

Using DCE methods to estimate the value of informal care: the case of children with intellectual disability

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Valuing informal care

- Informal care refers to unpaid assistance provided by non-professional caregivers to a family member or friend.
 - Informal care is rarely included in economic evaluations
 - While informal care is by definition, unpaid, it has an implicit economic value that includes the opportunity cost of time spent caregiving
 - Traditionally valued use replacement wages or opportunity cost approaches
 - But informal care includes other positive (e.g. satisfaction) and negative effects (e.g. stress)



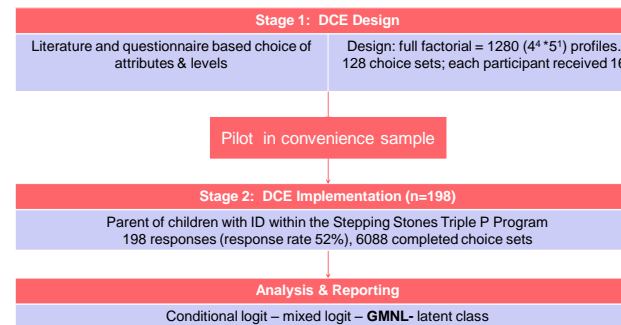


Aim of this project

- Undertake a preference-based monetary valuation of informal care provided to children with intellectual disability (ID)
- Intellectual disability (ID)
 - ID is characterised by an impairment of intellectual functions and adaptive functioning
 - Children with ID often have significant educational, social and health care needs
 - Caring for a child with ID places significant demands on caregivers.
 - ID in Australia - Families spend 52-85 hours per week on care for their child with ID
- Overall project aim to see if these values can be directly applied in economic evaluations



Stepping Stones Triple P – Analysis approach



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Development of attributes and levels

- Attributes were identified by literature review, a pilot study and clinical consultation

Attribute	Description	Levels
Personal care	Dressing, toileting, meals, taking your child to school, attending appointments and administering medications	0, 3, 6, 9 hours per week
Social support	Playing with your child, supervision, companionship, teaching and emotional support	0, 3, 6, 9 hours per week
Errands	Grocery shopping, keeping records, paying bills	0, 3, 6, 9 hours per week
Housework	Preparing meals, washing clothes, cleaning and ironing	0, 3, 6, 9 hours per week
Cash compensation	Dollars received per week (Presented to the respondent as a \$ per week value) Total informal care package ranged from zero (0 hrs*4 attributes) to 36 (9*4) hours.	\$0 per hour \$6 per hour \$16 per hour (minimum wage) \$26 per hour (aver carers wage) \$36 per hour (average wage in Australia)

DCE Design

- Example choice set
 - 12 hrs of care (3hr x 4)
 - Care = \$16 per hour
 - Plus a constant -\$50
- Respondent choice
 - Care package, or
 - \$240 per week

Imagine that the following assistance in care for you child has been offered to you at no extra cost

Care for you child	Assistance per week
Personal care (including transport for you child) e.g. dressing, toileting, meals, taking your child to school or other activities, attending appointments and administering medications	3 hours per week
Social Support e.g. playing with your child, supervision, companionship, teaching and emotional support	3 hours per week
Household Errands e.g. grocery shopping, keeping records, paying bills	3 hours per week
Housework e.g. preparing meals, washing clothes, cleaning and ironing	3 hours per week

If you were given a choice between receiving the assistance package described above or providing the care yourself and receiving \$240 per week, which would you choose?

Receive the assistance package described above at no extra cost
 Provide the care yourself and receive \$240 per week



DCE model estimates

- 4% always chose to receive the assistance package.
- 23% always chose to receive the cash compensation
- 73% traded between the two options

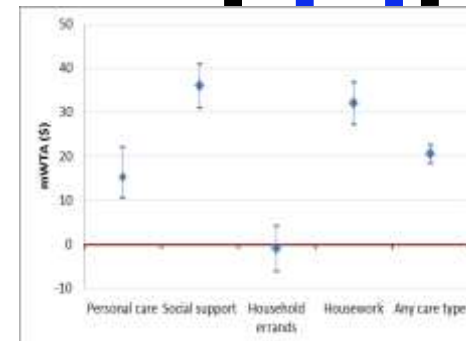
	GMNL
Coefficient (SE)	
ASC for Option 2 (cash compensation)	2.20***(0.56)
Cash compensation	0.02***(0.00)
Hours of personal care	0.24***(0.07)
Hours of social support	0.57***(0.13)
Hours of household errands	-0.01 (0.04)
Hours of housework	0.51***(0.12)
Standard deviation of random parameters	
ASC for Option 2 (cash compensation)	3.77*
Personal care	0.27*
Social support	0.28*
Household errands	0.28*
Housework	3.77*



USING DCE METHODS TO VALUE INFORMAL CARE

Key findings

- Marginal willingness to accept compensation to provide one hour of care, by care type
- Results
 - Any care = \$21
 - Highest value = Social support (\$36)
 - Lowest value = Errands (\$0)





Policy Implications

- DCE valuations
 - Values were lower than would be expected using traditional approaches
 - Informal care tasks are not valued equally
 - May reflect the satisfaction / pleasure derived by an individual from providing care for a family member
- These values that can be directly applied in economic evaluations to estimate the value of informal care (in children with ID)
- Final thoughts
 - By better understanding the needs and preferences of caregivers, policy makers are better able to provide appropriate resources that can reduce the emotional, practical and time burden faced by this group.



Thank You

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