[**Fear of Confronting Intellectual Shortcomings**](https://youtu.be/-A2JGSz0JGY)

**Narrator:**

This Vignette concerns Psychological Risks.

interviewees will be discussing the fear of confronting intellectual shortcomings.

This risk is associated with the perception that learning and using technology may force users to confront their cognitive limitations. It usually manifests in observable behaviour as an unwillingness to engage with ICT for fear of having to confront intellectual shortcomings.

In this section, you will hear a number of video vignettes extracted from interviews with older Australians.

We first hear of a personal concern about losing skills and capacity from interviewee Marilyn, aged 79.

**Marilyn:**

I'm afraid to notice that I'm losing my intellectual skills that I used to have. Now I know that as you get older you have to sacrifice some of those things, and I'm only a year off 80, so is it normal to be as dumb as I am at 80, or should I be doing something or thinking something differently? I'm afraid of losing my intellectual capacity.

**Narrator:**

Talking to her experience with teaching classes of older adults, Paulina, aged 68, gives an example of a student struggling with ongoing complexities of technology.

**Paulina:**

Another one is this is a person who gets really frustrated. He's the one who said that he thinks that he has got dementia or thinking that that is an onset of dementia, because he said, "Oh, I stopped." Not remembering taking his keys out and lock himself out, things like that. So he gets very agitated with that. And so as for using the computer, that is a big challenge for him, but he managed to get into Zoom. And when a phone call came through while on Zoom, it sort of cut him off and things like that because he uses his phone to connect. And so it cuts him off and then he took a while to come back in again. And by the time he got back in, he was so frustrated. He says, "I'm not going to use, have anything to do with computers. I'm not even coming to your class anymore." It was that bad!

**Narrator:**

Our last interviewee, Dawood, aged 74, reflects on the digital divide between himself and children, and the embarrassment that can be caused by confronting it.

**Dawood:**

You will feel you're behind your era which is not good [...] But again I think the psychological because you see yourself far away from your children. There is a big distance in technology which is something I can't say it's embarrassing psychological which is really embarrassing.

**Narrator:**

These vignettes were developed by the Shaping Connections Research Program at RMIT University’s School of Economics, Finance and Marketing.

Our research develops insights on social inclusion and technology use among older Australians.

Please find additional information about these vignettes in the video description below.

You can get more information about the project by visiting www.shapingconnections.org. if you have any questions, comments or feedback please use the contact us section of the website and we will get back to you.