# Exercise Right: Tips about Exercise, Aging and Your Health



"What fits your busy schedule better, exercising one hour a day or being dead 24 hours a day?"



### Robert Robergs, PhD, ESSAM, AEP, EPC, FASEP

Associate Professor: Exercise Science School of Exercise & Nutrition Sciences Faculty of Health QUT

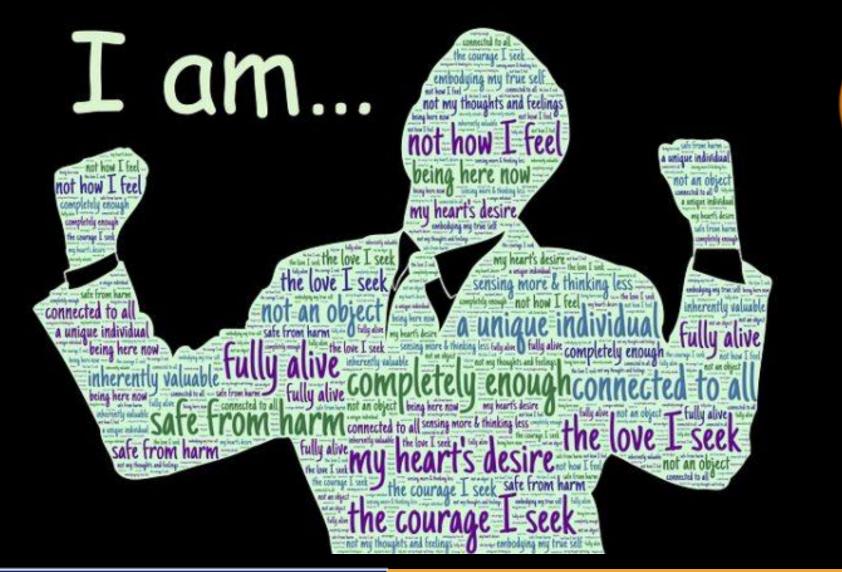


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# What is your most valuable possession?



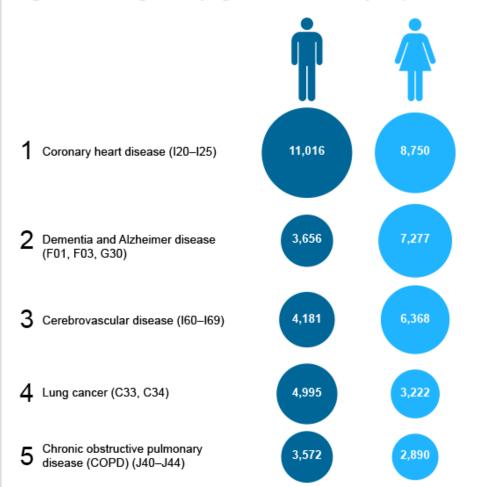
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### **Current Killers. What do we know?**

Figure 1: Leading underlying causes of death by sex, 2013





"Eat less, exercise more and alter your genetic code with the DNA of thin parents."

http://www.aihw.gov.au/deaths/leading-causes-of-death/#leading-age



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### **Bigger Picture**

80**-**

70.

60-

50-

40-

30-

20.

10-

0

Response

%

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#### Figure 2: Leading underlying causes of death in Australia by age group, 2011–2013

