



Government of Western Australia
Child and Adolescent Health Service



Navigating Diverse Journeys: The dual process model and parental responses to infant hearing loss

Pia Leeming, Amy Hannigan, Tamara Veselinovic, Nicole Irvine
Family Support Facilitator
Newborn Hearing Screening Program
Perth Children's Hospital
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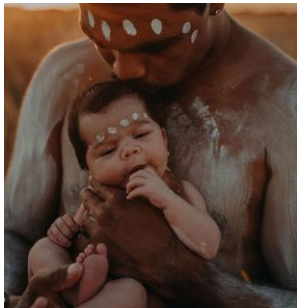
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Acknowledgement of country

I want to acknowledge the Ngunnawal people, the traditional custodians of Ngambri on which we are meeting today. I want to recognize the parents who have nurtured many generations of children inhabiting this land for thousands of years and continuing today.



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“I think herein lies the difficulty of the whole experience. What you expect didn’t eventuate, and you’re now set on a whole *new path*, one that you weren’t prepared for, that you didn’t ask for, that you don’t have a roadmap for. I needed some time to come to terms with that shift.”

Sarah, mother of Finn, (Callander & Maddigan, n.d.)



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Navigate /navigeyt/ (verb): to find one's way through a complex situation or environment, often by making careful decisions and adjustments.

Adapted from multiple sources, including Oxford English Dictionary (n.d.) and Merriam-Webster (n.d.)

The Dual Process Model (DPM)

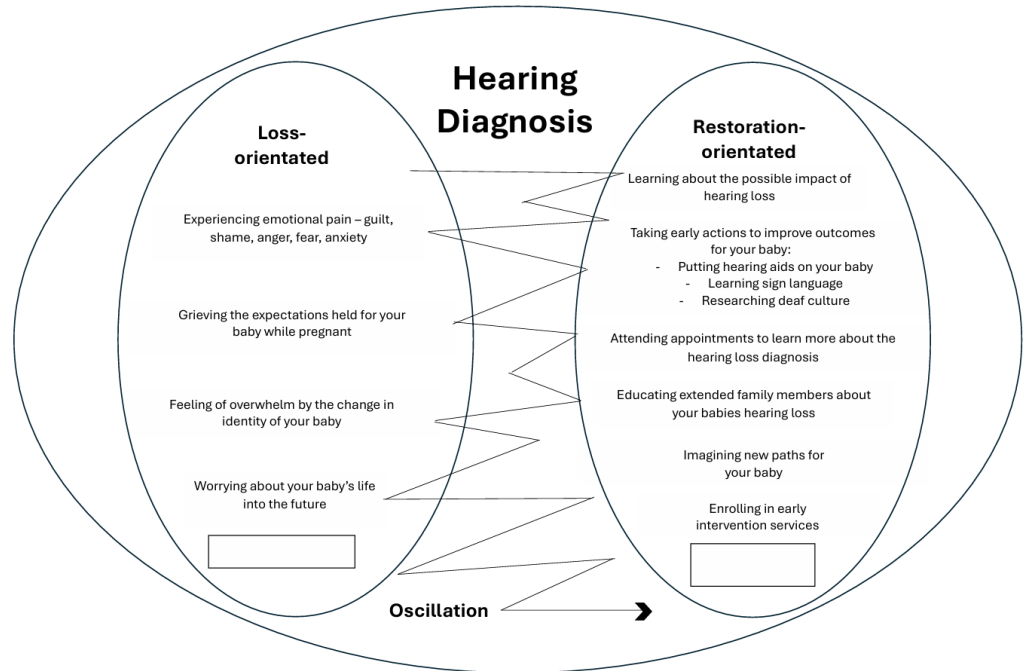
- Developed by Margaret Stroebe & Henk Schut
- Proposes that grief is dualistic and involves oscillating between two types of processing:
 - Loss - orientated
 - Restoration - orientated



Application of the DPM to population with hearing diagnosis

- Grief consists of oscillation between attending to the hearing loss and then moving it to a tolerable distance so life changes can be acted upon (Schmulian & Lind, 2019)

