



CENTRE FOR
Eye Research
Australia

Sharing power, safety and dignity of risk:

A community model of O&M practice

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the royal victorian
eye and ear
hospital



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Saving sight. Changing lives.

Outline

- Evidence-based practice – new scrutiny in O&M
- What is meant by O&M?
- How does O&M work?
 - Client-centred O&M & power
 - Community model of O&M practice
 - Safety, risk & environmental complexity

What is O&M?

- Greater/other than mobility + orientation
- Any waking action, within and between ADLs
- Professional practice
- Visible elements:
 - posture, balance, gait
 - self-protection, roads
 - mobility aids
- Invisible/tacit elements:
 - family & cultural expectations
 - interests, motivations, priorities, power



O&M has changed

1940s

Rehabilitation for blinded war veterans¹

- men
- under 30
- 57% blind
- long cane training
- focus: independence

2015

Re/habilitation services for low vision or blindness²

- men, women, children
- multiple disabilities
- > 90% low vision
- unique contexts/needs
- focus: self-determination

Client-centred₂ O&M?

Stakeholders separated by

- confidentiality
- privacy legislation

Panopticon model prison³

- late 18th century
- Jeremy Bentham
- Port Arthur
– Separate Prison



Power – clinical & functional

Clinic

- professional owns space
- client might own choices

Real-world contexts

- Power relationships are complex
- O&M clients ready for change
- Don't always know way forward
- Choices influenced by many



Community model of O&M practice⁴

- Relationships fluid, not fixed
- Long term or finite
- Reflexive – cycle of action and reflection
- Relationship web of varying densities



Safety and risk

Middle Ages⁵

- risks = acts of God (floods, fires, earthquakes)

Enlightenment

- shift from communal to individual

Now⁶

- personal choice...responsibility
 - occupational health and safety
 - duty of care
 - liability and litigation


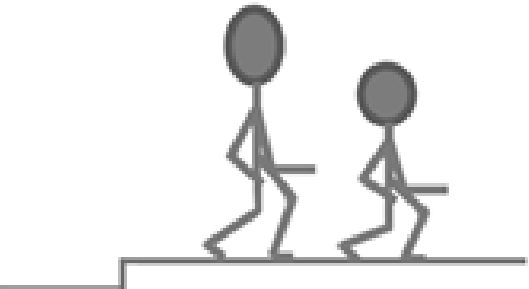
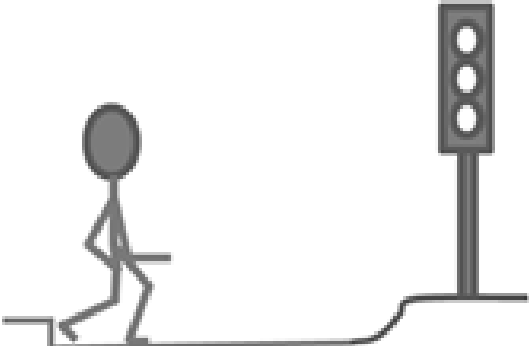
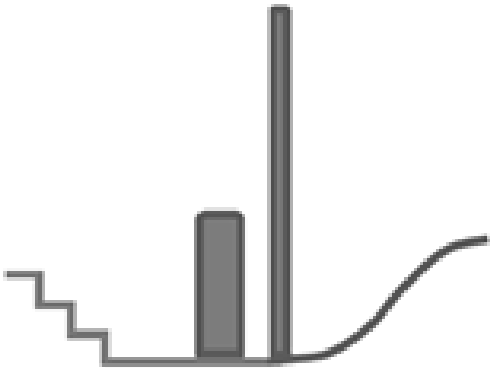

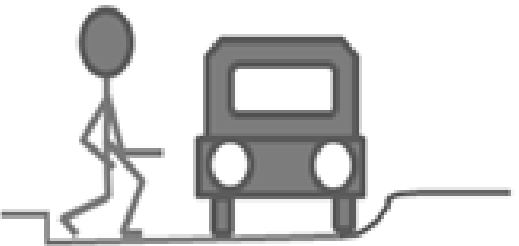


Risk in O&M

- Critical incidents are rare
- Success-based sequence of instruction⁷
- Discovery-learning⁸
- Power continually renegotiated
 - “Dignity of risk”⁹
- Calculated risk
- Risk Ax requires taking risks



O&M Environmental Complexity Scale

		Static, uninhabited	Dynamic, social	
		No movement	Pedestrian-paced	Traffic-paced
Simple	<p>Level 1: Bounded, predictable, no surprises</p> 	<p>Level 3: Mostly clear path; people nearby</p> 	<p>Level 5: Road crossing decisions indicated by traffic lights/guard</p> 	
	<p>Level 2: Obstacles and/or gradient; circumnavigation</p> 	<p>Level 4: Path obstructed; crowds; continual wayfinding</p> 	<p>Level 6: Road crossing decisions made independently</p> 	

In summary

Effective O&M action

- is supported by an intricate network of relationships
- is located in a broader cultural context

Social rules

- help to determine travel complexity
- impact on decisions about safety and risk

O&M intervention equips clients to

- claim power
- evaluate real risk
- make informed decisions about their own O&M action

Questions?

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