



“HOW DO I CONNECT?”

Identifying the motivators, enablers, and barriers for adult learners of Auslan

Eliza Caminiti



BACKGROUND

The Deaf community in Australia and Auslan

- Hearing loss impacts approximately 1 in 6 Australians ¹
- Daily language for 16,250 Australians ²
- “Deaf” v. “deaf”



Access to justice

- Communication fulfils a sense of belonging ³
- Audism ^{4 5 6}
- Enabling meaningful participation through communication



RESEARCH QUESTION



What motivators, enablers, and barriers exist for adult learners of Auslan?



RESEARCH DESIGN



Qualitative descriptive methodology⁷

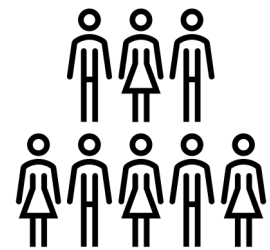


Recruitment through **established networks** and **snowball sampling**⁸

⁷Patton 2002, ⁸ Kirchherr & Charles 2018

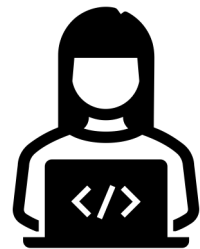


PROCEDURES & MEASURES



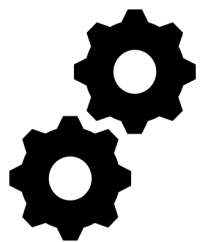
8 participants

21–49yo, at least 1 certificate in Auslan



Qualitative, semi-structured interviews^{7 9}

35–45 minutes, Zoom & face-to-face formats



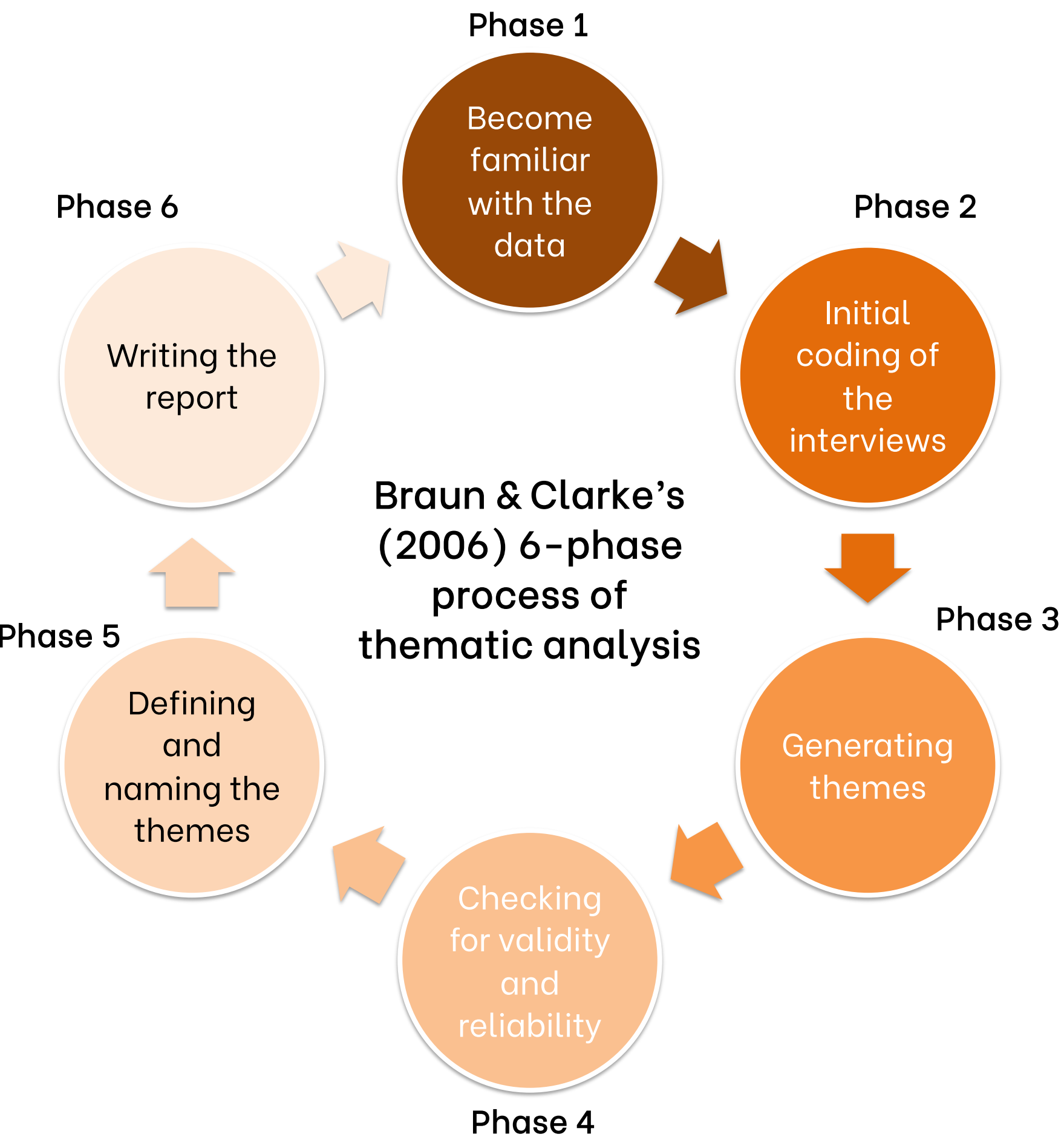
Rigour

Multiple reviewers, iterative analysis cycle, member checking