3rd

2nd

5th

Other

Selected

metabolic

disorders

Other

Cerebral palsy &

related

External

Event of

undetermined

intent

Cancer

Breast cancer

External

Suicide

Cancer

Respiratory

COPD

Circulatory

Heart failure

Respiratory

Influenza &

pneumonia

4th

External

External

External

Assault

Circulatory

disease

Cancer

Circulatory

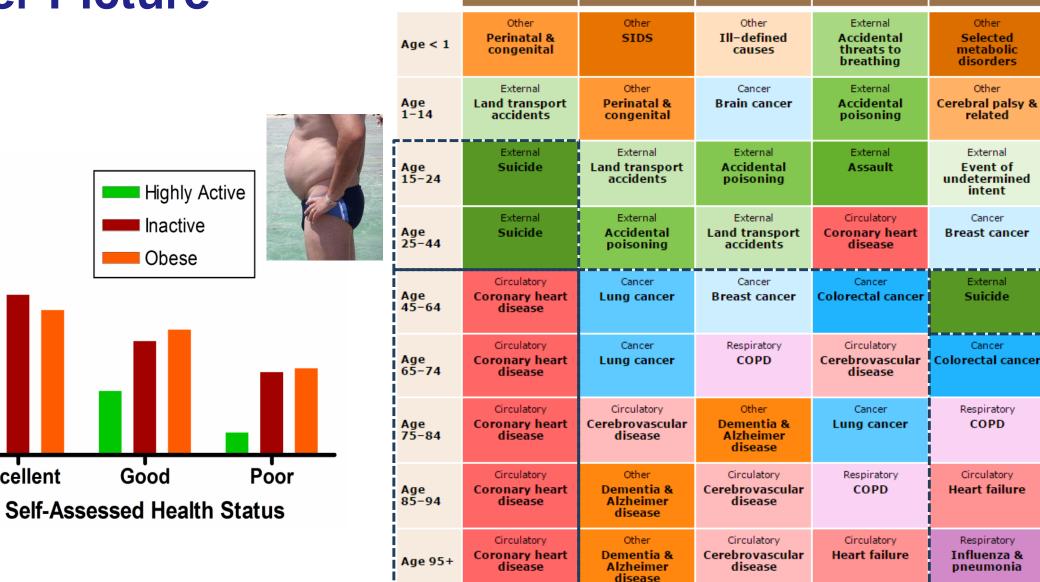
disease

Cancer

Respiratory

COPD

Circulatory



1st

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### Are You Gambling With Your Life?



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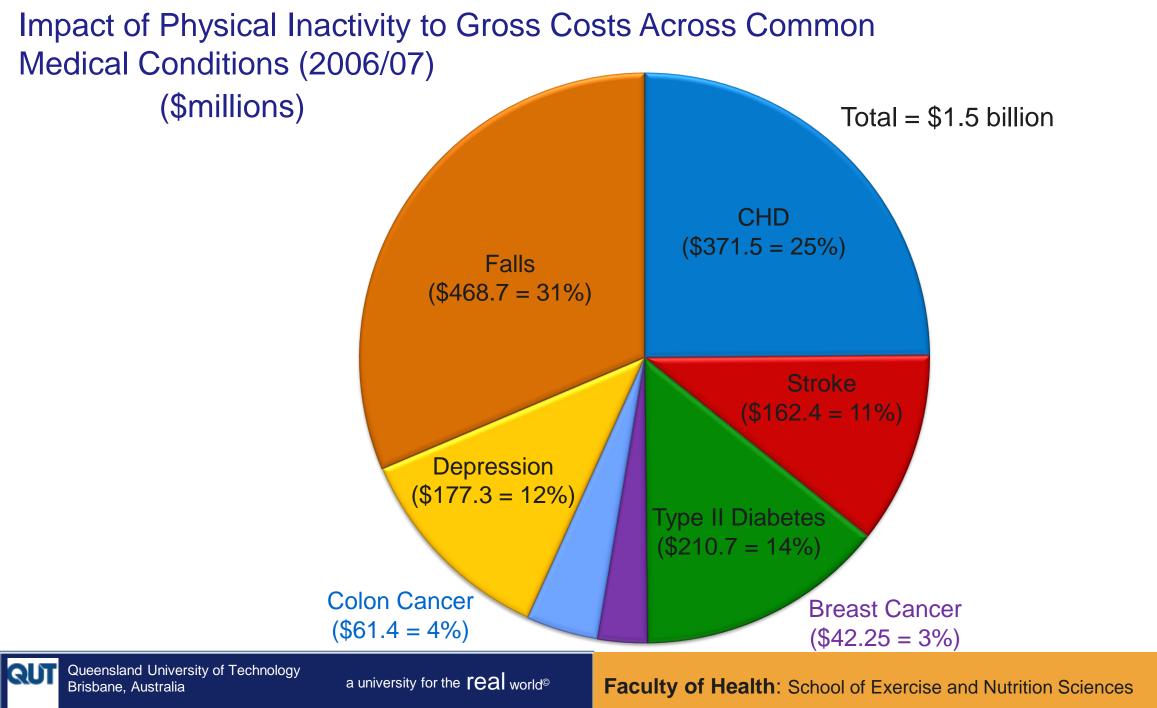


