



# Linking Independence and Social Connectedness:

## An Assistive Devices Evaluative Research Trial





# Overview

- The aims of the project
- Existing Knowledge
- Principles underpinning the project
- The Research
- What we have Learnt





## The aims of the project are to:

Assess if the provision of assistive devices will:

- Contribute to comparative increases/ maintenance in client independence
- Enhance client's social connectedness
- Reduce the costs of personal care and domestic services





# Existing knowledge

- Agreed goals and objectives are important
- The need to involve others in the process
- The value of re-enablement and restorative care models
- The need for assistive/adaptive devices to be accessible
- Cost effectiveness is assessable but not quantifiable
- There are gaps in existing research on the effect of re-enablement and restorative care models on social connectedness





# Principles underpinning the project

## Re-enablement and restorative care

- Services are based on individual needs within specific environments
- Autonomy and independence are linked to an individual's self-esteem and confidence
- Environments are conducive to changing life experiences
- Service delivery is flexible
- Inclusive of all clients including those with moderate and high care needs
- Social connectedness is important to the general well-being and capacity building of individuals





# The Research

- The project commenced in May 2008 with the final report in July 2010
- Evaluate the circumstances of 20 participants across the core aspects of:
  - maintenance/improvement of client independence
  - enhancing social connectedness
  - service provision costs





# The Research

- Initial assessment with comparative reviews at 3 months, 6 months, 12 months & 24 months
  
- Undertake holistic assessment to :
  - Determine eligibility for service provision
  - Determine client ability/inability
  - Determine suitability for program
  - Gain client agreement to participate
  - Allow client to undertake a self assessment of ADL's & ability to connect socially
  - Undertake social mapping
  - Undertake functional assessment with OT





## ADL self assessments

Clients rate their ability to undertake key tasks of personal care and domestic chores across key areas:

Vacuuming

Cleaning Surfaces

Washing clothes

Cleaning blinds/curtains

Cleaning over

Cleaning high areas

Meals

Dressing

Toileting

Washing floors

Changing bed linen

Cleaning windows

Cleaning fridge

Removal of cobwebs

Cleaning cupboards

Showering

Grooming





## ADL self assessments

Self assessment ADL ratings:

3 = independent

2 = independent with some difficulty

1 = require some assistance

0 = dependent

N/A = Not applicable





## Social connectedness self assessment

Clients rated their level of social connectedness in relation to:

Family

Friends

Neighbours

Community

Social groups/Leisure groups

Health & wellbeing services





## Social connectedness self assessment

Self assessment Social connectedness ratings:

3 = happy with social networks

2 = social networks are OK

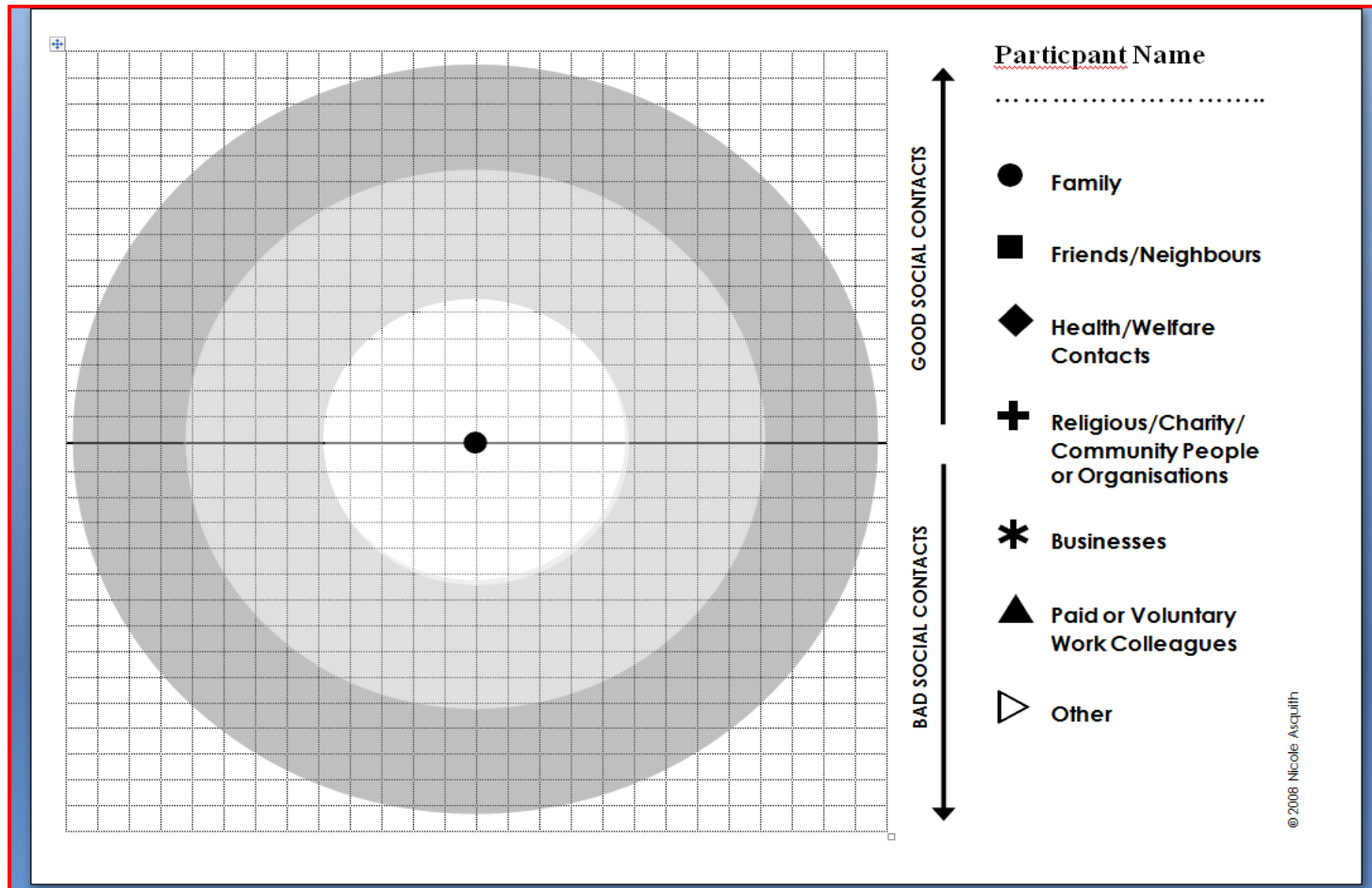
1 = unhappy with social networks

N/A = Not applicable





# Social mapping





## Occupational Therapist Functional assessment

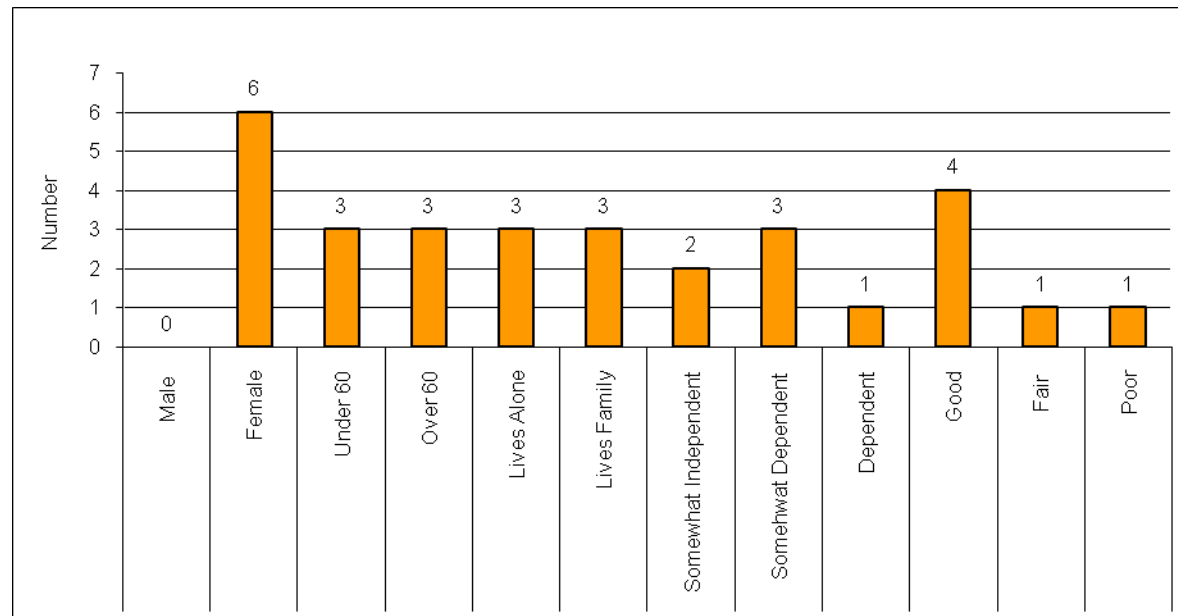
- Used same ratings as for self assessment
- Current equipment
- Current environment
- Recommendations





