



Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais
National Disability Authority

Lived Experience Advisory Group

Work on guidance for public sector workers communicating with disabled and autistic people who are non-speaking or minimally speaking.



This is Easy to Read information.

What is this information about?



The Government is working on the Autism Innovation Strategy.

This is a plan to improve the lives of autistic people and their families in Ireland.



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The National Disability Authority, or NDA for short, is supporting this work.



Staff at the NDA are responsible for some of the actions under the Strategy.

Action 82 is one of these actions.



This action is about supporting non-speaking and minimally speaking autistic people to access public services.

What is this information about?



Non-speaking means that a person does not use speech to communicate.
The person communicates in other ways.



Minimally speaking means that a person uses some words and short sentences along with other types of communication.



People communicate in lots of different ways.
For example, using sign language, pictures, symbols, body language, or technology.



These different ways of communicating are called AAC.

What are public services?



Public services are everyday services paid for by the Government.

These services are in ordinary places in the local community.



- Post Office



- Library



- County Council Office

What are public services?



- Garda Station



- Health Centre



- Further Education and Training College



- Leisure Centre or Arts Centre paid for with public money.

What will the NDA do for Action 82?



We will research ways to give public services to non-speaking or minimally speaking autistic people.



The research will be designed with disabled and autistic people.



The NDA will write guidance.
Guidance is when you tell people the best way to do something.



The guidance will help public services meet the needs of autistic people and disabled people.
It will help them to support people who are non-speaking or minimally speaking.

What will the NDA do for Action 82?



The guidance will be useful for businesses and other services too.



To help with this work, the NDA are setting up 2 advisory groups:



1. The members of the first group will be autistic people and disabled people who use AAC.



2. The second group is for individuals and organisation who support non-speaking autistic people and other AAC users.

Taking part in the advisory group



We would like to hear from people that would like to join the advisory group.



We want to hear from people that do not use speech as their main way to communicate.



To join the group, you need to:



- Be age 18 years and over

Taking part in the advisory group



- Have some experience of using public services



- Identify as autistic or as a disabled person



- Be happy to meet and interact with autistic and disabled people who use AAC.
This will be in a small group.



Read the important things to know on the next page.

This will help you decide if this group is the right fit for you.

Important things to know



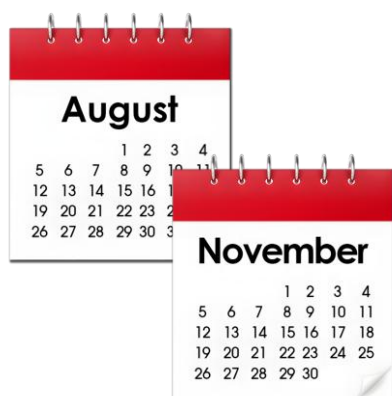
We would like to meet as a group but we understand that this may not suit everyone. If you need support to take part in a different way, please let us know.



A Speech and Language Therapist will help us to support people with communication during the group.



This is not paid work
Some travel and other expenses will be covered by the NDA.
We will follow public sector rules.



2 meetings are planned for this project.
1 will be in August and 1 in November.

Important things to know



The meetings will be held in-person.
They could be in Dublin or somewhere else.



If you like you can choose to read and give us
your feedback on the draft guidance paper.
Draft means that it can change.



We will choose people that communicate in
different ways for the advisory group.



We will have people of different ages and
genders.

What will happen next?



If you are interested in taking part, please fill in our expression of interest form.

Send it to us by 7th July 2025.

Send the form by email to

research@NDA.ie



You can ask someone to help you with the form if you want.



If you need help to fill in the form or would like to know more about this work you can contact us by email or you can text
087 6712376

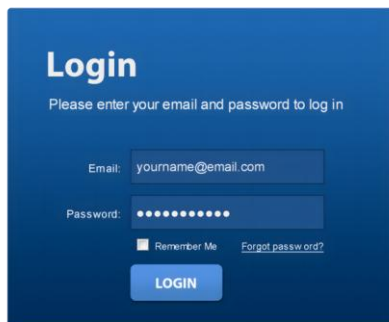


If you have a supporter they can call
01 608 0424

Looking after your information



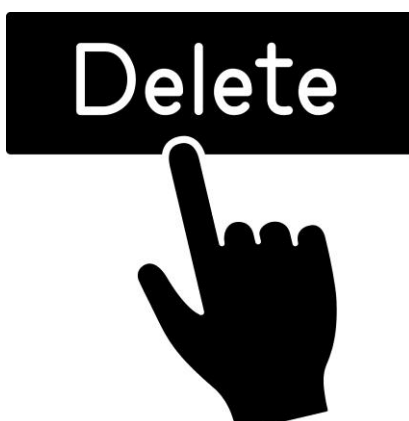
Any personal information that we collect will be kept private.
It will only be used for this project.



We will keep the expression of interest forms in a computer file with a password.



Only people from the project team will be able to see the forms.
They will be deleted once the members of the group are chosen.



Information about members will be deleted once the project is finished.



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This Easy to Read information is from
the National Disability Authority.



Experts by Experience from ACE
Communication helped with this information.