#### Table 1: Risk factors for developing CVD, type 2 diabetes or CKD

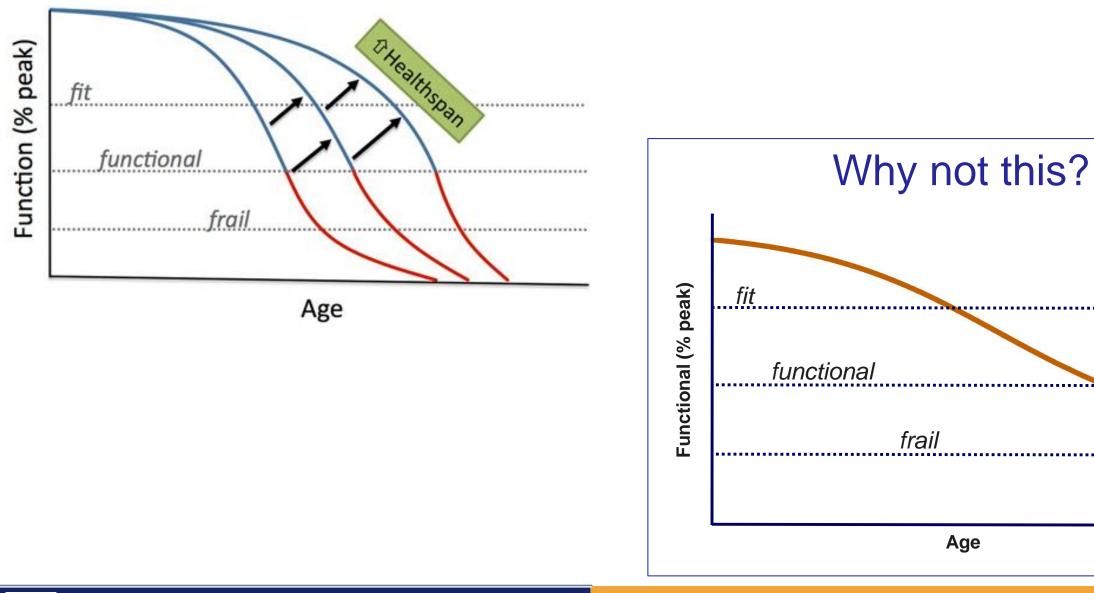
	CVD	Type 2 diabetes	CKD
Behavioural risk factors			
Tobacco smoking	✓	✓	✓
Insufficient physical activity	~	✓	~
Excessive alcohol consumption	1		?
Inadequate fruit and vegetable consumption	~	✓	×
Biomedical risk factors			
<ul> <li>Overweight and obesity</li> </ul>	~	✓	~
High blood pressure	~	✓	$\checkmark$
-> Dyslipidaemia	1	✓	
<ul> <li>Impaired glucose regulation</li> </ul>	1	✓	~



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What is the rate of our demise?

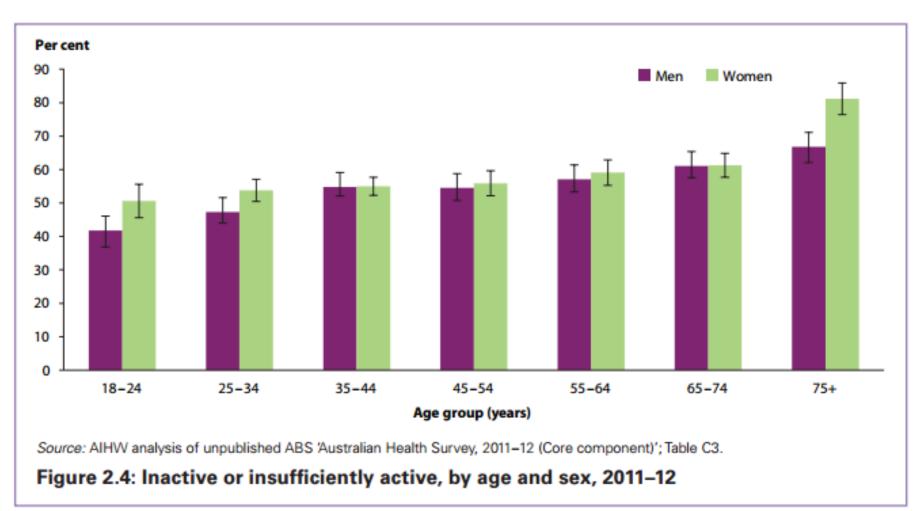


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### Why does aging coincide with sedentary living?



