

## **Supplemental Material S1.** Focus group prompts.

**Part One.** The role of audiology clinic staff in detecting mental health signs and symptoms in adults with hearing loss; how they currently achieve this; and what they need to be better equipped for this.

Hearing loss can negatively affect interpersonal communication, leading to social withdrawal, social isolation, lower levels of self-esteem, and loneliness. It is not surprising then that older adults with hearing loss experience an increased risk of developing mental health problems, including anxiety and depression.

But people with hearing loss don't have to live with loneliness, anxiety or depression.

With the right help, these people can improve their mental health and live fulfilling lives.

### **Questions**

*How do people with hearing loss come to realise that they could benefit from support for their mental health?*

- Who helps them to realise that what they are experiencing is loneliness / anxiety / depression – and that these things are treatable?

*Is there a role for the audiologist to play in the detection of mental health signs and symptoms?*

- What do audiologists currently do?
- What could they do better?
- What would they need in order to do this?

*Is there a role for the audiometrist to play in the detection of mental health signs and symptoms?*

- What do audiometrist currently do?
- What could they do better?
- What would they need in order to do this?

*Is there a role for the clinic administration staff to play in the detection of mental health signs and symptoms?*

- What do clinic administration staff currently do?
- What could they do better?
- What would they need in order to do this?

*Is there a role for the clinic manager to play in the detection of mental health signs and symptoms?*

- What do clinic managers currently do?
- What could they do better?
- What would they need in order to do this?

*The American Speech and Language Association's Scope of Practice for audiologists describes the role of the audiologist as including use of "screening measures of mental health" to assist with the assessment, treatment and referral of mental health concerns (American Speech-Language-Hearing Association 2018).*

- What are your views on this?
- Do you think it is appropriate for audiologists/audiometrists to use mental health screening surveys in the audiology setting?
- What might the benefits be?
- What might the risks be?
- What might the challenges be?
- What would audiologists/audiometrists need to be able to start using these screening tools in their practice?

**Part Two.** The appropriateness, acceptability and usability of mental health screening measures in the audiology setting.

Participants were presented with the set of screening tools identified in Phase One and asked to discuss the following as a group:

**Appropriateness** is defined as "the quality of being suitable in the circumstances". With regard to survey research, appropriateness has been used to define whether the range of items evaluated in the survey are similar to the range of thoughts/feelings/behaviours/experiences held by the people being surveyed. This includes the content of the survey, the language used within it, and the way in which it is administered.

For example, people with social anxiety often avoid social functions with a large number of attendees. However, if you asked a group of adults with severe to profound hearing loss whether they avoid social function with a large number of attendees they would likely say yes. Not necessarily due social anxiety, but due to the fact that they cannot hear well in large groups of people. Thus, this question is not suitable as a measure of social anxiety for people with significant hearing loss.

And so, I'd like you to please look through the questions in these surveys and tell me if you think they are appropriate for people with hearing loss.

- Do you think the individual items are suitable for measuring mental health symptoms in adults with hearing loss, or is it likely that a significant hearing loss would confound the ability to answer this question?
- Are there any survey items that you feel might not be appropriate?

**Acceptability** is defined as "the quality of being accepted, tolerated or allowed". We are interested in whether you find the screening surveys acceptable.

- How comfortable would you be using these screening tools?
- Do you think it would be worthwhile using any of these?

**Acceptability** is important from the administrator's perspective, but also the client perspective.

- Do you think clients would find it acceptable for these screening tools to be used in the audiology setting?

**Usability** describes how people interact with the survey and how this interaction affects the quality of the survey.

- Do you think that you'd be able to administer these screening surveys?
- Do you think that you'd be able to score these screening surveys?
- Do you think that you'd be able to discuss the results and make a plan for next steps with your clients?