Advancements in communication technologies (see Figure 1) have transformed how we communicate and interact with one another. Communication is often seen as a problem for people with disabilities (Regnard, 2006). No literature exists, to our knowledge, on the views of staff at disability service organizations related to developing communication technologies.

There is strong support for existing and emerging wearable communication devices. Respondents believed that these devices will be very beneficial to supporting their client’s communication abilities. Preference for modification of the environment so clients do not have to use a wearable device. Invasive, wearable devices ranked last but there was still substantial support for it.

Positive response to the beneficial support for children:
- Provide communication abilities
- Provide support persons with an understanding of individual’s needs

Lack of affordability of technology was the highest concern:
- Invisibility was a desired characteristic so that the wearer would not stick out
- Portability was also favored
- Incorporating the technology into the body was not seen as desirable and neither was there desirability for the technology to be flashy

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REFERENCES