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# Making A Success Of Custom Moulded Seating



# Meet the Presenter

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Kate Pain, OT



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## Learning Objectives

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- Describe key factors in selecting custom moulded seating as the most suitable postural support option.
  - Demonstrate awareness of potential barriers to success with custom moulded seating.
  - List strategies to ensure optimal outcomes for postural support, function and pressure care
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## Custom Contoured/Moulded Seating

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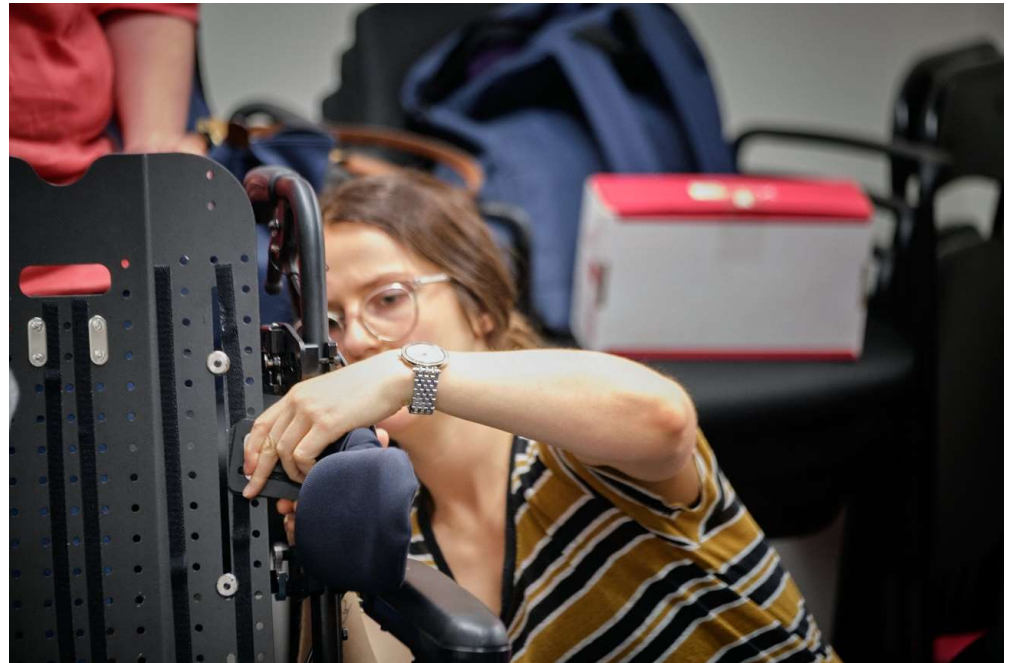
- AT designed to provide a balance of postural support and pressure relief<sup>1</sup>
  - Intimate contours of user's body
  - Aims to prevent PI, postural asymmetry, pain<sup>2</sup>
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## Why (Not) Custom Moulded Seating?

- Flat butts!
- Heavy/bulky
- Expensive in comparison with modular systems
- Restrict function
- Foam-in-place = messy!
- You get one shot!

## Benefits of Modular Seating

- Ease of adjustment
  - Seasonal
  - Weight change
  - Postural change
  - Growth



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## Benefits of Modular Seating (cont'd)

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- Easy to swap out components
- Easy to upgrade to match changing condition



## What Can a Well-Designed Custom Moulded Seating System Do?

- Intimate contouring = pressure distribution
- Mounting hardware
  - Weight
  - Adjustment
- Modifications
- Durability

