

ATSA INDEPENDENT LIVING EXPO

Conference Program

10-11 May 2017

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Opening hours

10 May 8:30am-4:00pm

11 May 8:30am-3:00pm

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	ROOM 1	ROOM 2	ROOM 3	ROOM 4	ROOM 5
9:15am – 10:00am	What's in a back? <i>Jane Fonteijn, Astris/Motion</i> 	Rigid Manual Wheelchairs: Practical strategies for fighting "configraphobia" <i>Magdalena Love, Permobil</i> 	Travelling Safely in Vehicles <i>Ali Akbarian, Mobility Engineering</i> 	Right Patient, Right Surface, Right Time <i>Katherine Whittington, Alphacare</i>  	Tips and tricks for managing urinary continence <i>Gabby Pragnaratne, Coloplast</i> 
10:45am – 11:15am	Concern triumphs over judgement <i>Gerard Schokman</i>	Preventing hip displacement through standing with children with Cerebral Palsy <i>Felicity Parkinson, R82</i>  	The OT Driving Assessment: On the Road Again <i>Bernadette Walsh</i> 	Free Online Education Website for Clinical Practice in Wheelchair and Seating Prescription – A walkthrough <i>Charisse Turnbull & Dr Iain Brown, NSW Health</i> 	Understanding Powerchairs - Past, Present and Future <i>Samuel Baker, Otto Bock</i>  
11:45am – 12:15pm	Elderly Clients and Neurological Tone <i>Amanda Hebben & Lyndal Millikan</i>  	The functional architecture of a gait trainer <i>Martino Avellis, Ormesa</i>   	Why is the head so difficult to position? <i>Jane Crowle, Dejay/RTD Australia</i>  	Smart Assistive Technology (SAT) Integration in the Built environment – a service innovation <i>Jamie Matveyeff, LifeTech</i> 	Cultural Life', Disability, Inclusion and Citizenship <i>Prof Simon Darcy, UTS</i> 
1:15pm – 2:00pm	Speak my Language: Seating and Mobility Terminology <i>Amy Bjornson, Sunrise Medical</i> 	I've been everywhere man <i>Malcolm Turnbull, Permobil</i> 	Empowering the people: Shifts in community services under the NDIS <i>Amy de Paula, Wendy Harris, Blair McFarlane and Angela Ryan</i> 	Strengthening our Assistive Technology Sector: a tour of ARATA's resources and community of practice <i>Dr Rachael Schmidt</i>	Honey: I shrunk the Kits" - Why equipment for children is not adult equipment reduced in size <i>Barend ter Haar, HIA</i> 
2:30pm – 3:00pm	Help Make my home accessible... yesterday <i>Tracee-lee Maginnity, Astris</i>  	Revolutionary seating technology for wheelchair users with asymmetrical body patterns <i>Joana Santiago, Medifab</i>	Ergonomic assistive technology does not need to be complex in order to restore continued participation in the work force after injury or due to permanent disability <i>Sybbi Georgiou, MPS</i> 	Deregulation causing existing regulated aged care towards independent living models <i>Ross McDonald, Capital Guardians</i> 	Equipping intimacy <i>Narelle Higson, MS WA</i>  
3:15pm – 4:00pm	Seating and Positioning Considerations for Mobile Shower Commode Chairs <i>Nelson Pang, Motion Specialties</i> 	Clinical Selection of Alternative Drive Input Types and Access Sites for Assistive Technology <i>Lois Brown & George Ajaka, GTK</i> 	Update on EnableNSW - Changed processes for aids and equipment funding applications <i>Linda Elliott & Christa Roessler, EnableNSW</i> 	Early Vs. Late Intervention with Custom Molded Seating <i>Joseph Bieganek, Paragon/Ride Designs</i> 	Evaluation and seating for wheeled mobility <i>Judy Rowley, Invacare</i>  

