

AAC Q&A Clinic

Training by the Assistive Technology & Communication Unit, 15th October 2025



Ms. Martina Baldacchino Zarb

Senior Speech & 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.



Ms. Sharon Borg Schembri

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

Sharon is a Senior Occupational Therapist, with over 19 years of experience supporting inclusive education through AAC and assistive technology. In 2010 she obtained a Master's degree in Inclusive Education and Communities from the University of Malta. She played a key role in establishing Malta's national assistive technology service and works closely with educators and families to promote access to

literacy, including the use of alternative pencils. Sharon has collaborated with international organisations such as UNICEF and Erasmus+, and she regularly shares her expertise at global conferences including AAATE, ISAAC, and Accessible Europe.