⁷Patton 2002, ⁹ Braun & Clarke 2006



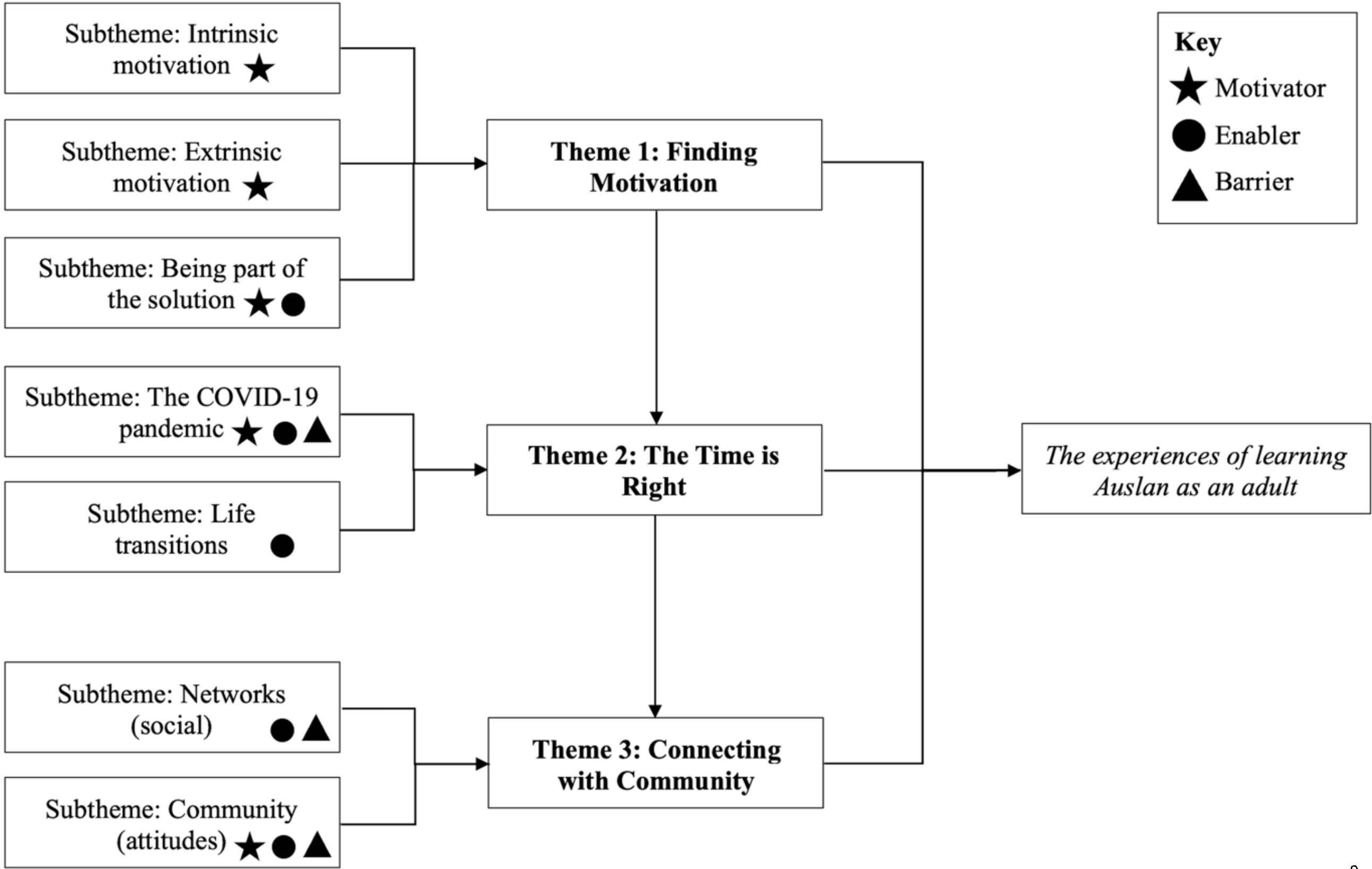


DATA ANALYSIS



KEY RESULTS

Thematic map showing the themes and subthemes identified



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THEME 1

FINDING MOTIVATION

Subthemes: Intrinsic motivation, Extrinsic motivation, Being part of the solution

Alex

I've always been fascinated with sign...it's like an art.

[I had] no idea what to say or what to do, or like how to interact at all...I left, and I was like, oh my god that was super uncomfortable...So I started looking at online [courses].

Carter

I reconnected with my brother. And I wanted to be able to talk to him again...

Bailey



THEME 2

THE TIME IS RIGHT

Subthemes: The COVID-19 Pandemic, Life transitions

then 2020 hit and I, you know, looked at myself, I was like, why have I not started learning Auslan yet?

Cameron

Alex

I wish that I had started earlier. But I guess there was never a good time... COVID was a blessing for me... it got me to sit down and think what I wanted to do with myself.

I finished certificate III in 2019, and I didn't study again until 2022. I just didn't want to do it online.