	ROOM 1	ROOM 2	ROOM 3	ROOM 4	ROOM 5
9:15am – 10:00am	<p>Shoulder pain is an epidemic: Let's talk about what we can do about it! Mark Richter, Permobil</p> <p>C C</p> 	<p>Skin Integrity in Full Time Wheelchair Users Amy Bjornson, Sunrise Medical</p> <p>C</p>	<p>Ctrl + Alt Your Device Rebecca Chedid, AT Australia</p> <p>C</p>	<p>Modular Seating for a Customised Fit Amanda Hebben, DME</p> 	<p>Comparing stakeholders' actual experiences and preconceived expectations of National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participation: five Australian seating service participants share their experiences Rachael Schmidt, Schmidt Consultancy</p> <p>C C</p>
10:45am – 11:15am	<p>Standing and Gait Training - Complementary Goals for Functional Outcomes Jane Crowle, Dejay/RTD Australia</p> <p>C</p>	<p>Predicable Bowel Management with Peristeen Anal Irrigation Emi Loveday, Coloplast</p> <p>C</p>	<p>Person-Centred equipment solutions Chris Tynan, TAD</p> <p>C</p>	<p>Best Practice in Gait-Rehabilitation Helmut Krause, THERA-Trainer</p> 	<p>Including sexual expression in healthcare practice: a simple guide Narelle Higson, MS WA</p> <p>C</p>
11:45am – 12:30pm	<p>Equip Myself – An AT App Supporting Choice and Control for Consumers Celeste Fell, Independent Living Centre</p>	<p>Beyond Pressure' – what's happening under the skin, and what technology can tell us is going on Barend ter Haar, HIA</p> 	<p>Advancements in Wheelchair Technology Paul Banz, Paragon/Ki</p>	<p>Smart Assistive Technology Matthew Manalis, Livigy</p> <p>C</p>	<p>Why Weight Matters Jane Fontein, Astris/Motion</p> <p>C</p>
1:30pm – 2:15pm	<p>The Virtual Seating Coach (VSC): New technology for power seat function monitoring Magdalena Love, Permobil</p> <p>C C</p>	<p>The NDIS and assistive technology Dr Lloyd Walker, NDIA</p> <p>C</p>		<p>Innovation: Today's lightweight manual wheelchairs - new materials, new concepts Amy Bjornson, Sunrise Medical</p> <p>C</p>	<p>Seating the unseatable posture Tracee-lee Maginnity & Kylie Chambers, Astris</p>

CONFIRMED EXHIBITORS INCLUDE

- Company
- 3Bridges Community
- 5 Star Mobility Scooters
- AAI Limited trading as Apia Insurance
- AC Mobility
- Access Health
- Accommodation & Care solutions
- Acorn Stairlift
- Active Adaptive by Splittbacks
- Active Mobility
- Active Rehabilitation Equipment
- Age Prepcare
- Aidacare
- Aikidos Scooter & Electric Wheelchair Carrier
- Allegro Concepts
- Alphacare
- ARATA
- Astris Lifecare
- Autism Advisory and Support Service
- Automobility
- Availcare
- Avant Innovations
- Betta Batteries
- Better Living Care
- Blue Badge Insurance
- BMR Group
- BPM Australia
- BrightSky
- Canterbury Concepts
- Capital Special Vehicle
- Care-Quip
- Carers NSW
- Coloplast Pty Ltd
- Country Care Group
- CTM
- Cultivate NSW
- Dejay
- Deutscher Healthcare
- Disability Hire Vehicles
- DoAbility
- Drive Medical
- DRP International
- Durable Medical Equipment
- Eden Healthcare Solutions
- Endeavour Life Care
- Freedom Healthcare
- Freedom Motors
- Gordon Ellis & Co
- Gripperz Non-Slip Grip Socks
- GTK Rehab
- GTK Rehab
- Handi Rehab
- Hartmann
- Healthcare Innovations
- HMR Healthcare
- Home Medical Products Australia
- Human Care Australia
- Ideas
- ILS Home Care
- ILS Pressure Care
- ILS Rehab Mobility & Seating Solutions
- Invacare
- K Care Healthcare Equipment
- K&M Kite Ltd
- Karma Australia
- Kevrek
- Konnekt
- LifeAccess
- LINAK
- Linds Rehab
- Magic Mobility
- Medifab
- Medix21 Australia Pty Ltd
- Merits Australia
- Milestones Therapy
- MiTech
- Mobile Alert Guardians Systems
- Mobility Care
- Mobility Engineering
- Mogo Wheelchairs
- MPS (Megalong Positioning Service)
- Mt Wilga Private Hospital
- National Disability Services
- Occupational Therapy Aust.
- Oscar Furniture
- Ottobock
- Para mobility
- Paragon Mobility
- Patient Handling
- Permobil
- Physical Disability Council of NSW
- PME Group
- Pride Mobility
- Problem Management Engineering
- Push Mobility
- Quantum
- Quantum Reading, Learning, Vision
- R82
- Ramp Ability
- Rehab Technology
- Roland Priestley Mobility Hornsby
- Royah Rehab Return 2Sport
- Sargood on Collaroy
- Scooters & Mobility
- Scooters Australia
- Shoprider Australia
- Signature Life
- Specialized Wheelchair Company
- Sunrise Medical
- Tab Timer
- TAD Disability Services NSW
- The Caring Factor
- The Rehabilitation Center of NSW
- Total Ability Solutions
- Tyrex
- Walk on Wheels
- Wellspect Healthcare
- Wheelchair Sales
- Wheelchairs & Stuff
- Wheelies Van Rentals
- Wonder Sheet (Neeki)

Wednesday 10 May 2017

ROOM 1

9:15am **What's in a back** *Jane Fontein, Astris/Motion*



This hands on workshop will explore the properties of back supports and their impact on seating and positioning. Through demonstration and trial, the attendees will assess the differences from sling upholstery, tension adjustable, rigid backs. Often when a referral for a skin injury is sent to a therapist it will request the therapist to look at the cushion, however the back support is an integral part of the seating system and needs to be considered as an equal partner to the cushion. In fact a full seating assessment should be performed. From the assessment the shape and size of the back can be determined and the properties required.

