Individualised Music Intervention for People with Dementia: A Mixed Methods Implementation Study

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Statement of Originality

I hereby certify that the work embodied in the thesis is my own work, conducted under normal supervision. The thesis contains no material which has been accepted, or is being examined, for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made. I give consent to the final version of my thesis being made available worldwide when deposited in the University's Digital Repository, subject to the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968 and any approved embargo.

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Acknowledgment of Authorship

I hereby certify that the work embodied in this thesis contains published paper/s/scholarly work of which I am a joint author. I have included as part of the thesis a written declaration endorsed in writing by my supervisor, attesting to my contribution to the joint publication/s/scholarly work.

By signing below I confirm that Minah Amor Gaviola contributed significantly to the design; search strategy, including defining the inclusion and exclusion criteria and search terms; conducting the search and assessing retrieved articles for relevance; documenting a summary table of retrieved articles; assessing risk of bias and critically reviewing selected articles; interpretation of findings from the review, and writing of the publication entitled:

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Associate Professor Kerry Inder

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Glossary

Assistant in nursing (AIN) – refers to care staff and nursing assistants

Individualised music listening – refers to music listening based on the person's preferences. In the literature this is also described as personalised music listening and preferred music listening

Residential aged care facility (RACF) – in this study this refers to long-term care facilities, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, residential care, residential aged care, and residential aged care facilities

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Abstract

Background: Evidence demonstrates the promising impact of individualised music listening for people with dementia, however there is paucity of research on its implementation and uptake.

Objectives: To evaluate the impact of strategies utilised to improve the adoption, acceptability, appropriateness, feasibility, fidelity and sustainability associated with implementing an individualised music listening intervention, costs and effects of the intervention on older people with dementia.

Methods: A parallel mixed methods design was used involving a pre-test-post-test study and focus group and individual interviews. Trained staff and family or guardians implemented the individualised music intervention for older people with dementia in two residential care settings in NSW, Australia. The music intervention involved individualised music listening based on the person's music preferences as determined by the older person with dementia where possible and their family or guardian.

Strategies used to promote the implementation of the music intervention by staff and family or guardian included: training and education of staff, family and guardians regarding the music intervention, identification of program champions, providing and obtaining feedback about the implementation of the intervention, and reminders to prompt staff to implement the intervention. Application of the music intervention was recorded in a logbook over the 3-month research implementation period.

Measurements: At baseline and at the end of the 3-month research implementation, agitation, quality of life, and psychotropic medication use were measured using the Cohen-Mansfield Agitation Inventory, Dementia Quality of Life Questionnaire, and

medical records respectively. The Homecare Measure of Engagement Staff-Questionnaire was administered during each month of implementation. Qualitative interviews were conducted with staff and a guardian during the third month of research implementation.

Results: Of the 32 older people with dementia who consented to the study, 22 completed the individualised music intervention. Fourteen staff and seven family members or guardians participated in the training and implemented the music intervention. A total of 331 entries of individualised music listening implemented to participating older people were documented throughout the 3-month research implementation period. The total annual cost of the music intervention and its implementation for 32 older people across implementation sites was AU\$6,623.76.

There were significant improvements in quality of life and the people with dementia's engagement during the intervention increased throughout the implementation period.

Findings from the qualitative interviews revealed positive responses from older people with dementia and the simplicity of the intervention. Barriers to routine uptake of the intervention by participants included discomfort from headphones, and care and storage of equipment.

Conclusion: Regular implementation of an individualised music listening intervention in residential care for older people with dementia by staff and family or guardian is feasible. The music intervention is perceived as appropriate for older people with dementia by older people, family and staff. Findings of this study support the promising impact of individualised music listening as a low-cost, simple, and meaningful non-pharmacological intervention for older people with dementia.

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