AAC and Language (Re)Boot Camp:
It's Not About the Technology

Having spent literally half his life working in the field of AAC, Russell Cross has seen technological solutions that have gone from suitcase-sized spelling devices to speech-generating devices that can be operated by brain control. But the real challenge in not in the machinery but the understanding and application of linguistic principles to the user interface. No matter how smart the technology, the role of the AAC specialist in teaching augmentative communication has never been more important. And the "language" part of Speech and Language Pathologist is critical.

In this one-day seminar, Russell will be "going back to basics" and looking at the following topics:

- 3-elements of Designing an AAC Language System: *Vocabulary*, *Representation*, and *Navigation*.
- 3-types of Vocabulary: Core Words, Fringe Words, and Key Words.
- Symbols: Sets and Systems.
- Unity®/Minspeak®/Semantic Compaction: What's It All About?
- Descriptive Teaching: Using Core Words When Fringe Words Aren't Available.
- Data Collection and Analysis
- Realize Language: Turning Data Into Pictures
- Online Resources: Free and Not-so-free.

Along the way, Russell will provide hints and tips for using common desktop software programs (such as Microsoft Word and Excel), specialist language analysis software (WordSmith 7), and free AAC support software (PASS) to enhance your practice. And there will be lists of references to take away!

Sydney: Monday 30th July, 2018, 9am-4pm
Cerebral Palsy Alliance, 187 Allambie Road, Allambie Heights
Registration $50 (includes lunch)
Register by 20th July at http://tix.yt/russellcross2018

About Russell

Russell Cross is a Speech and Language Therapist and the Director of Clinical Applications for the Prentke Romich Company (PRC) in the USA. A Psychology and Linguistics graduate from the University of Lancaster in the UK, with a postgraduate qualification from Birmingham City University, he has worked in the field of AAC since 1984.

Russell has played an integral part of the design of many of PRC's devices and is the co-owner of a number of patents. He is the co-author of the Unity series of language application programs that run on PRC devices, and the author of the WordCore word-based communication software. He is a member of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, the American Speech-Hearing Association, the Assistive Technology Industry Association, and ISAAC.

Russell is also "Dude 1" of the excellent SPEECH DUDES blog: https://speechdudes.wordpress.com/