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### **Exercise Training**

### What do we know?

Australia's Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines

#### 18-64 years

• Doing any physical activity is better than doing none. If you currently do no physical activity, start by doing some, and gradually build up to the recommended amount.

- Be active on most, preferably all, days every week.
- Accumulate 150 to 300 minutes (2 ½ to 5 hours) of moderate intensity physical activity

### Or

75 to 150 minutes (1 ¼ to 2 ½ hours) of vigorous intensity physical activity, or an equivalent combination of both moderate and vigorous activities, each week.

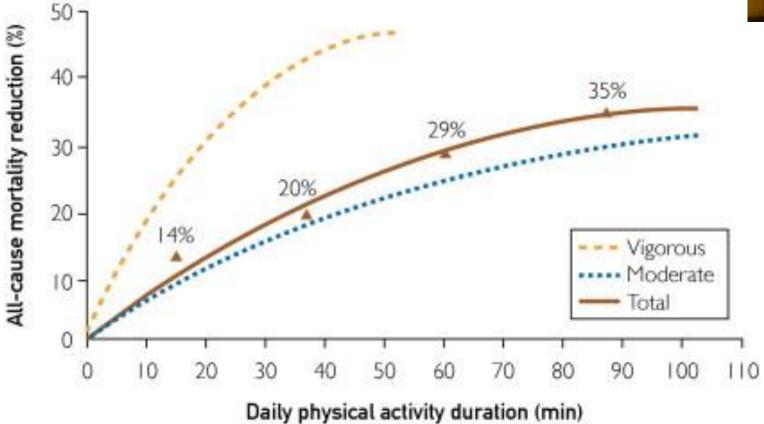
- Do muscle strengthening activities on at least 2 days each week.
- Minimise the amount of time spent in prolonged sitting.
- Break up long periods of sitting as often as possible.



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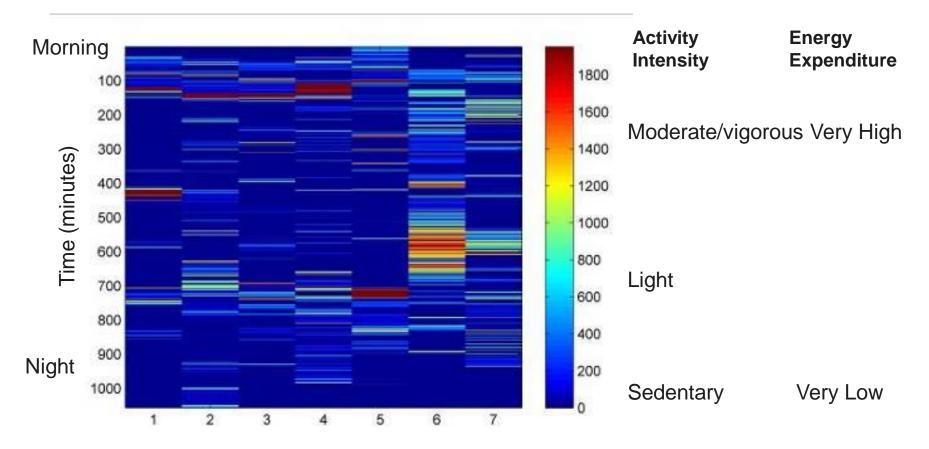


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### You can be 'active', but also highly sedentary!

The 'Active' Couch Potato



Mean mod-to-vigorous time = 31 mins/day % Waking hours spent in Sedentary = 71%

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### **Exercise Training**

### What do we know?

Australia's Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines

#### >64 years

- Older people should do some form of physical activity, no matter what their age, weight, health problems or abilities.
- Older people should be active every day in as many ways as possible, doing a range of physical activities that incorporate fitness, strength, balance and flexibility.
- Older people should accumulate at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity on most, preferably all, days.
- Older people who have stopped physical activity, or who are starting a new physical activity, should start at a level that is easily
  manageable and gradually build up the recommended amount, type and frequency of activity.
- Older people who continue to enjoy a lifetime of vigorous physical activity should carry on doing so in a manner suited to their capability into later life, provided recommended safety procedures and guidelines are adhered to.





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### What You Need To Do

See your doctor





#### Request medical tests





Set realistic goals





Podiatrist ? Physiotherapist ?

