



# Translating the Science

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1. Please read the research articles
2. Watch this video from the lead researcher
3. Submit your questions via the website and
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# Session 1

## How do audiologists address the psychosocial needs of their clients?

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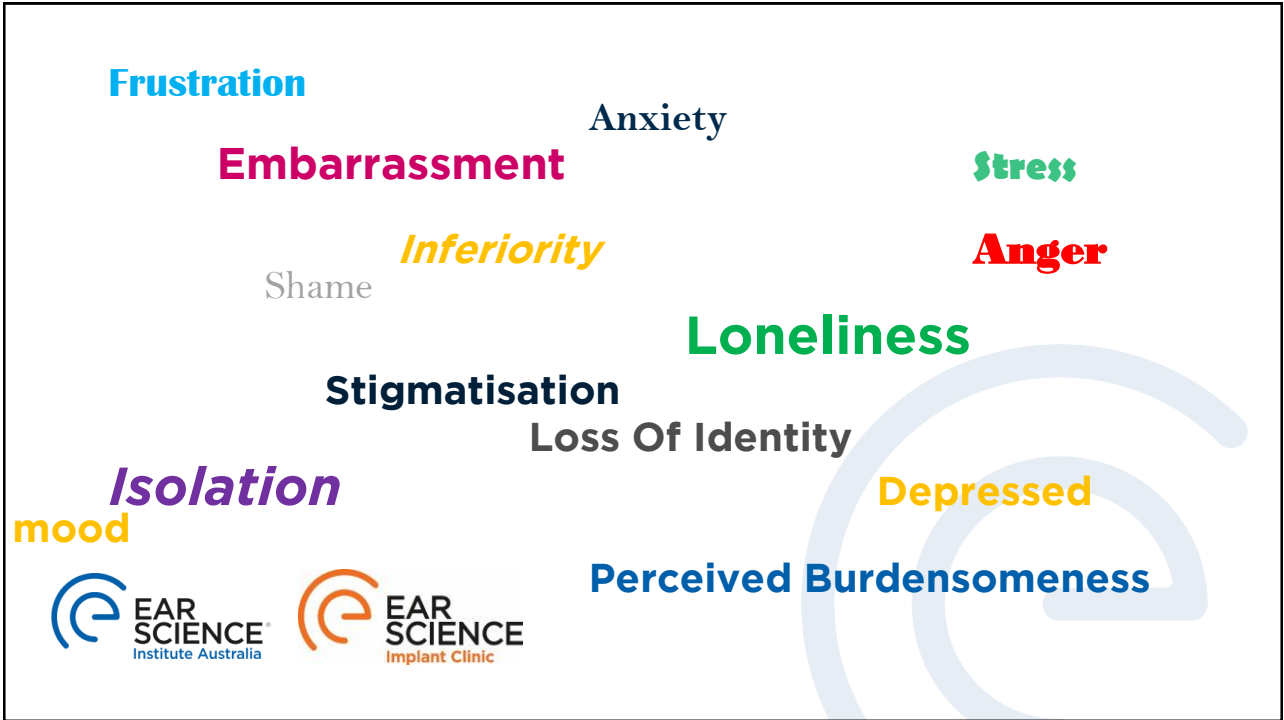
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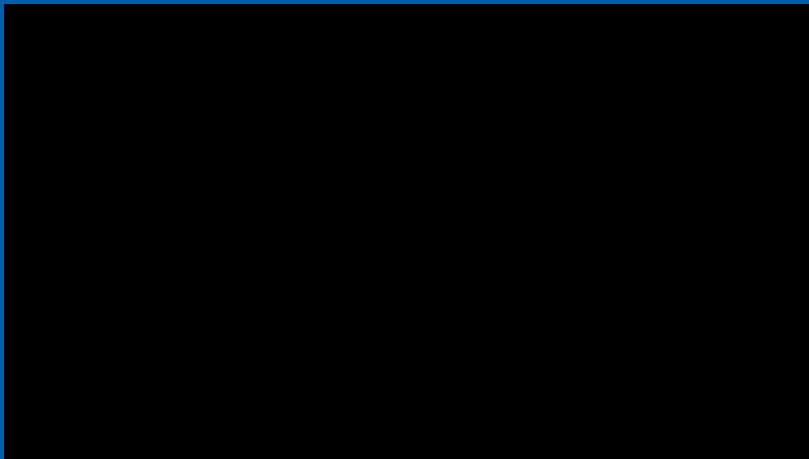
## Disclosures

