

AAC Implementation Strategies

Training by the Assistive Technology & Communication Unit, 17th November 2025



Ms. Martina Baldacchino Zarb

Senior Speech and Language Therapist, Access to Communication and Technology Unit (ACTU)

Martina Zarb earned a B.Sc. (Hons) in Communication Therapy from the University of Malta in 2016. She has developed a strong interest in Autism and Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) and works as part of a transdisciplinary team at the Access to Communication and Technology Unit (ACTU). At ACTU, Martina supports children with communication and learning disabilities through the use of assistive technologies (AT) and AAC.

In 2018, Martina presented a poster at the International Society of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) conference, focusing on AAC service provision in Malta. More recently, in 2023,

she presented research at ISAAC in Mexico, exploring perceptions of AAC use among Maltese individuals with complex communication needs.

In 2022, Martina completed an MBA at the University of Chester. Her dissertation, *Effectiveness of Service Delivery and Waiting List Management: A Comparative Perspective*, focused on exploring ways to improve access and efficiency within healthcare services.

In addition to her work in AAC, Martina is a certified NAPPI trainer, helping caregivers and healthcare professionals manage challenging behaviours with a focus on safety, dignity, and respect.

She is also passionate about the role of assistive technology in supporting literacy development.



Mr. Massimo Pace

Speech and Language Therapist, Access to Communication and Technology Unit (ACTU)

Massimo Pace graduated from the University of Malta in 2024 with a degree in Communication Therapy, where he developed a strong interest in supporting individuals with complex communication needs. This led to a particular focus on Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), an area that aligns with his commitment to promoting accessible and inclusive communication.

In his current role as a Speech Language Therapist, Massimo supports individuals who use AAC systems to communicate. His work includes contributing to assessments, supporting the implementation of AAC strategies, and collaborating with families and professionals to ensure consistent, person-centred care. He is dedicated to providing respectful, tailored support that reflects each individual's unique strengths and needs.