Adults (with hearing loss) Only: making real-world connections

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Adult Hearing Loss program

To drive outstanding people-focussed research and promote excellent evidence-based outcomes to improve quality of life for adults with hearing difficulties
Guiding principles

Underpinning theory

Research priorities

Health behaviour change

Public & patient involvement

Patient-centred
Connected Health

(Ferguson, Glista, Davies-Venn, NT Aud News, 2019; Int J Aud 2020)
Mobile tech for connected hearing healthcare and self-management

- Smartphone-connected hearing aids
- Post-fitting motivational support
- Hearables, PSAPs
- Pre-assessment/pre-fitting preparation
- Hearing health education
- Remote device adjustment

(Ferguson et al, Sem Hear, 2019; Maidment et al, IJA, 2019)
Patient pathway

Awareness

Hearing assessed

Ongoing support

Take action

Intervention

→ increasing uptake of connected health in clinic
Patient and public involvement (PPI)

Aus: Community and consumer involvement

Working WITH researchers rather than FOR researchers
“Not about us without us”

- PPI can address mismatch between the needs of the users and research agendas
- PPI ensures the research is aligned with patients’ needs
What patients and audiologists want? What works?

Barriers and facilitators to connected health → greater uptake

In-person vs remote services → minimising F2F

Pre-assessment → preparing patients and audiologists

Post-fitting → improving support increase motivation
What patients and audiologists want? What works?

Barriers and facilitators to connected health → greater uptake

Who led the digital transformation of your company?

A) The CEO

B) The CTO

C) COVID-19
New service models – what a difference a pandemic makes!

Social distancing – fewer F2F clinic appointments

Good quality remote services needed now more than ever!
Outcome measures

David Allen
Defining Outcomes: Hearing Services Program

- No national guidelines on what outcomes should be used, why, how and when in Australian hearing healthcare

- Roadmap for Hearing health (2019)
  - standardised national reporting of hearing loss and establish national database

Overall aim:
To develop and deliver recommendations on evidence-based patient-focussed outcomes to measure the success of the HSP
Many domains suggested by professionals are not currently captured by existing standard outcome measures (e.g. well-being, social isolation and loneliness).

Although there are some similarities in domains between professionals and patients, there are some marked differences (e.g. hearing loss impacts less on family, more control over hearing).
Special populations

• Unilateral hearing loss
• Aged care

Paola Incerti

Ingrid Yeend
Special populations: characterisation of unilateral hearing loss using new methods and techniques

Realistic conversation

Real world Environment

Microphone array recording

Reproduced sound field (41 speakers)

Head tracking

EMA – real-world

Cognition

[Graph showing time spent and orientation]
Special populations: hearing-related communication in care homes

Identifying research priorities in this complex environment (hearing loss, dementia)

(Crosbie et al, BMC Med, 2019)
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Adults only research: where next?
NAL needs you!

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Healthcare professional database
Adults only: coming up in Soundbites?

David Allen, PhD
Outcomes Measures
Connected health
Future trends

Jermy Pang
Pre-assessment preparation and information

Taegan Young
Post-fitting motivation and information

Paola Incerti
Unilateral hearing loss
Connected health guidelines

Mel Ferguson, PhD
Smartphone-connected HAs
Remote HA assistance
Remote self-management program
Thanks to.....

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