- This project was funded by Sonova AG and the Ear Science Institute Australia
- Barbara Timmer & Gurjit Singh are employed by Sonova AG
- Authors RB, CB, JM, GS, MP, JP, MF, EH, BW, LvL, DG, AC, SB, RE report no conflicts of interest





## How do our clients experience hearing loss?

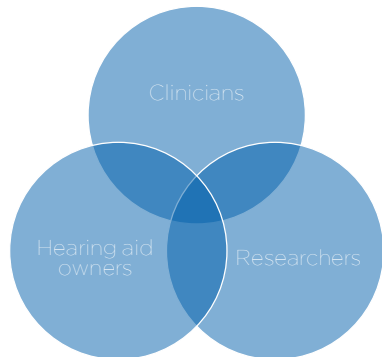


# What can we do to help our clients manage the social & emotional impacts of their hearing loss?



## Two Studies

From a Global Sample of Hearing Healthcare Clinicians and Adult Patients with Hearing Loss



**Aim One:** To identify the clinical approaches currently used by clinicians to address their clients' psychosocial needs.

**Aim Two:** To explore whether clinical approaches currently used to by clinicians to address psychosocial symptoms are perceived to be 1) beneficial, and 2) likely to be used.



# Study One: Concept Mapping

## 1. Brainstorming Activity: Hearing Healthcare Clinicians were asked to provide statements in response to the open-ended research question

*"What clinical practices are used by audiologists to address the psychosocial needs of adults with hearing loss, including those that promote social engagement/participation and reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation?"*

## 2. Grouping Activity: Clinicians then grouped these statements to



# Participants



## Brainstorming Activity (n = 65)

- 37 Australia-based 28 internationally-based audiologists (Canada = 3, China = 2, Ireland = 6, UK = 7, USA = 8, Switzerland = 1, and Netherlands = 1).
- 22 to 66 years (median = 37, SD = 11.8).
- 53 female and 12 male

## Grouping Activity (n = 18)

- 8 Australia-based 10 internationally-based audiologists (Canada = 1, Ireland = 2, UK = 4, USA = 2, and Switzerland = 1).
- 27 to 66 years (median = 34, mean = 41, SD = 12.7)
- 17 female and one male



What clinical practices are used by audiologists to address the psychosocial needs of adults with hearing loss? (n=93)

The audiologist invites family members into appointments and asks their perspective on how communication is going at home.

The audiologist provides clients with training on how to be a better communicator (such as asking people to gain your attention first, using face-to-face communication, and asking for repeats).

