say?

What would help with Internet use?

It is **overwhelming**

"... it is a lot of reading and a lot of navigating through different websites, and it's too tricky."



Help from a **real person**

Searching is hard when you cannot find the right word

"...he might think he has it, and then when he types it in, he realises that that's actually not what he meant."



Shortcuts and quick access to information

Simple webpage design can help

"They only showed information that I need, so it was easy enough..."



Technology to help word finding

Social media is easier to use

"...social media, you know, we can scroll through that pretty easy... Mike can sort of handle and not become overwhelmed."

You need help and chances to

"...then if I don't know where it is I then have to go to Jane (family member) to write a couple...make it a bit longer... And then I can work it through from there."



Simple webpage design



Websites with Easy English

learn and practise



What is next?

In the next stage of the project, we will work with people with aphasia, family members, and

health professionals to create the computer software.

If you would like to help design the software, please contact us for more information.

Research Partners:

Australian Aphasia Association, Australian Disability Network, Centre for Accessibility Australia, National Disability Insurance Agency, Services Australia, Stroke Foundation

A research centre of the





This project is funded by a Medical Research Future Fund Consumer-Led Research Grant Opportunity.

Acknowledgements:

Research Funding:

We acknowledge the contributions of Dr. Jessica Campbell to the conception and design of this project. We would like to thank all participants who took part in the focus groups and Dr Kyla Hudson for her contributions to the data analysis.