Jamie

Handwritten signature



THEME 3

CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY

Subthemes: Networks (social), Community (attitudes)

Jamie

...you do learn a lot in class, but if you- if you don't make time in being engaged in that community...you're missing a lot...

The deaf community is definitely very welcoming of anybody who wants to learn their language...

Kerry

Carter

On one hand, whilst the community is very accepting...at the same time, they're like, don't get too close...





IMPLICATIONS



Increasing Auslan use in Australia would...

- Afford better **capacity to engage** in daily activities
- Support **policy change** for communication accessibility
- Promote **societal inclusion** for all Deaf/HoH persons in Australia

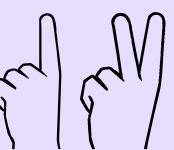
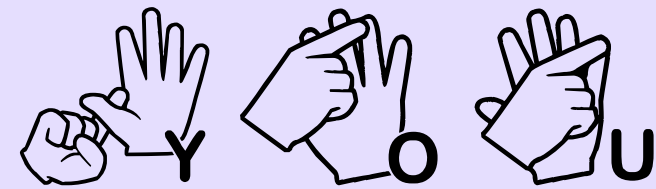
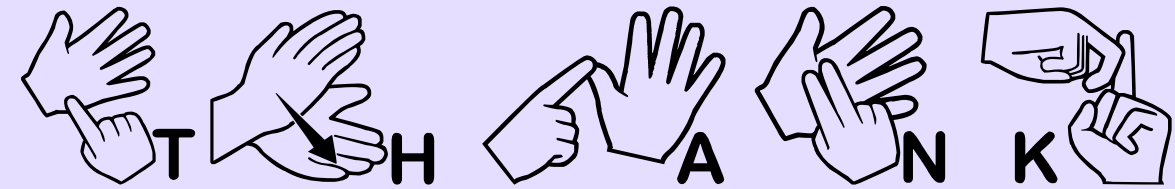
Future research should...

- Explore barriers to learning Auslan for Deaf individuals
- Promote feasibility for service providers to learn Auslan





THANK YOU



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Q&A SESSION