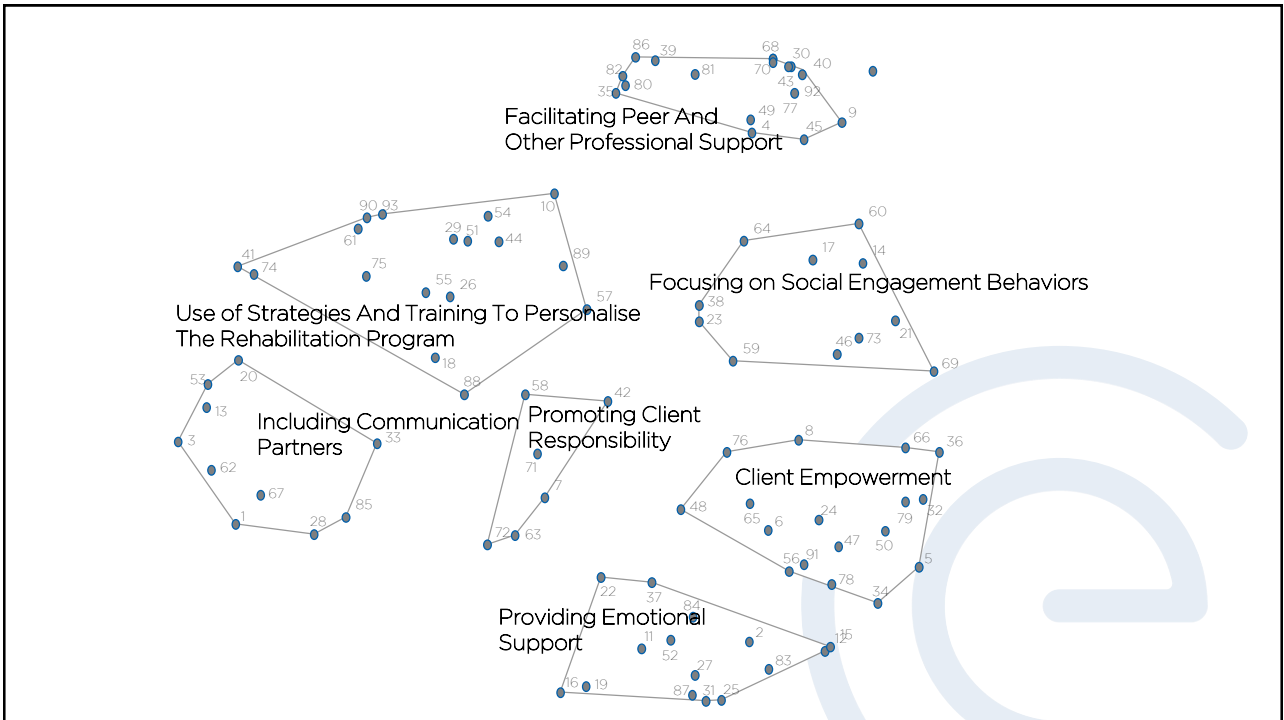
The audiologist works with the client to develop a plan for how they will get back into the community now that they have improved hearing (after hearing aid or cochlear implant fitting).

