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UTILISING THE WORK ABILITY INDEX WITHIN ARMY OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

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The Work Ability Index (WAI) is an outcome measure designed by the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (Tuomi et al., 2010). It is a measure of the individual perceived work ability, based on the interaction between the health and capacities of the individual, their competence or skill level, their values and attitudes and the demands of the work they are required to do. The index was designed to identify users who may benefit from Occupational Health support within the workplace and can be conducted individually or with a workplace population.

Outcomes measures not only show a change in an individual's health but can evaluate the effect of our interventions, and direct service improvement. The poster looks to explore the early use of the WAI within an Occupational Health team. It will explore its outcome alignment within the delivery of Army OH and explore how sensitive the tool is in capturing a change in work ability following OH interventions, and its ability to be delivered across disciplines. If successful the tool could be used in measuring outcomes and therefore impact service evaluation, benchmarking and improvement moving forwards.

References:

- Tuomi K, Ilmarinen J, Jahkola A, et al, The Work Ability Index. 2nd Edition, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Helsinki, Finland. 2010.
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