

**Title:** Australian Chinese music preference and understanding about music therapy

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**Abstract**

Recent music therapy research in Australia (Baker & Grocke, 2009) criticized that there was a gap in music therapist's repertoire for non-English repertoire, and in particular it was found that songs in Chinese (Cantonese/Mandarin) were limited. In addition the increasing number of aging Australian-Chinese was reported, and the problems of social isolation and loneliness highlighted in literature (Ip, Lui & Chui, 2007). Therefore the purpose of this study is to investigate the music preference, music background and the understanding of music therapy among Australian Chinese elderly.

Ten participants from Chinese Community Centre in Brisbane were surveyed during individual interviews. The familiar repertoire identified included 32 songs, 13 (40%) of these are in Cantonese. Results indicated a positive relationship may exist between music preference, the use of music and daily life and music background.

The findings reflected the needs of Australian-Chinese elderly and their acceptance towards music therapy. Further research to expand non-English repertoire is recommended, in order to meet the musical and cultural needs of the aging Australians with multicultural backgrounds.