**Title:**

Spotlight on siblings: Implications for home modification practice

**Aims:**

* To identify siblings as the forgotten consumer of home modifications
* To increase knowledge of how home modifications can impact siblings in a positive and negative manner.
* To present a case study that reviews how home modifications impacted on siblings and how this was addressed.
* To provide guidance for community-based occupational therapists when prescribing home modifications, that is inclusive of both the client and sibling’s needs.

**Findings/Outcomes:**

Disability is a unique, shared experience for a family, and can affect all aspects of family functioning. Home Modifications are often required for people with disabilities to enable improved safety, independence and for support services to be provided in the home.

Modifications to the home have the potential to change the way “home” is experienced by all members of the family. Siblings are often a forgotten consumer of home modifications, as government policies espouse a focus on the needs of the client and carer(s). Unfortunately, limited research is available to guide occupational therapists with how to include siblings when prescribing home modifications.

This poster presents a case study of a 7-year old client who required a major bathroom modification and the impact of these modifications on the clients’ four siblings aged 3 to 13 years. It provides guidance for practice developed for our occupational therapy team to ensure siblings are not forgotten. This guidance is framed around the “S’s for Siblings”, which are: safety, space, structure, support and style.