



Australian Government  
Department of Health and Aged Care



UNSW  
SYDNEY

# Case study film summaries and questions

For use with the two case study films

Intellectual Disability Health Capability Framework Resources



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# Description

This document is one of a suite of resources intended for use in an educational context to support the [Intellectual Disability Health Capability Framework](#) (the Framework). The Framework aims to equip pre-registration students studying health, allied health, dentistry and other health-related disciplines with the required core capabilities to provide quality health care to people with intellectual disability.

This document should be read alongside two case study films depicting common issues and considerations around communication ('Luca's' case study) and decision-making and consent ('Oliver's' case study) when working with people with intellectual disability. The films start with interactions with health professionals that are not optimal, then show ways that the health professionals can improve their communication and use of reasonable adjustments.

This document provides a written summary of each film case study and includes questions for discussion for each film to allow students to better understand interactions between health professionals and people with intellectual disability and their supporters.

Written case studies on each of the six Framework Capability areas are also available on the [Framework and education resources](#) collection page. The written case studies provide examples of interactions between health professionals and people with intellectual disability and their supporters. Educators can use these case studies as an exemplar for the creation of their own discipline-specific resources. Changes can be made to the written case studies to adapt them for specific discipline needs.

*Note: In the written case studies, the Decision-Making and Consent Case Study is named 'Aisha' instead of 'Oliver' but is fundamentally the same case study.*

Additional resources are also available for educators to support integration of the Framework into existing curricula. Please see the [Intellectual Disability Health Capability Framework and education resources](#) to view all available resources.

# Acknowledgements

The case study films were created by Films4Change, an Australian charity producing films to raise awareness & create change around social issues. The film scripts were developed using co-design and star actors with intellectual disability.



## Acknowledgement of people with intellectual disability and carers, family members and supporters of people with intellectual disability

The Department of Health and Aged Care and the National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health acknowledge people with intellectual disability and carers, family, and supporters of people with intellectual disability who have fought and advocated for improved health care for people with intellectual disability. We acknowledge the contribution of these individuals who have shared their knowledge and experiences that have shaped these case studies.

# ‘Luca’ – A communication case study film

## Film summary

Luca, a 34-year-old man with moderate intellectual disability and autism, attends a GP appointment with his support worker, Cameron. Initially, the GP does not include Luca in the conversation – speaking instead to the support worker, and not using accessible language. When Luca becomes agitated during an examination, Cameron explains that Luca needs clear communication to feel at ease. Dr. Benson adapts his approach which leads to better communication with Luca. This case highlights the importance of a person-centred approach to communication preferences in intellectual disability healthcare.

**Length: 8:19 mins**

## Questions for discussion

1. If a person does not speak, how else can they communicate?
2. If a person cannot express themselves in a way that a health professional understands (either by speech or other means), can it be assumed that they also cannot understand others?
3. How does Luca communicate?
4. What is each person’s role in facilitating communication?
5. How could Dr Benson have continued the consultation if Luca’s support worker had been someone who did not know him well?

# ‘Oliver’ – A decision-making and consent case study film

## Film summary

In this film, ‘Oliver’ – a 26-year-old man with cerebral palsy and mild intellectual disability – goes to a speech pathologist for recently worsening dysphagia. Initially, the speech pathologist does not effectively engage Oliver and makes assumptions about his decision-making capacity. Oliver leaves the appointment distressed and resistant to the changes to his diet (a Mealtime Management Plan). When the support worker tells the speech pathologist about Oliver’s resistance to the changes and that Oliver can make informed decisions with appropriate support, the speech pathologist calls Oliver back. Using accessible language, visual aids, and Oliver’s communication app, the speech pathologist and Oliver have a conversation about what and how he will eat, and he comes to a decision on his management plan. This case highlights the importance of accessible communication and the involvement of people with intellectual disability in decision-making about their health.

**Length: 4:32 mins**

## Questions for discussion

1. Why did the speech pathologist initially assume that Oliver did not have the capacity to understand the situation and decide to accept or reject his recommendations?
2. How can health professionals support people with intellectual disability to make health decisions?
3. What should health professionals do when people with intellectual disability do not follow their health recommendations?

# Film Credits

## Cast

**Oliver** - Oliver House

**Support Worker** - Aaron Scully

**Speech Pathologist** - Monica Sayers

**Luca** - Matthew Lloyd

**Cameron** - Julia Gorey

**Dr Benson** - Matthew Oxley

## Films4Change Crew

**Writer** - Steven Hopley

**Lived Experience Consultant** - Lauren Andrews & Jessica Irwin

**Director/Creative Producer** - Melinda Retford

**Camera/Editor & Sound Post** - Jerry Retford

**Camera** - Paul Perbenyik

**Production Assistant/Camera Assist** - Matthew Rose

**Location Sound** - Sam Enthoven

**Makeup/Hair** - Amy Chen

**Props** - Lew McDonnell

Thanks to Options Theatre Company & Studio ARTES for Casting Assistance.



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