



Sheridan Forster
attentive engagement

www.agosci.org.au

<https://HangingOutCafe24.eventbrite.com.au>

To supporters of people with profound intellectual disability,

For the third year, but first year in Tassie, I am running a Hanging Out Café in Kingston for people with profound intellectual disability and supporters, in conjunction with AGOSCI for "AAC Awareness month."



In Australia, we rarely use the term **profound intellectual disability**, so you might not know who would benefit from this unique event. People with profound intellectual disability might be:

- people who have multiple disabilities including profound intellectual disability, and seem unaware of group interactions... their understanding is best through touch, close faces, sounds
- people who may have previously had a less severe intellectual disability, but their skills have deteriorated through dementia, and they now communicate through gaze and sounds
- people who may have acquired severe brain damage and now their understanding is limited to responding to the objects and people around them.

These people are the most **marginalised from interactions** with other people. Sometimes people view these people as people who "can't communicate" - respectfully, I disagree, and see them as communicators, albeit vastly different from the typical talky-talky communicators.

We can never be 100% sure of what someone's understanding is... observation and reflection only gives a best guess. But we know there are some people whose primary language is not words or formal sign language, but is touch, sounds, the things they hear, the people who approach them.

This event is about **bringing together these people** with people who have an interest in sharing interactions.

This is an informal **2-hour Hang Out**. We are looking for **individuals with disabilities** (attending with a familiar supporter) AND looking for **interaction partners** to share a couple of hours in engagement without words.

Happy to answer any questions about this second event!

Sheri

Hangin' Out Cafe – for folks who don't use and may not understand speech...

Free

Saturday 26th October 2022

10:00 am – 12:00 pm AEDT

Whitewater room, Kingborough Hub, Kingston

7 Goshawk Wy, Kingston, 7050

An informal event of celebration of ALL ways of communicating - Just Hangin' Out Without Words, but lots of other ways of communicating...

An informal event of celebration of ALL ways of communicating for:

- People who don't use and may not understand speech
- People who want to spend time getting to know diverse communicators and believe that all people should have the chance to hang out.

This event is being organised alongside AGOSCI and within the Augmentative and Alternative Communication AAC Awareness Month, October. The organiser is the author of the Hangin' Out Program.

There will be drinks and nibbles (let us know if anyone has food needs like soft or smooth foods or modified drinks), Changing Places bathroom, and people there who just want to hang out.

This event will suit:

1. People who don't use or may not understand speech, coming along with someone who knows them well and will help with hanging out. We are looking for people who might sometimes miss out on Hangin' Out with other people because their communication is so unique.
2. People who are experienced with interacting with people with disability and are interested in getting to know more people.
3. People who are not experienced with interacting with people who do not understand or use speech but would love to learn more by giving it a go with support from other people.

Registrations are essential.

<https://HanginOutCafe2024.eventbrite.com.au> email: sheri@sheridanforster.com.au

Numbers are limited so that people can have a good time getting to know each other.

The organisers have current Police Checks/Working with Vulnerable People Checks. The safety of all participants will be of utmost importance through a culture of respect for individuals, negotiation of interactions (e.g., touch that individuals may feel comfortable with will be discussed with support people), interactions occurring where people can be seen.