Parents of infants with a hearing diagnosis



Adapted from: Strobel & Shutz (1999) Dual Processing Model



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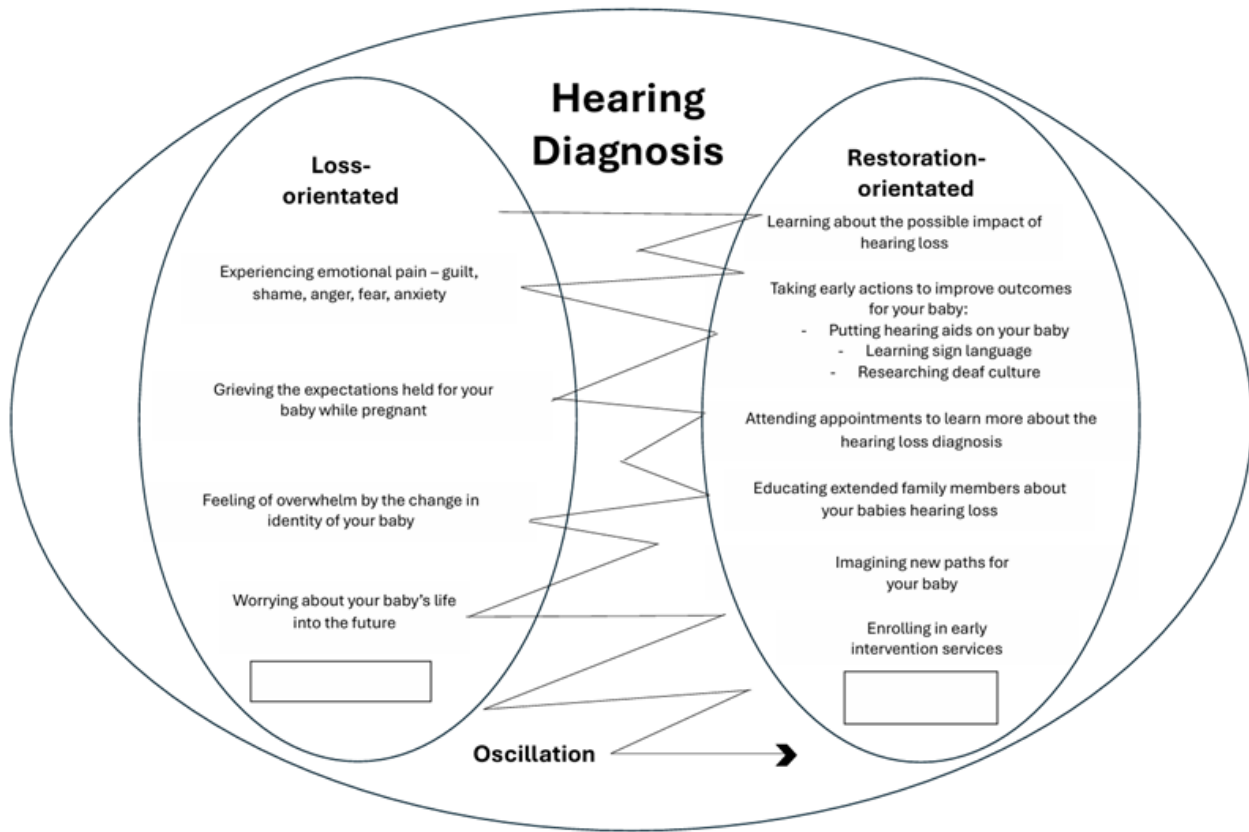
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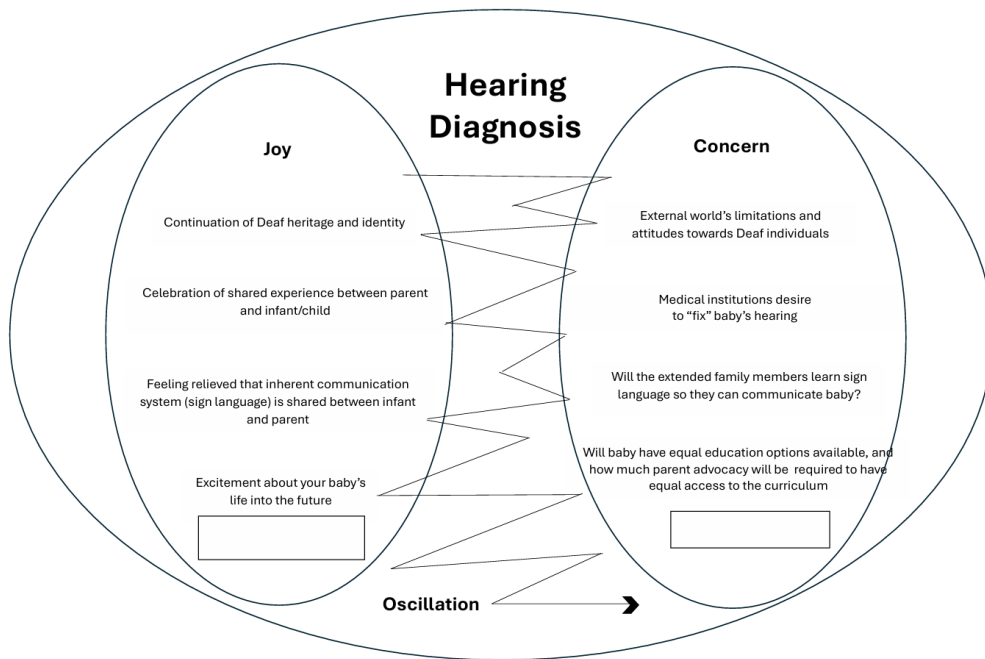