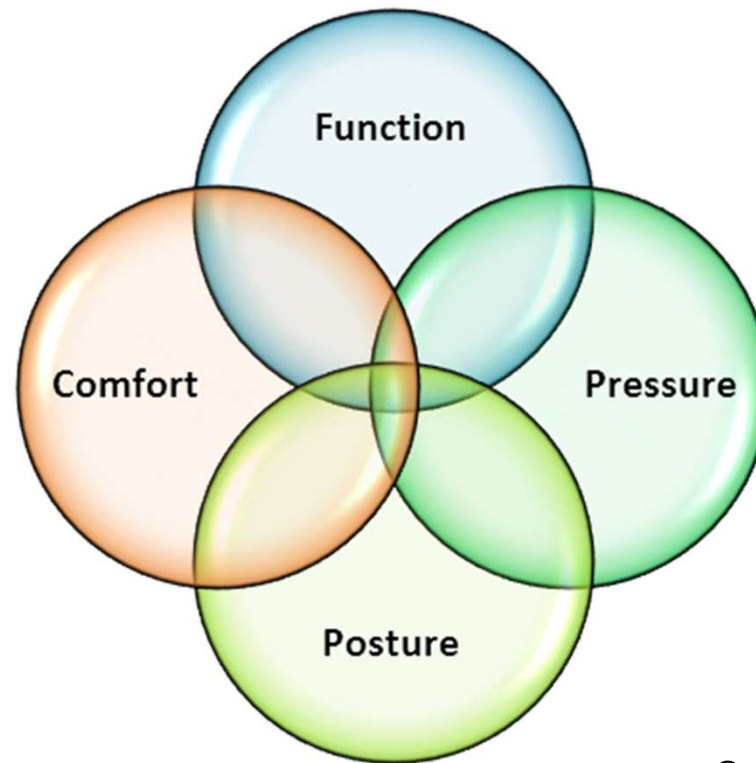




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## What are we aiming for in “good” seating?

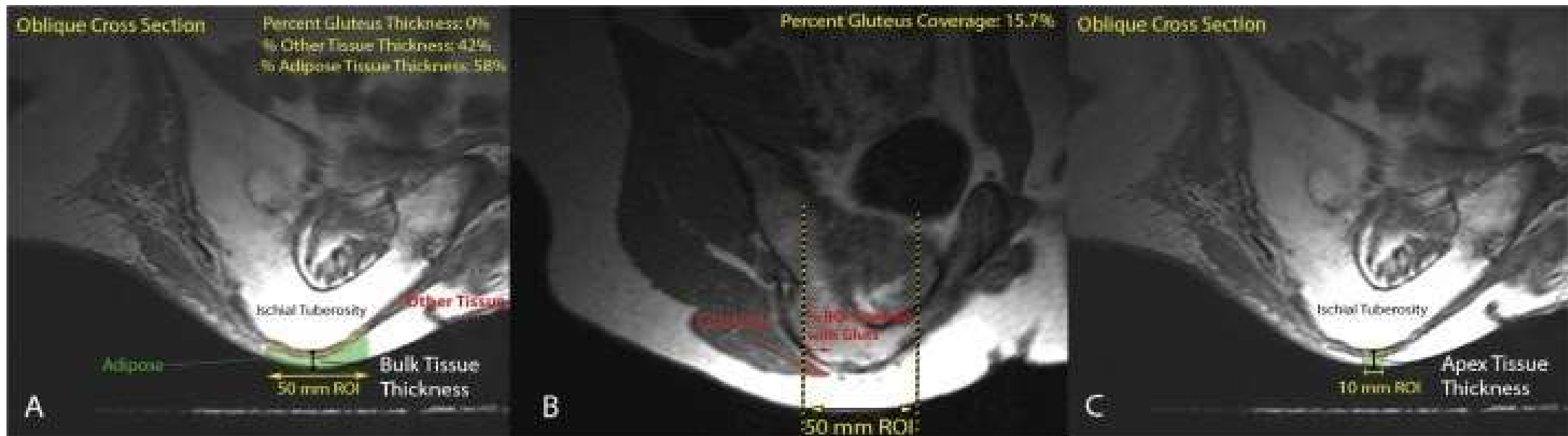
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Source: [www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au)<sup>3</sup>

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# What Are We Actually Sitting On?



Sonenblum et al. 2020<sup>4</sup>

## Pressure Management Approaches

- Increase surface area distribution – consider shapes and contours<sup>5</sup>
- Protect areas of risk – through offloading, materials, shaping<sup>5,6</sup>
- Weight bear through pressure tolerant areas<sup>6</sup>
- Support good seated posture<sup>6</sup>

## Outcomes of MAT Eval

- What supports?
- Where?
- How much force?
- Alignment of body segments
- What are priorities for:
  - Person
  - Carers



Source: [www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au)<sup>3</sup>

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## Considerations for Seating Goals

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- Pressure distribution
  - Ease of positioning/re-positioning
  - Positioning for function
  - Positioning for safety
  - Postural alignment
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## Custom Moulding Process



Shape Capture



Fabrication



Fitting & Modification

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## What is Important From User's Perspective?

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- Involvement in decision making process
  - Teamwork
  - Persistence
  - Aesthetics
  - Communication
  - Function
  - Can be replicated and modified
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## How Do We Avoid Pitfalls?

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- Very clear goals for seating
  - Proceed according to Postural Alignment Plan
  - Build your team
  - Judgement-free communication
  - Persistence & creativity
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# Key Points



- Clear seating goals from MAT Eval drive decision-making
- Take photos and record discussions
- Don't be afraid to try different options for your client!

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# Thank you!

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# References (1)

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