



# Jenny Bray Training & Consulting

## The AWACCS Instrument

### 'Identify the change not the cause'

#### Who developed the AWACCS?

In 2013 researchers Saravana Kumar and Jess Stanhope at the International Centre for Allied Health Evidence - iCAHE - completed a research project which developed a tool to screen for decline in community-dwelling individuals. This research was part of a larger Health Workforce Australia funded functional decline project.

The AWACCS instrument enables workers to identify changes they observe in their clients (e.g. functional, cognitive or physical - such as weight loss) and effectively report these to their supervisors. Organisations can then assist the individual to access information and timely early intervention. The tool can also identify improvements in function.

#### Copyright

Copyright remains with the authors and the authors' permission should be sought before using the tool. The researchers have been generous with such requests. For further information contact:

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#### Use of this Tool

The AWACCS instrument must be used in its original form. The end user(s) shall not modify, abridge, condense, adapt, recast, or transform the AWACCS instrument in any manner or form, without the prior written agreement of the developers. This includes, but is not limited to, any change to the words and/or the organisation of the questions contained in the AWACCS instrument. Please contact Sarah Jordans/Tania Westwood, Sansom Institute for Health Research (SALHN) if you intend changing the AWACCS instrument from its original form.

In addition, Dr Saravana Kumar provides the following information about the use of the AWACCS:

"While the AWACCS instrument was the vehicle which we used to drive change (support workers/care workers/case workers being able to identify and report changes to function), it was also supported by a range of other initiatives such as training, timely communication between support workers, service coordinators and allied health professionals and ensuring the feedback loop was closed (feeding back to the support workers/care workers/case workers what the identification of that change had meant for the client). We believe these critical success factors were important in the uptake and sustainability of the AWACCS instrument."

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**The AWACCS Instrument**  
**'Identify the change not the cause'**

If you have identified any important changes in the person you are caring for today, please tick (✓) in the box that describes the change and discuss it with your supervisor.

Name of client: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Activities of daily living**

Changes in personal care (washing), tasks at home (cleaning), food preparation, medications and financial management.

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Weight and nutrition**

Changes in weight, eating and drinking habits and overall interest in nutrition.

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Awareness**

Changes in awareness of surroundings, people, time and day and general alertness.

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Condition**

Changes in general condition including walking, getting up from a chair, transferring and strength/endurance.

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cognition**

Changes in memory, problem solving, capacity to make decisions, understanding information and general chit-chat.

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Social**

Changes in interests, engaging with people, participation in social activities and hobbies.

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Reported by: \_\_\_\_\_ Reported to: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Action Plan** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Organisational Process

Follow up Required \_\_\_\_\_

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Outcome \_\_\_\_\_

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Service request submitted?                      Yes                       No

Support Worker informed of outcome?                      Yes                       No



An Australian Government Initiative

*This project was possible due to funding made available by Health Workforce Australia as an Australian Government Initiative*

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