Application of the DPM; supporting parent experiences of diagnosis

- Enables individualised experiences of grief and coping, therefore requiring clinicians to be sensitive and responsive to the parents' grief responses

Deaf Culture Perspective

- Continuation of Deaf identity, celebrated as natural part of life
- Concern about societal attitudes to deafness



Adapted from: Strobel & Shutz (1999) Dual Processing Model



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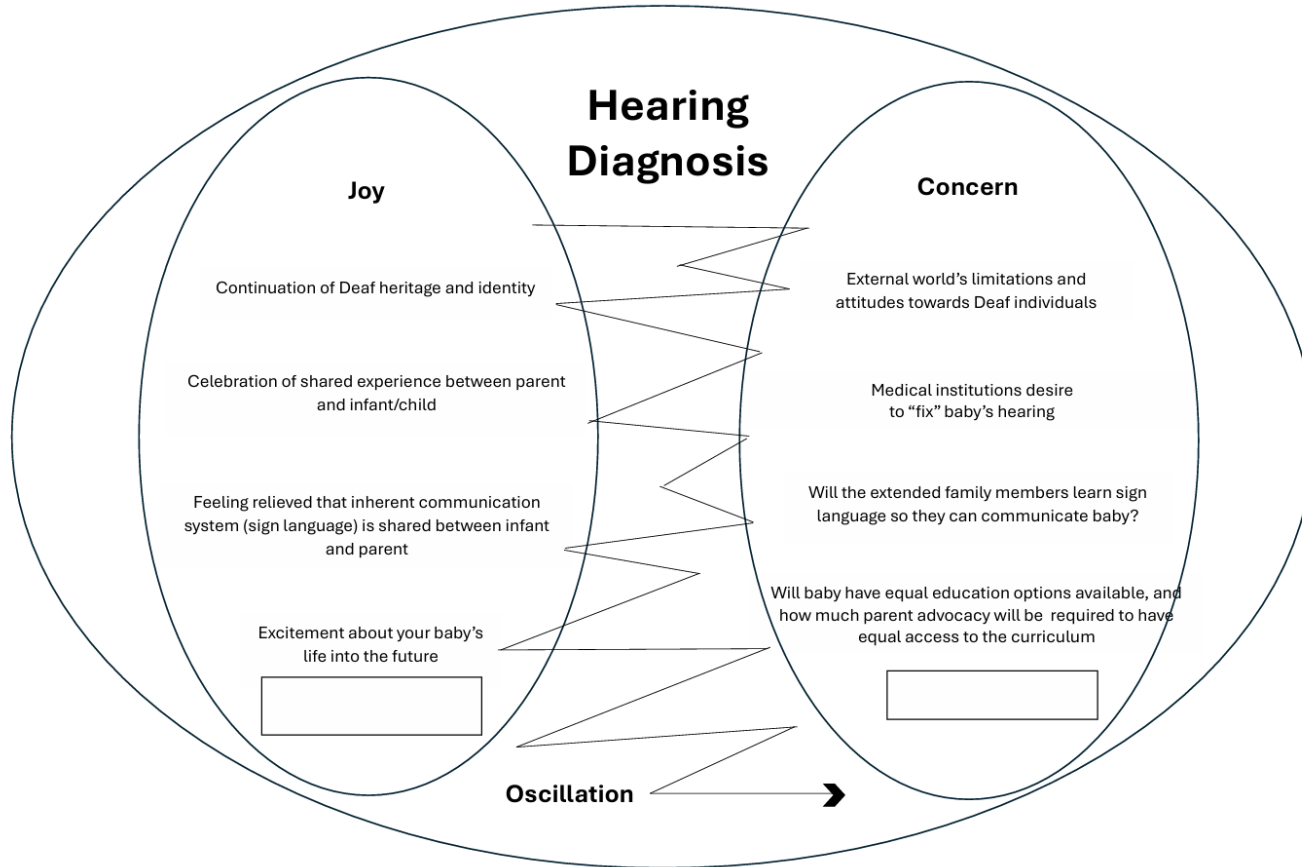
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Dual Process Model, therefore:

