



DISABILITY FACT SHEET

Acquired Brain Injury

Communication strategies

- When communicating with a person with an acquired brain injury it is important to acknowledge that each person is an individual and should be approached as such.
- Always remember to keep your voice tone low and unhurried.
- Give the person an opportunity to talk. Make time for them.
- Speak clearly and use shorter, clear direct sentences to be more easily understood.
- Explain acronyms or do not use them at all.
- Provide regular breaks if required to reduce the effects of fatigue.
- If the person has memory problems information may need to be repeated.
- Physically demonstrate concepts rather than simply explaining.
- Ask questions to ensure the person understands.
- Always provide opportunities for questions and provide further information.

Disability Overview

Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) refers to a type of injury to the brain that results in deterioration of cognitive, physical, emotional or independent functioning that happens after birth.

Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) can occur as the result of trauma to the brain from motor vehicle accidents, falls and assaults, or from non-traumatic (internal) causes such as strokes, tumours, aneurysms, infections, poisoning and other situations when the brain does not get enough blood or oxygen.

People who have an ABI may be affected in a variety of ways, including:

- Cognitive
- Sensory
- Physical
- Behavioural or personality changes.

Individual responses vary greatly, only specific skills or abilities will be affected and other intellectual abilities remain intact.

Implications

- People who have had a brain injury may display demanding, intolerant, or aggressive behaviour
- The person may rush into things without clearly thinking about the consequences
- Sometimes they may have difficulty paying attention or concentrating.
- For some individuals it reduces their social skills and affect the person's ability to function effectively in a social setting
- They may experience difficulty with self-motivation or initiating activities.
- Some individuals may experience physical disabilities, which often include reduced muscle control and fatigue