

Integrating New Technology Into Rehabilitation Practice

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AUT

There is growing interest in the development and integration of new technologies in rehabilitation

Aims: explore the perspectives of clinicians and developers regarding what helps or hinders integration of new technologies into practice

Questions we asked



What could improve the likelihood of a new technology being successfully integrated into rehabilitation practice?



What gets in the way?



What might enable the normalisation of technology in practice?

33 participants

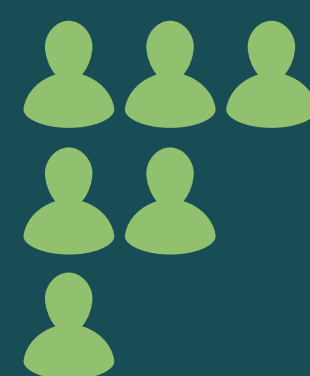
4 focus groups

12 interviews

22 females

11 males

26 clinical staff



12 general neuro

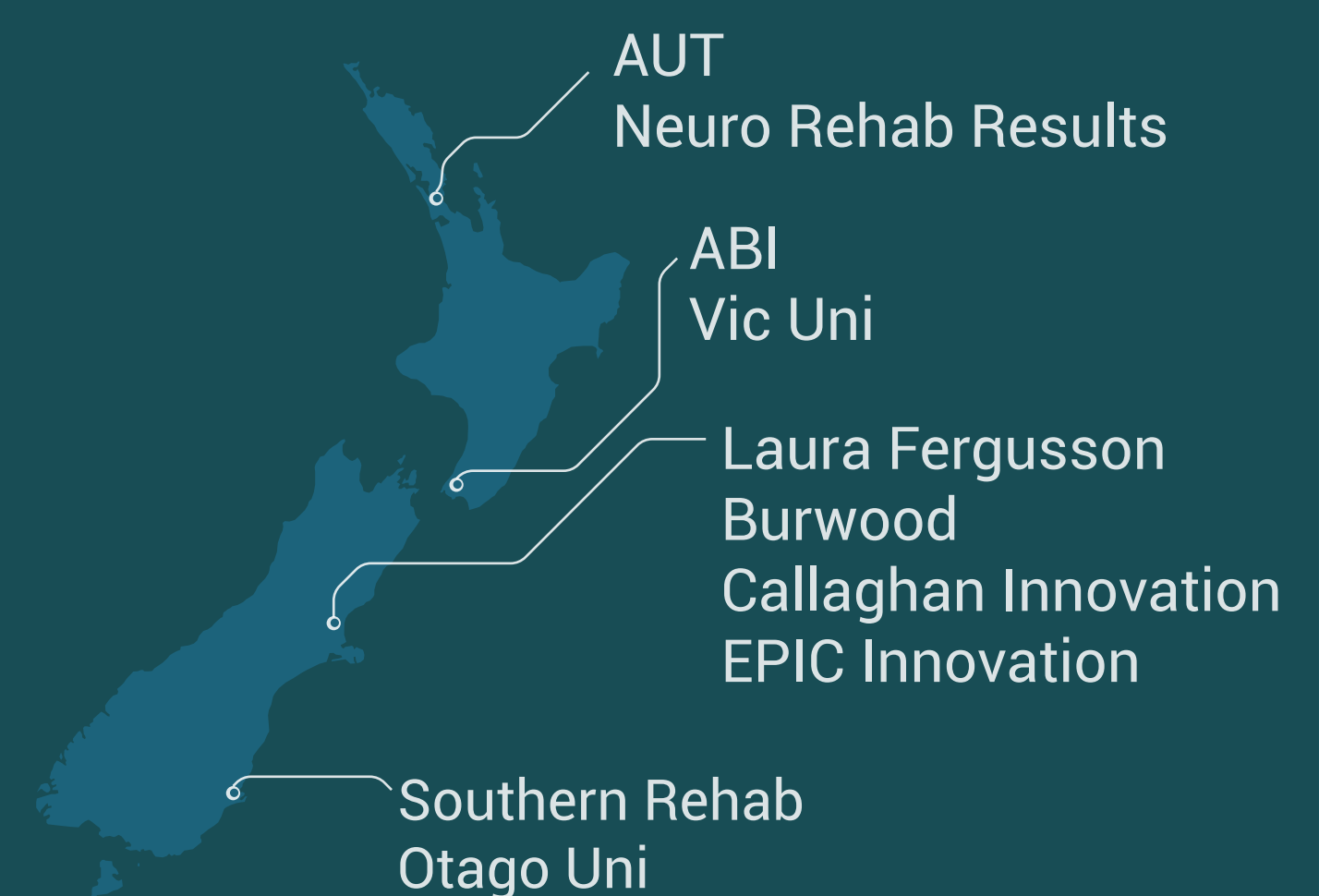
6 brain injury

3 both

2 engineers

2 developers

3 researchers



Layers of barriers



If cost was no issue

Interviewer : When you hear "rehab technologies" what comes to mind?

Participant : Expensive (Clinician)



It fits a need

"If it's filling a void in an area that needs to be addressed ... that will make anything go into practice" (Clinician)



It has robust evidence

"The manufacturer could have conducted their own poor quality trial that's biased and isn't addressing the properties of a good quality trial" (Clinician)



Then what?

"Sometimes it is just down to that I just don't have enough time and other priorities come up" (Clinician)

"Will it hinder the therapeutic relationship with my client? Sometimes having technology can stop that natural relationship from forming" (Clinician)

Collaboration opportunities



Problem ideation

"Get users involved, therapists involved, designers involved to say 'this is actually a problem, can we come up with a solution?' As opposed to here's a solution" (Clinician)



Planning & discovery

"I am considering volunteering to a hospital just to get a better background on what it means to be a clinician, to actually see what they are doing on a daily basis" (Developer)



Design & development

"Actually this is a clinical problem, I would love to be involved. Don't shut me out, I would like to be involved in the process, just keep me informed." (Clinician)



Responsive refinement

"The [clinicians] that are less prescriptive are a little more open to actually new ideas and improvements" (Developer)



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