- Normalises different grieving styles
- Allows for functional adaptation
- It moves away from rigid stages
- Requires the health professional to be attuned to the orientation of the parent

Practical applications of the DPM

- Encourage parent to reflect by looking at the model and wondering....
 - Where do you feel you spend most of your time currently?
 - What would support you to oscillate between the two orientations?
 - What are some barriers that prevent oscillation?

“Stuckness”

Parents can become stuck in either loss or restoration orientations with little to no oscillation



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“Stuckness” in the parent-infant relationship

Infants are highly sensitive to their care-givers’ emotional states, so the parent’s mental and emotional well-being becomes central to the infant’s well-being

(Baradon, 2016)

The parent-infant relationship

- Supporting parents to process their emotional responses to diagnosis will facilitate their attunement to their infants emotional needs more quickly (Fear, 2018)

Stuck in loss-orientated coping

Support by:

- Encourage emotional expression and acknowledge parents' feelings
- Reframe the narrative from hearing loss to a different path
- Guide parent toward tuning into their infant's cues rather than focusing on what their child "lacks"



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Stuck in restoration-orientated coping

Support by:

- Slow down process of action (i.e. appointments)
- Create safe space for vulnerability
- Invite exploration of feelings and validate them
- Encouragement attunement to infant's feelings and experience



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“Stuckness” requires additional support

- Observing and identifying parents who are stuck in either a loss or restoration orientation mode with little to no oscillation may require referral for additional support

Supporting the parent-infant relationship

- When parents adjust to their infant's hearing diagnosis and engage with them warmly, they create a sense of security. This fosters a strong and positive self-identity in the infant, independent of their hearing challenges

To summarise:

- Oscillation between loss and restoration orientations provides a balanced and flexible model for the processing of emotions and establishing of active behaviours.
- This process supports the development of a coherent narrative when an infant is diagnosed with a hearing loss which has the potential to positively influence the parent-infant relationship.

To consider:

- How can clinicians educated in the DPM effectively support parents to process their child's hearing diagnosis by facilitating the oscillations between loss and coping orientations?

(Koshy et al., 2017, Wicker et al., 2017)

Thank you for listening/watching!!

Comments and feedback
valued and welcomed 😊

pia.leeming@health.wa.gov.au



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