

HISTORY OF FACILITATED COMMUNICATION TRAINING

- 1974–1979 Rosemary Crossley, as an employee of St. Nicholas Hospital in Melbourne, Australia, begins exploring the use of physical support to enable non-speaking students with cerebral palsy to communicate.
- 1979 Anne McDonald leaves St. Nicholas Hospital in Melbourne, Australia, and passes communication validity test in court.
- 1986 DEAL (Dignity, Education And Language) established by Rosemary Crossley. FC was used with individuals with a variety of disabilities including cerebral palsy, autism and Downs Syndrome. Some therapists (including Jane Remington-Gurney) trained to use facilitation as an AAC access intervention strategy.
- 1988 First international presentation on FCT delivered at ISAAC conference in Anaheim by Rosemary Crossley on behalf of the DEAL team.
- 1988 Ian Johnson, Social Worker, reports on the use of Facilitated Communication at Hus M. in Denmark, in *Community Care* magazine and *Social Work In Practice*.
- 1989 Doug Biklen from Syracuse University, New York State, USA, visits DEAL for 4 weeks and observes 27 individuals using FC at varying levels of support including some who could type independently or with minimal support (hand on the shoulder.)
- 1990 Doug Biklen publishes an account (Communication Unbound) of his DEAL observations in the *Harvard Educational Review*.
- Early 1990's Excitement about FC results in rapid increase in use of FC around the United States.
- 1992 FC is featured on the ABC news show, *Primetime Live*. Patrizia Cadei from Italy watches the feature and begins liaising with Professor Biklen.
- 1992 The Facilitated Communication Institute is established at Syracuse University. The Institute changes its name in 2010 to become The Institute on Communication and Inclusion.

Prepared by Jane Remington-Gurney, Master Trainer FCT with contributions from FCT Instructors and Master Trainers from the USA, India, Australia, UK, Italy, and Canada. Contributions still pending from Japan, Argentina, Germany and Finland.

- 1992 Queensland Department of Families, Youth and Community Care invite Jane Remington-Gurney to introduce Facilitated Communication Training. Working with a Steering Committee of allied health professionals, the first accredited facilitator training program in four levels is developed.
- 1992 Anne Emerson visits Rosemary Crossley in Victoria and Jane Remington-Gurney in Queensland and returns to the UK to discuss implementation of FC in the UK.
- 1993 Controversy about FC grows with negative findings in scientific studies and TV programs like Frontline.
- 1994 Rosemary Crossley publishes Facilitated Communication Training. Rosemary Crossley presents the first UK- based FCT training course. Jane Remington-Gurney delivers the Advanced FC accredited Training to experienced facilitators in London. FC Steering Group UK founded to provide a support network. Two years after introducing her son to FC, Patrizia Cadei introduces FCT to other parents through, in the short term, the Autism Society.
- 1995 Carol Vazquez, Anne Emerson and Andy Grayson present three papers on FC Research at the Psychological Perspectives in Autism Conference, Durham.
- 1996 New research studies exploring alternative experimental designs are published which demonstrate positive findings for validity.
- 1997 Queensland Department of Families, Youth and Community Care restructure to become Queensland Department of Communities and do not acknowledge FC or senior therapists in core business for next six years. Consequently, accreditation of training lapses. Following translation of FCT documents The Centre for the Studies on FC in Italy (Centro Studi Sulla Comunicazione Facilitata) is formed to encourage the use of best practice guidelines.
- 2000 Facilitated Communication Training Standards are developed by Marilyn Chadwick at Syracuse FCI and published. These are the first comprehensive set of guidelines to outline best practices for FC, the framework for training and technical assistance, and facilitator competencies.
- 2001 FC continues to be used in various parts of the United States with greater focus on training of facilitators and skill development of FC users.
- 2001 Emergence of FC users like Jamie Burke and Sue Rubin as spokespersons and advocates for communication rights.

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- 2002 Organization of Breaking the Barriers advocacy initiative, Canada, focusing on the right to communicate, access for communication supports and public policy affecting AAC/FC.
Organisation of Queensland FCT Incorporated to focus on assisting those who use FC and those who support facilitation users.
First accredited training course “Facilitating Communication” presented by Marion Stanton at the University of Bolton, UK.
- 2003 Department of Communities, Queensland, Australia re-establishes Facilitated Communication Training as part of multimodal communication for people with complex communication needs.
- 2004 Organization of trainers from around the country is established to work on developing resources for FC training and integrating the training for FC within the framework of AAC.
First publication of UK practice standards for FCT produced at the University of Bolton by Marion Stanton, with Rosemary Crossley.
- 2005 *Autism Is A World* details the journey of Sue Rubin, FCT user who achieves independence, and receives Oscar nomination for Best Documentary
- 2005 Queensland Department of Communities releases policy suite which contains a specific procedure around Facilitated Communication. Development of procedure was based on broad consultation and best practice guides including the Facilitated Communication Training Standards developed in the United States.
- 2005 Complex Communication Needs team was formed in Queensland Department of Communities to implement policy suite. One component of work undertaken was to update FC training package to consider current individual and organisational needs. A scoping exercise revealed that only approximately 1/3 of individuals assessed as being able to use the strategy of FCT were having access to facilitation support.
- 2006 Anoja Rajapatirana and her son Chandima (Chammi) moved back to Sri Lanka from the US. They established E.A.S.E. Foundation dedicated to serving people with disabilities. As part of their services they offer training in FCT to those who need an alternative to speech.
Master Trainer certification is initiated at the FCI’s first Summer Institute.
- 2008 Publication of research from the University of Padua gives evidence of the validity of Facilitated Communication “Il Delta dei Significati - an interdisciplinary study on autistic expression”. With awareness of some sectors of the population not using best practice guidelines whilst calling

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their approach, facilitated communication, Comunicazione Facilitata, the label WOCE – Written Output Communication Exchange is used to disassociate the two groups. www.woce.it

2008 University of Southern Queensland Psychology Department undertakes a literature review of Facilitated Communication Training, finding the methodology of many of the control studies undertaken failed best practice standards.

2010 University of Genoa publishes textbook *Lavorare per e con Persone Autistiche: towards an integration among research, evaluation and intervention* (DETAILS??)

2011 Wretches and Jabberers

This document is currently being finalized with inclusion of information regarding the development of FCT in Argentina, Finland, Japan and Germany.

The Right to Communicate

That all people with disability labels, who do not communicate through speech, have means of communication which allows their fullest participation in the world; that people can communicate using their chosen method; and that their communication is respected by others.

Breaking the Barriers, 2002