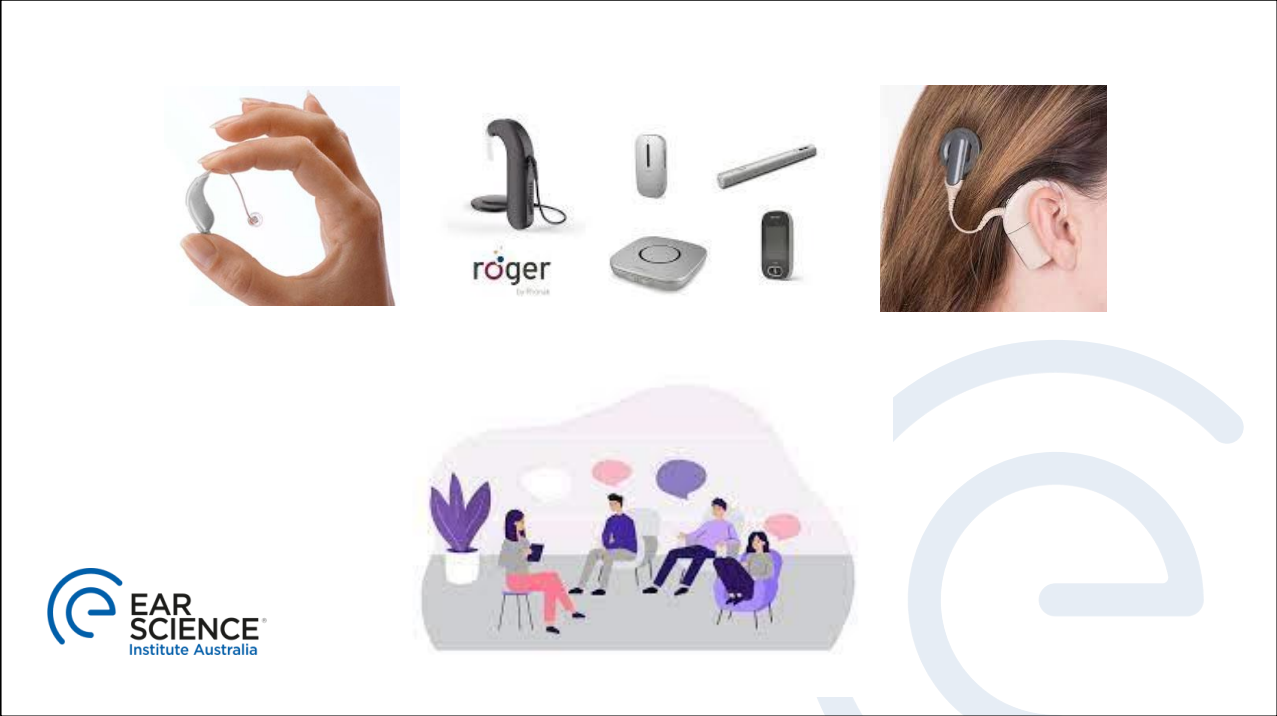
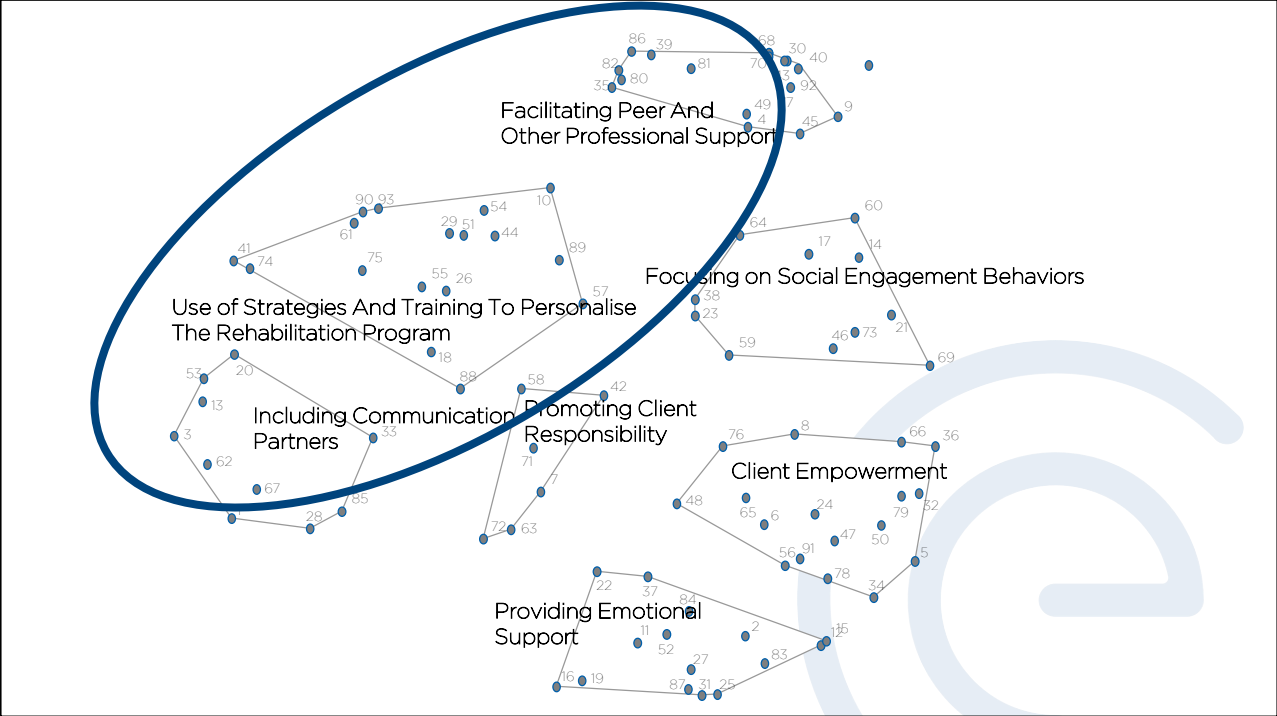
The audiologist gives the client time to talk, and listens to what they say.