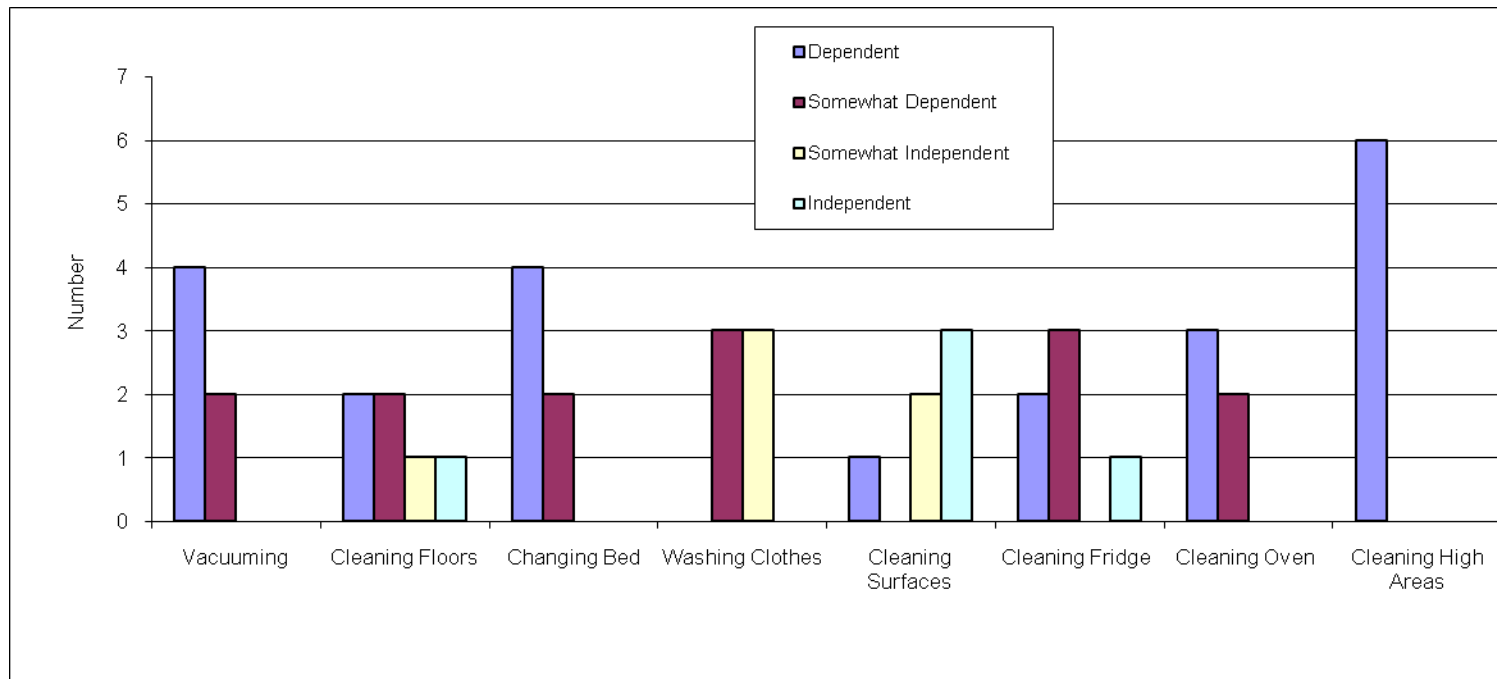
# Initial results

## Socio-demographic profile



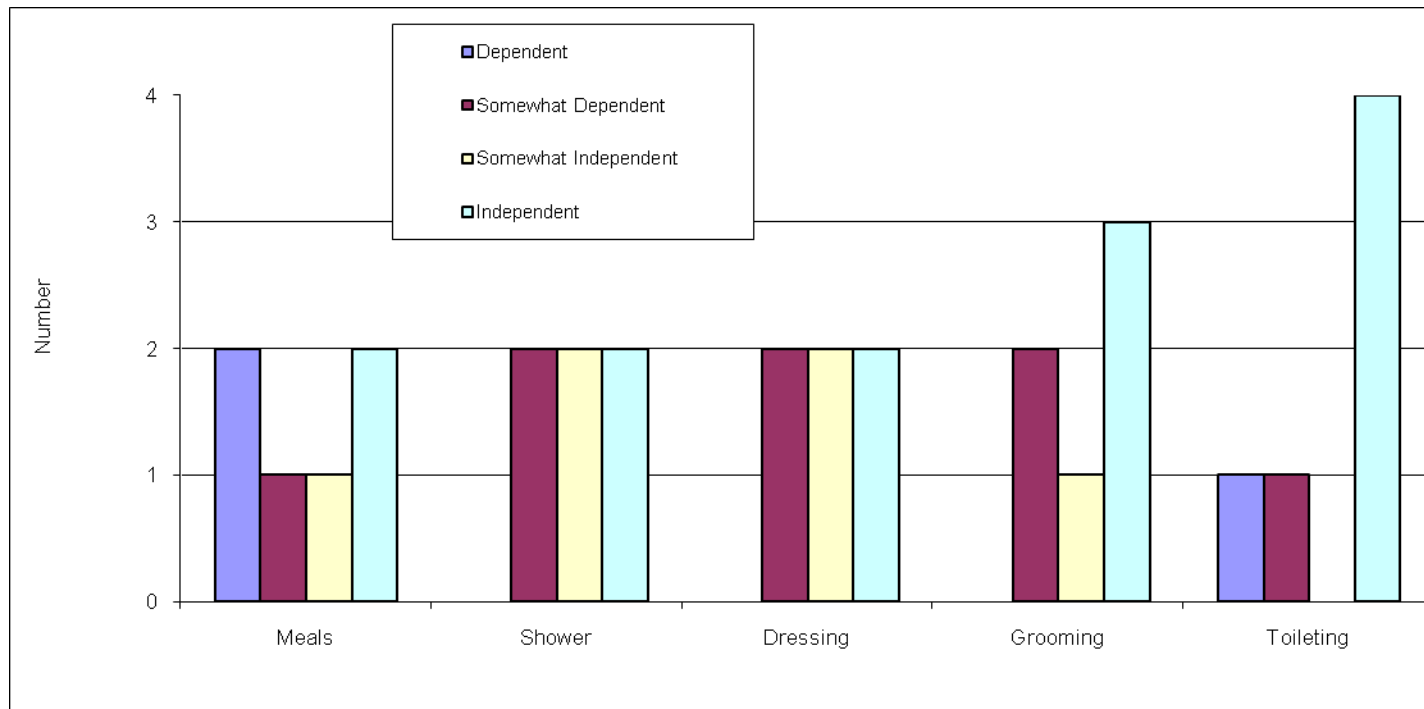


# Initial Self Assessment of Domestic tasks





# Initial Self Assessment of Personal Care tasks





## Comparison between initial & 3 month Functional assessment (Domestic tasks)

Household Task	Dependency Increased	Stayed the Same	Independence Increased
Vacuuming	0	3	2
Cleaning Floors	2	3	0
Cleaning Surfaces	1	3	1
Changing Bed	1	3	1
Washing Clothes	1	3	1
Washing Windows	0	3	2
Cleaning Fridge	1	3	1



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**b1**

More people increased their independence overall in these tasks

bhenry, 3/11/2008



## Comparison between initial & 3 month Functional assessment (Personal Care tasks)

Personal Care Activity	Dependency Increased	Stayed the Same	Independence Increased
Getting Meals	1	4	0
Showering	0	5	0
Dressing	0	4	1
Grooming	2	2	1
Toileting	0	3	2



# What have we learnt?

- Holistic assessment important
- Intensive support required initially
- Clients have an understanding of their ability
- Compliance with recommendations successful
- Monitoring important
- Provision of support needs to be timely

