

**HOW DO YOU CHANGE YOUR CHANNELS?
A SIMPLE ALTERNATIVE
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Currently available electronic aids to daily living (EADLs) that allow users independent access in their environment can be technically complex or cognitively demanding to operate. Users that have difficulty accessing these EADLs are left with few options to choose from. Young children and users that cannot manage scanning devices have particular difficulty finding suitable EADLs.

As a result, a custom adapted television remote control was developed to allow independent control of two functions—power on/off, and selecting amongst favourite channels, accessed via a single switch site. A pilot study was conducted to determine the usefulness of the custom adapted television remote and to gather consumer feedback. Children and young adults with physical disabilities between the ages of 6-18 years, who were able to activate a single switch, were asked to participate in this study. Participants had the opportunity to use the remote for 2 weeks. Participants and their caregivers were asked to complete assessments and questionnaires prior to and upon completion of the trial period to provide feedback on the adapted remote. This paper will share the results and planned future steps of the study. It is anticipated that the adapted remote could be a solution to fill the current void in simple, easy-to-use EADLs, and provide users with an alternative option to what is currently available.

Speaker Bio

Anne Martin is an occupational therapist who has been working at Bloorview Kids Rehab for 10 years. She is part of the Electronic Aids to Daily Living and Communication and Writing Aids Services. Ka Lun Tam is an engineer who has also worked at Bloorview for 10 years. He is an engineer in the Electronic Aids to Daily Living Service specializing in custom adaptive equipment for people with disabilities.