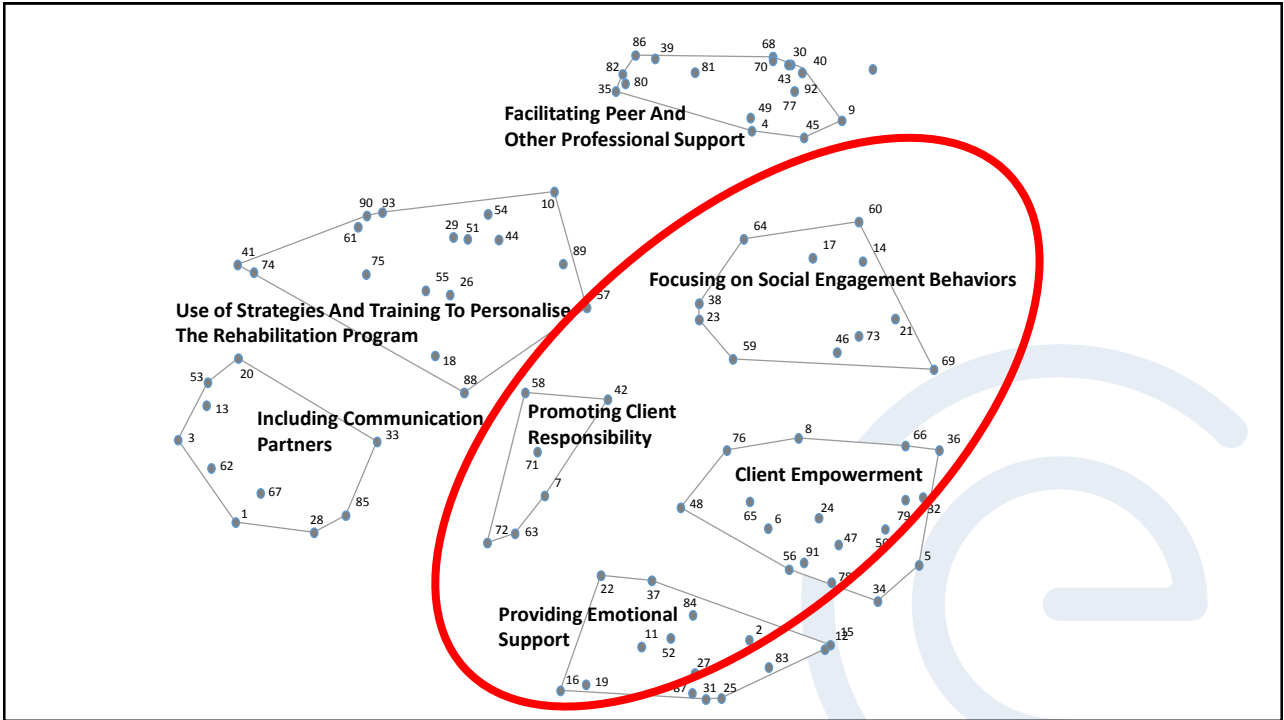
The audiologist works together with the client to strategize about what the client needs in order to be successful in their social environments; this may include hearing aid accessories, additional programs, knowledge of environmental acoustics, or self-advocacy behaviours.

The audiologist outlines the client's role in self-management of their hearing loss, alongside the audiologist's role as more of a supportive professional.

The audiologist discusses the association between hearing loss, social decline, and isolation.