Request allied health referrals

Diabetes Educator

Accredited Exercise Physiologist (AEP)

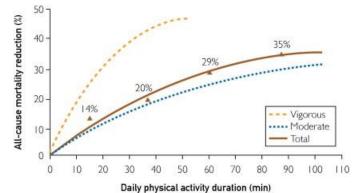


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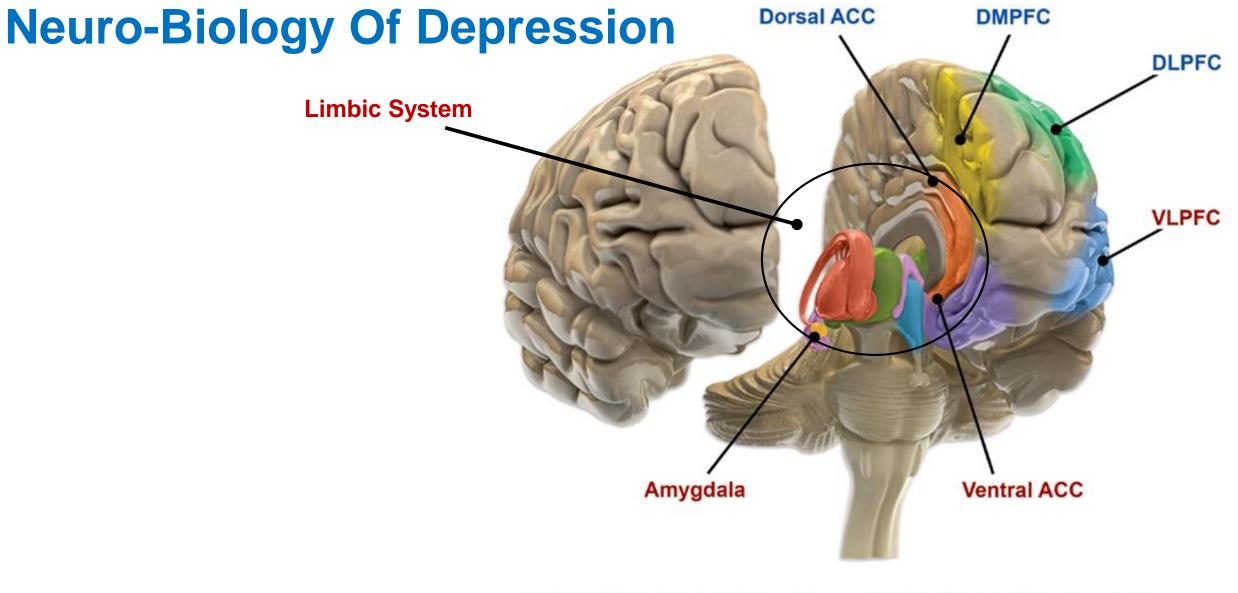






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DLPFC: Dorsolateral prefrontal cortex VLPFC: Ventrolateral prefrontal cortex **DMPFC:** Dorsomedial prefrontal cortex **ACC:** Anterior cingulate cortex



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### The Realities Of Mental Health

