This project seeks to better understand the working relationships between young people with cognitive disability and their paid support workers. Using recognition theory, it is focused on exploring what helps young people and support workers to feel cared for, respected and valued in their relationships with each other. It is also investigating what happens when they don’t feel these sense of recognition.

Research Design

The project has three key phases:

1: Review of policies about working relationship

2: Research with young people and their support workers about their experience of working together. Using photo-research methods and pictorial mapping, young people and their support workers have worked in pairs to relay their thoughts and experiences.

3. An online survey with young people and support workers to extend Phase 2 findings.

Young people with disability are embedded in every stage of the project, working as community researchers, advising the project through a Young People’s Advisory Group, and through the methods of the research.

[Working with YP with disability video](#)
Research team

*Investigators:*  
A/Prof Sally Robinson (CCYP, SCU), Prof Anne Graham (CCYP, SCU), Dr Kate Neale (CCYP, SCU), Jaiimsie Speeding (CCYP, SCU), Prof Karen Fisher (SPRC, UNSW), Prof Kelley Johnson (SPRC, UNSW), Sandra Gendera (SPRC, UNSW), Dr Ed Hall (University of Dundee).

*Research Partners:*  
Gordon Duff (National Disability Services), NSW Family and Community Services, Suzanna Poredos (Northcott), Alex Varley (Northcott).

Presentations and Academic Publications to date

**Journal articles**


**Presentations**