

## History of FCT In Queensland

pre 1986 FCT evolved in Victoria through the work of Rosemary Crossley and her work with residents of St Nicholas Hospital, Melbourne.  
DEAL Communication Centre opens. Rosemary awarded Australian Medal, begins to travel internationally introducing FCT and later completes studies for PhD.

***This is the beginning of intellectual reform and international re evaluation of the rights and needs of people with disabilities.***

1986 Jane Remington-Gurney trained employed at DEAL to 1992

1989 Facilitation ‘Investigated’ by Intellectual Disability Review Panel, 1990.  
“Investigation Into reliability and validity of the assisted Communication technique” Intellectual disability review panel report to the Director General, Department of Community Services, Victoria. March 1989.  
Results were inconclusive.

1992 Jane Remington-Gurney invited to Queensland for a 12 month, interdisciplinary project to investigate use of FCT with 28 individuals

1993 The Queensland report on Facilitated Communication is prepared and published by the FCT project Steering Committee and the teams work extended for another five years.

1996 FCT project Team develop the worlds first accredited training program to 1996 facilitators, present the project outcomes internationally and train facilitators from New Zealand, France, UK and USA.  
Syracuse University, New York State opens the Facilitated Communication Institute.

Department of Family Services no longer acknowledges the role of senior therapists and facilitated communication as ‘core business’”

Many senior therapists assume roles in Private Sector.

- 1997 Department of Communities identifies the need to develop policy around 2000's communication support for people with Complex Communication Needs. People are still utilising the strategy of FCT, however numbers of available trainers and facilitators are reducing.
- 2005 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 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 FCT Users such as Rodney Mills, Peter Rowe, Lucy Blackman, and Joshua Man start onwards taking a more active role in advocating on behalf of FCT users through presenting at conferences, forums and public events in Queensland.
- 2008 University of Southern Queensland Psychology Department undertook a literature review of Facilitated Communication Training. Found the methodology of many of the control studies undertaken failed best practice standards.
- Two delivery models for Facilitated Communication Training emerge: one in the private and one in the public sector.*
- 2010 University of Queensland (Occupational Therapy Department) and Department of Communities collaborate to undertake research exploring perceptions of ability and strategies that support reduction in physical support.

*The future brings continued focus on facilitator training and skill development of FC Users, as well as hopefully continued strengthening of partnerships between the private and public sector*

Document prepared by Jane Remington-Gurney and Matthew Wilson, Speech Language Pathologists and FCT Instructor-Presenters. April 2011