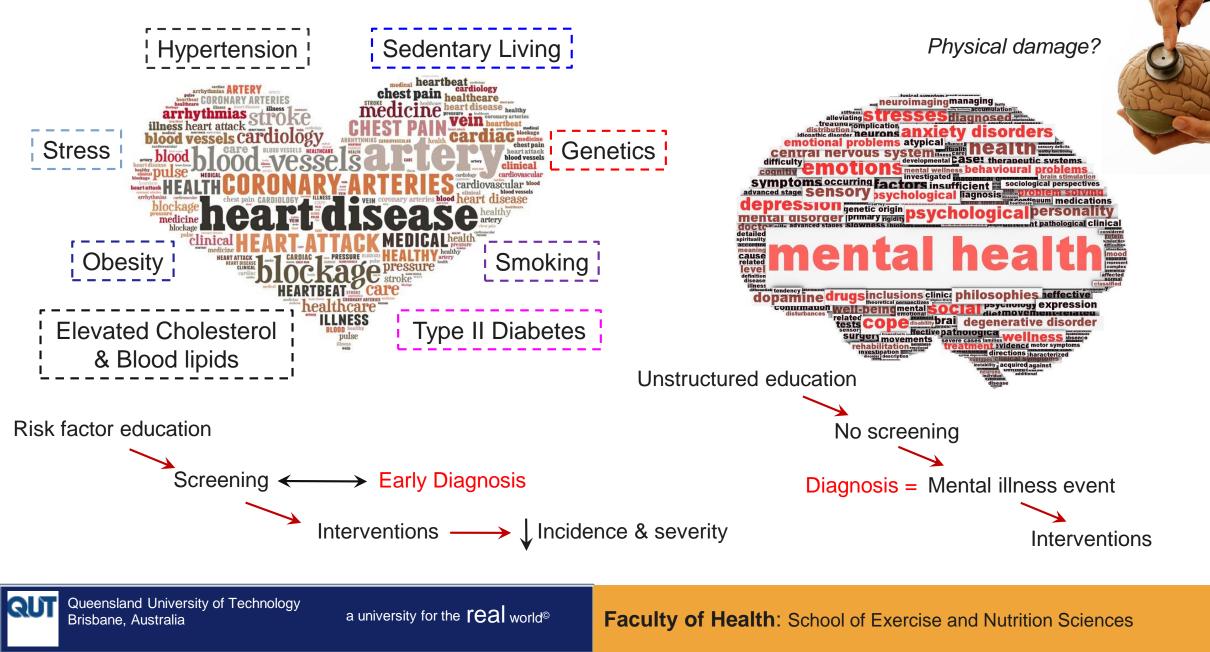
- One in 5 Australians (20%) aged 16-85 years experience a mental health episode in any year!
- \* The most common mental illnesses are depression, anxiety and substance abuse.
- Almost one half (45%) of all Australians will experience a mental illness in their lifetime!
- In Australia, mid- to late adolescence youth (18-24 years) have the highest incidence of mental illness.
- ✓ Estimates are that 54% of all individuals with mental illness do not receive treatment.
- ✓ But 74% of people who receive treatment experience dramatic improvement.
- ✓ Suicide is the leading cause of death in Australia for individuals aged 15-44 years!
- ✓ 65,300 Australians attempt suicide every year!



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### Physical Disease vs. Mental Health



### The Messy Development Of The Distraction-Relief Theory

- My education
- My early research career
- Playing squash
- 1980's: George Sheehan's Runner's World column
- 1980-1990's: Endogenous opioid theory for exercise and mood
- Tim Noakes' Central Governor Theory
- October, 2013: My own experience with mental health
- The neurobiology of the limbic system
- Colleagues' and friends' children with autism
- 2015: Acute movement therapy at Bathurst Hospital Panorama Clinic
- 2017: ABC radio documentary: "The Source of Consciousness"

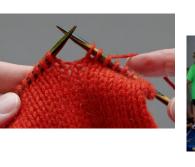
**Faculty of Health:** School of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences

Mesolimbic











### My Movement Therapy Program At Panorama Clinic





- Don't just walk!
- Move more vigorously if you can
- If not, move more complexly
- Incorporate mindfulness as a "cool down"
- Aim to alter consciousness







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### **Movement Recommendations**

- Any foreign, or complex movement would be beneficial
- Exercise would also oppose sedentary lifestyle disease risk factors.
- Wilf exercise is chosen, perform more complex movement.
- \* If exercise is chosen, and the individual's medical status is suitable, perform more intense exercise.
- W The more acute the mental health condition, the less intense and more complex/foreign/sensory the movement should be.
- Unusual activities that have worked well for me?



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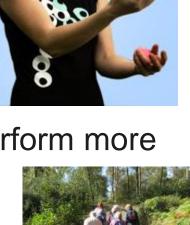








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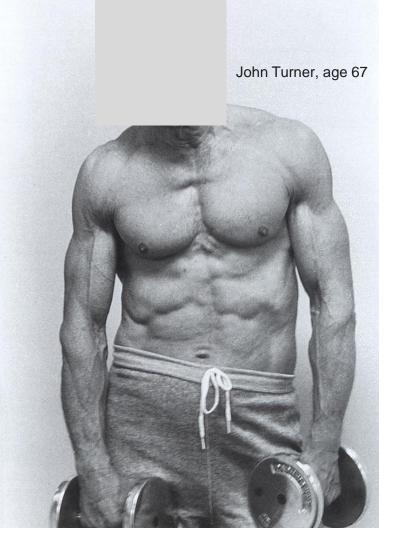


# Aging Can Be Active & Healthy!



### What is your decision?





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## **QUESTIONS ?**



### It is not how old you are, but how you are old! Jules Renard

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