## Study Two: Survey

- A cross-sectional survey of audiology clients (adults with hearing loss) and audiologists to investigate the perceived benefit and likely use of these clinical approaches.
- Reduced the number of items from 93 to 66, by removing or merging items that described similar concepts.
- Participants rated each statement on a 5-point Likert scale (1 = Extremely Unlikely to 5 = Extremely Likely) for:
  1. Likely Benefit of each of the approaches identified, and
  2. Likelihood to that they would use/accept each approach identified



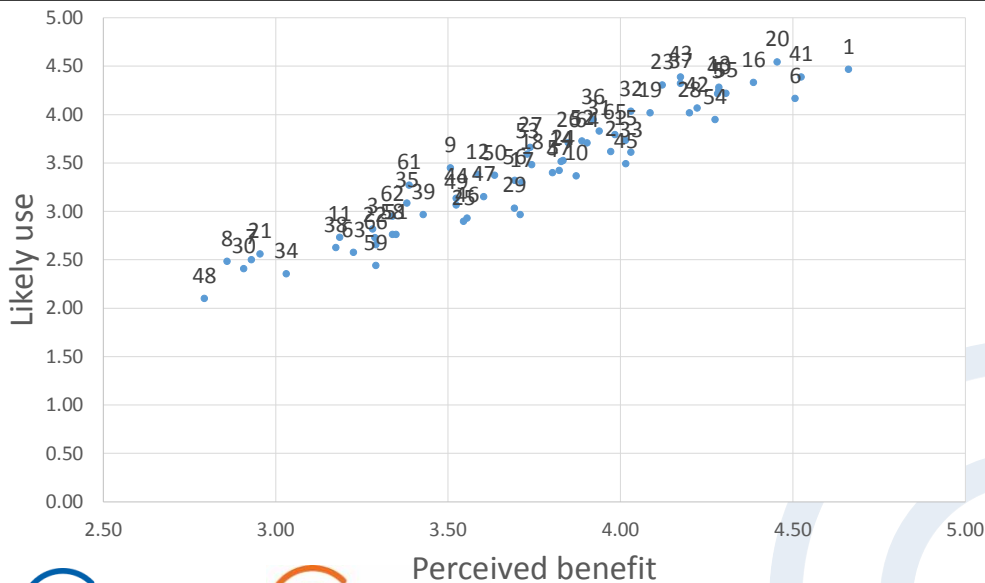
# Participants

- **Adults with hearing loss (n=52)**

- **Age (years)**
  - 20-39 : n=0
  - 40-59 : n=10
  - 60-69 : n=14
  - ≤70 : n=28
- **22 female (42%) and 30 male (58%)**
- **Daily hours of hearing aid use**
  - More than 8 hours a day : n=31
  - 4-8 hours a day : n=6
  - 1-4 hours a day : n=9
  - Less than 1 hour a day : n=3
  - Never : n=3

- **Audiologists (n=19)**

- **Age (years)**
  - 20-39 : n=10
  - 40-59 : n=5
  - 60-69 : n=4
  - ≤70 : n=0
- **16 female (84%) and 3 male (16%)**
- **Years of clinical experience (years)**
  - 0-5 : n=4
  - 6-10 : n=2
  - 11-15 : n=2
  - 16-20 : n=4
  - ≤21 : n=7



## Results

- Items from the concept *Providing Emotional Support* were ranked the highest.
- Survey item “*The audiologist gives the client time to talk, and listens to what they say*” was the individual item with the highest mean rating for perceived benefit, by both the adult with hearing loss and audiologist cohorts.



## Conclusions

- Audiologists employ a range of clinical approaches in an attempt to address their clients psychosocial impacts associated with hearing loss.
- The approaches taken seemed however mostly informal, and provided in a non-standardized way.

## Future direction

- The comprehensive list of clinical approaches identified should first be studied further to assess which are evidence-based or effect the greatest change.
- Future research and clinical developments could then focus on developing behavioural descriptions and implementing training of such approaches, thus supporting audiologists in their support of their clients' psychosocial needs.



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