



# Dual Sensory Impairment and the Older Person: An Invisible Epidemic?

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COLLECTION EDITED BY Damian Mellifont, Jennifer Smith-Merry

COLLECTION  
Disability Studies

EDITION  
1st edition

MARKET  
College/higher education  
and Professional and  
scholarly

## This course reading...

- Draws from lived experience to explore the experiences of older adults living with dual sensory loss, a population group often rendered invisible along with the unique challenges they face.
- Is written by Dr Annmaree Watharow MD PhD, an academic and medical doctor with lived experience of dual sensory impairment, and Dr Moira Dunsmore BSN PhD, an academic and registered nurse with first-hand experience caring for older adults with multiple sensory loss.
- Is crucial reading for higher education students of Disability Studies, Gerontology and related interdisciplinary courses, Medicine, nursing, and related courses, Social Work, Sociology, Cultural Anthropology, and related social science courses; medical practitioners, clinicians, healthcare providers, and social care providers, both in practice and in training.

## Is a decline in vision and hearing just a “fact of life” for people as we age?

Dual sensory impairment is an under-explored and little understood type of disability, but one which can have an enormous impact on those living with it and their partners, families, and carers. The number of people who are living with impairments to both sight and hearing is rapidly increasing as the global population ages, yet the challenges faced as a result are largely invisible. *An Invisible Epidemic?* explores the experiences of older adults living with multiple or dual sensory loss, the social consequences, barriers, and stigma faced by people and their loved ones.

Drawn from the lived experience of both the authors and their research participants, this book is necessary and urgent reading for medical practitioners, clinicians, health workers, and social care providers in practice and training; higher education students of Disability Studies, Medicine and related courses, Social Work and related courses, Sociology, and Cultural Anthropology.

**Annmaree Watharow MD, PhD** is an academic and medical doctor with lived experience of dual sensory impairment. **Moira Dunsmore RN, PhD** is an academic and registered nurse with first-hand experience caring for older adults with multiple sensory loss. They are co-founders of a dual sensory impairment special interest group, and the dual sensory impairment project ([www.dsiproject.org](http://www.dsiproject.org)), based at the University of Sydney.

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