

Project Aesop

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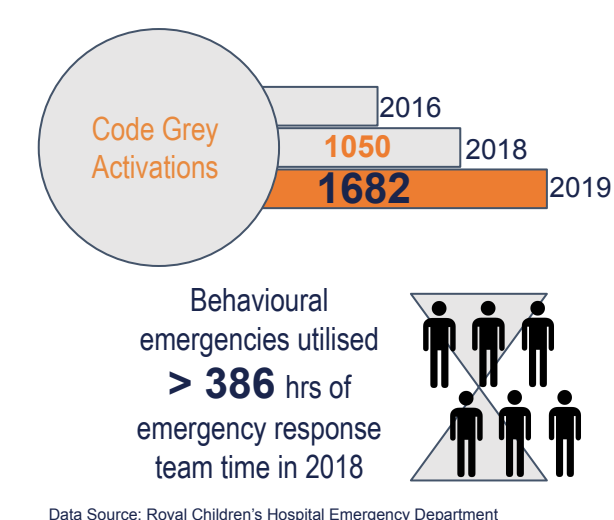


MONASH
YOUNG
MEDTECH
INNOVATORS

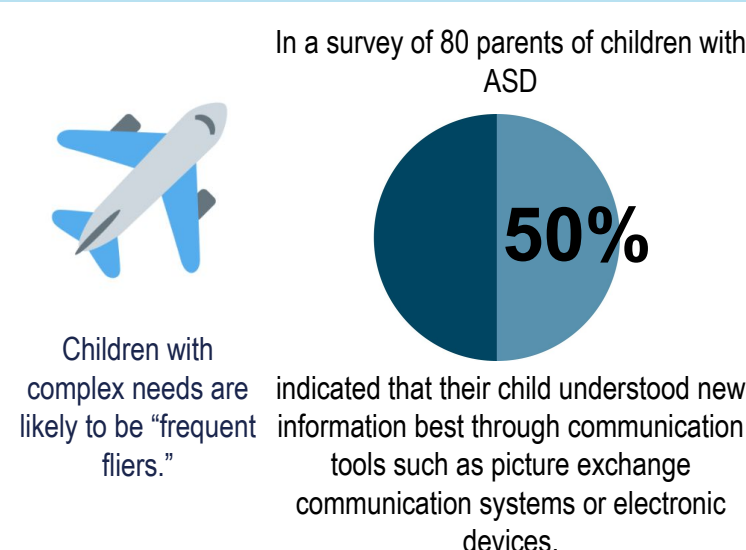
MISSION STATEMENT

Project Aesop's mission is to create a mobile application to deliver social stories in a way that reduces maladaptive behaviours and enhances the psychosocial wellbeing of paediatric patients in the setting of hospitalisation and procedural interventions, and empowers health professionals, families, carers, educators, and other stakeholders to better support children with autism and special needs.

UNMET CLINICAL NEED



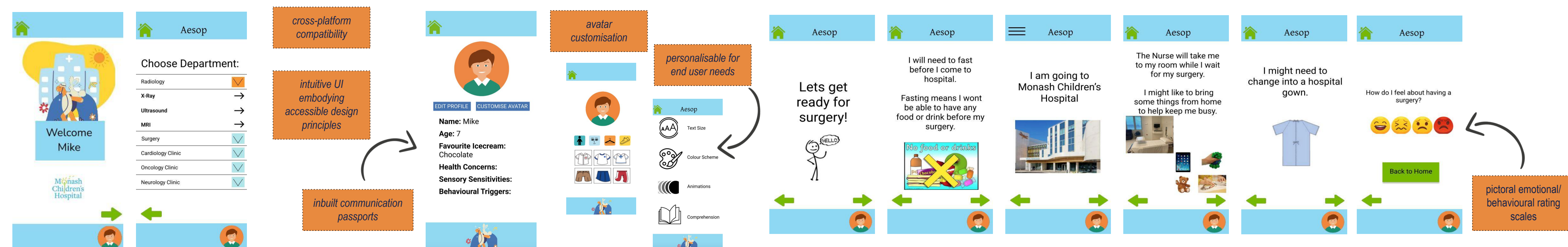
It only takes a single negative experience for a child to develop anticipatory or pre-procedural distress. Acute agitation and behavioural escalations are a significant drain on clinician time and resources, and pose great costs to the health system where these escalations lead to the need for chemical sedation and physical restraints. Significantly, the paediatric population, in particular paediatric patients with developmental disabilities and special needs, form an especially vulnerable group and are predisposed to developing posttraumatic stress disorders and to suffering iatrogenic trauma within the healthcare system. Due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic upon the health system, the ambient anxiety experienced by children has skyrocketed. Therefore, an increasingly broader demographic of paediatric patients may also benefit from the use of social stories.



IMPACT OF SOLUTION

Autism spectrum disorder and intellectual disability are currently the largest primary disability categories for the NDIS. Children with autism and other developmental disabilities have high rates of comorbidity and are up to 10 times more likely to be admitted to hospital for medical illness. While they have an increased average number and length of episodes of hospitalisation, they often do not receive the same quality of care. Lack of support for behavioural and communication difficulties are significant factors. Our solution leverages the advantages of a digital medium to facilitate communication between neurotypical and neurodiverse minds, and to deliver information in a developmentally appropriate and disability friendly way.

SOLUTION



TIMELINE

