CITY OF BUNBURY

COMMUNICTION CHAT BOARDS

INFORMATION SHEET

What is a Communication Board?

Our Communication Boards are one form of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) that uses images, symbols and illustrations to help individuals with communication difficulties express themselves. Users can gesture or point at images to communicate with others.

Our boards have also been designed to display some core key-word signs to develop community awareness of key-word sign as a communication support and assist in modelling another form of communication.

More information on augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) can be found at:

[Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) (speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)](#)

Image 1: City of Bunbury Communication Board located at Koombana Bay, Bunbury.

Who developed them?

The Communication Boards were developed in partnership through an initiative created and led by Emily Northcott and Laura Rosenhart and with support from the City of Bunbury

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Image: Emily Northcott and Laura Rosenhart standing alongside the Koombana Bay Communication Board.

Why should we install them?

The ability to communicate allows individuals to meet their needs, share their thoughts and develop meaningful relationships. Our Communication Boards have been designed with the following goals in mind:

1) Provide opportunities for individuals to share their thoughts and experiences while participating in our community
2) Build experiences in communication across our community
3) Educate our community in understanding how alternative communication systems can be used and provide experiences in using them
4) Build our communities capacity to provide inclusive, meaningful opportunities to all members of our communities

What resources do I need to create a Communication Board?

Engaging with a speech pathologist

A speech pathologist could assist in identifying core vocabulary for the board, grouping of words and preparing additional information on how the boards can be used to communicate and model communication.
You can search or a certified practicing member of Speech Pathology Australia via the link below:
[Find a Speech Pathologist (speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)](#)

Please check with a speech pathologist in your area regarding costs.

Design

Each Communication Board should be designed to reflect its purpose and the environment in which it is being installed.

The City of Bunbury and Emily and Laura developed their Communication Boards using Boardmaker icons (Picture Communication Symbols) via a subscription. Boardmaker hasmore than 40.000 symbols for designing Communication Boards. Some speech pathologists may have a subscription to Boardmaker or other platforms that provide Picture Communication Symbols online.

Please consider exploring the various levels of subscriptions, licencing conditions and acknowledgment guidelines to find platform that suits your needs.

For more information on Boardmaker including subscriptions, copyright and licensing please visit:
https://goboardmaker.com/pages/pcs-licensing

Below is some further information on designing Communication Boards.
[How to Make a Communication Board (communicationcommunity.com)](#)

You may also want to consider using Key Word Signs in your Communication Board design.
For more information, please visit the link below or connect with your local speech pathologist.
[Key Word Sign Australia (kwsa.org.au)](#)

Graphic Design – approximately $80 per hour.
A graphic designer can help you produce a high quality, print ready Communication Board template using licenced icons or with ones that have been developed by you and your graphic designer.

Printing – approximately $300 to $400.
The City of Bunbury's Communication Boards were printed by On To It Graphics, as per the specifications below. Sign standards are expected to be developed in the future by Emily.

> 2 x Communication Board Signs
> 1000mm x 600mm
> Signs printed on aluminium with Anti-Graffiti and UV protectant.
>
> 2 x Information Signs
> 450mm x 300mm
> Signs printed on aluminium with Anti-Graffiti and UV protectant.

Information Sign
The information signs include how to use the Communication Board and a QR code which links to Speech Pathologist Association of Australia Augmentative and Alternative Communication information.

Image: Communication Board Information sign.

Frames – approximately $1800 to $2000

Manufacturing of frames x 4 (two big and two small) for signs specifications 2 x signs 1000mm x 600mm / 2 x signs 450mm x 300mm. The frames also included an angled face of 30 degrees.
The City of Bunbury used Spurling Engineering in Bunbury to manufacture the frames which were also powder coated.
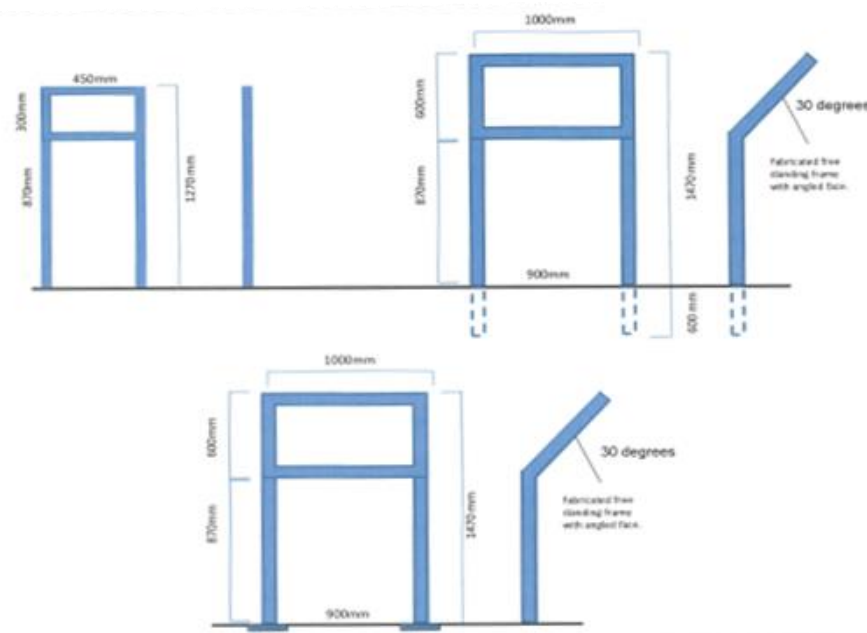

Image: Frame specifications

Installation

The City of Bunbury Works team installed the Communication Boards. Installation needs to be consistent with current Australian Standards for accessibility to enable wheelchair uses and children to access the boards comfortably. Information on Australian Standards could be provided by a project infrastructure team.

Where can they be installed?

Each community is unique. There are many different opportunities where Communication Boards can be installed which may include:

- parks
- Council-owned facilities
- beaches
- schools
- playgrounds
- sports areas and sports centres
- galleries, museums or other community spaces

Choosing the site.

Connect with key stakeholders in your community to identify prefer locations. Community members with lived experience of disability, local support services/NDIS carers and peer support groups are a great resource.

Consider the environment where the Communication Boards are to be installed. Is it in full sun all day, is it clearly visible for all, is it obstructing any paths etc.

Communication Boards can also be a resource that can be printed and laminated for the community to use in many ways, encouraging inclusion and interacting.

Some examples of places and spaces where these can used include:
- events
- art galleries
- museums
- libraries
- community facilities
- Council-owned facilities
- interactive facilities such as museums/galleries and events

Where can we see an installed Communication Board?
The City of Bunbury has installed Communication Boards at Koombana Bay and the Bunbury Accessible Playground at Big Swamp.