

HOW CAN THE AAA HELP YOU & YOUR FAMILY?

The AAA is a not-for-profit support and advocacy association for people with aphasia, their families and the professionals who help them.

Established in 2002, the AAA supports families and members from all States and Territories across Australia.

We can help with:

support for carers & families

access to local aphasia groups

information on therapies & research

helpful resources

BE HEARD.
BE SEEN.
BE PART OF IT.

CONTACT US



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LOST FOR WORDS?



I HAVE APHASIA

a*pha*sia (a - faze - yuh) n.
an impairment of the ability to use or comprehend words, usually acquired as a result of stroke or other brain injury



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WHAT IS APHASIA?

Pronounced "**a - faze - yuh**"

Also called **dysphasia**

Aphasia is a **language difficulty** caused by **injury** to the **brain** (usually a **stroke**)

Aphasia can affect:

- **talking**
- **understanding others**
- **reading**
- **writing**
- **managing numbers**
- **managing money**

Aphasia can **affect relationships** and **self-identity**

People with aphasia are **competent** and **intelligent**

It is estimated that over **100,000** Australians **have aphasia** as a result of stroke

IMAGINE...

...waking one day to find you could not speak or understand what was being said to you, read the paper, or even write your name but you are thinking normally!

This is the experience of people with **APHASIA**.

There are no existing medications or therapies that can cure aphasia.

REHABILITATION & RECOVERY

People with aphasia often have help from a Speech Pathologist. They can help a person relearn communication skills and find other ways to communicate.

No-one can tell them how long recovery will take after a brain injury.

Recovery can depend on location and size of brain injury, age, therapy and motivation.

Recovery is usually quickest in the first 6 months, but can continue for many years. Everyone is different.

It is important to stay optimistic and never give up while being realistic about recovery.

ONGOING DIFFICULTIES

Aphasia can mask a person's intelligence and ability to communicate their thoughts and feelings.

It can take a long time to deal with grief, loss of language, changing roles and possibly changing careers.

People suffering from aphasia can become depressed and withdrawn.

People with aphasia require ongoing support and friendship.