A review of the properties and their clinical implications will be discussed. Do you need a tall back if the client is tall? Where do you need support? What angles are required? What about lateral support or rotation? How to improve propulsion with back support?

10:45am **Concern Triumphs Over Judgement** *Gerard Schokman*

Knowledge sharing methods for retaining Healthcare product knowledge and application in the workplace - often lost by high staff turnover and distribution, shift-work or high maintenance costs. Participants will understand and appreciate practical methods for handing down experience and knowledge for Improving safety, cost reduction and quality application, in the use of healthcare technology.

11:45am **Elderly Clients and Neurological Tone** *Amanda Hebben and Lyndal Millikan, DME*



Restorative medical products work with a client's neurological tone allowing muscles to work through tonal episodes and come to a relaxation point. Muscle fibres can then be lengthened over time, reversing and stopping shortened tissue damage and increasing ROM, comfort and reducing pain. Managing neurological tone that has developed over years, or been neglected for years, is a challenging task. Elderly clients with neurological conditions such as CVA, MND, Dementia and many more are reaping the benefits of Restorative Splinting with the Healthstrong Therapy Team. This session will review the mechanics of why "flex" technology relaxes tone. Case studies where the flex system has been implemented in an aged care setting and the impacts this has on the residents and their quality of life will also be presented.

1:15pm **Speak my Language: Seating and Mobility Terminology** *Amy Bjornson, Sunrise*



This session will include a review of human anatomy, biomechanics and terminology as it relates to the seating and mobility process. Commonly seen disabilities/ diagnoses and their impact on posture and mobility will be demonstrated via case studies. This course is designed for the professional seeking to increase their ability to effectively communicate within the medical community.

2:30pm **Help Make my home accessible... yesterday** *Tracee-lee Maginnity, Astris*



Independent access in the home often requires significant permanent and costly structural changes. Are there alternatives.... Not everyone wants to change their home, what if your renting and need to change residence in near future, what if your waiting for funding or construction to commence, What if you share your time between multiple residences? What other options could you consider? This workshop looks at some interim and alternative solutions to make your current bathroom accessible and to maximize independence in a non-modified bathroom. This workshop will look at a variety of assistive technology solutions and considerations for their use, from basic bathboards to slider system commodes. Short term and long term potential solutions will be discussed from a client centred and cost effective perspective.

3:15pm **Seating and Positioning Considerations for Mobile Shower Commode Chairs** *Nelson Pang, Motion Specialties*



A lot of time and resources are invested on skin integrity preservation and positioning strategies to help reduce the incidence of sitting acquired decubitus ulcers and postural deviations while sitting in manual and power wheelchairs. Regrettably, these individuals are still at risk from the same seating and positioning challenges if they are using improperly configured and poorly adjusted Mobile Shower Commode Chair (MSCCs).

This presentation will review the clinical and functional needs of such individuals in conjunction with the seating and positioning attributes of mobile shower commode chairs.

Key areas of discussion:

1. Important clinical considerations for individuals at risk for skin integrity issues.
2. Application of best practice guidelines for skin integrity preservation with MSCCs.
3. Use of pressure mapping to help in the selection of MSCCs.
4. Proper configuration and adjustment of MSCCs to meet user and attendant needs.
5. Custom modifications that can help meet special individual requirements.

ROOM 2

- 9:15am **Rigid Manual Wheelchairs: Practical strategies for fighting “configuraphobia”** *Magdalena Love, Permobil*
- C** Providing manual wheelchair users with a custom, lightweight and durable wheelchair is critical for preserving the shoulders during propulsion. Additionally, the wheelchair must be highly customised to the person’s individual body and optimise functional activities within their environment. Often times, therapists experience uncertainty regarding the exact wheelchair dimensions and the implication on a client’s position and function. The outcome is typically an adjustable chair that is “good enough”. While adjustable hardware improves some of the anxiety of ordering a piece of custom equipment...it also adds extra componentry which increases the maintenance and overall weight of the wheelchair. Even worse, adjustable wheelchairs are rarely adjusted in the field...resulting in extra hardware with no functional benefits for the client. Going beyond just seat width and depth, this intermediate/advanced course will take an in-depth look at the specific measurements that are needed to truly dial in a rigid manual wheelchair to an individual’s unique body dimensions. Practical strategies will be discussed to achieve more accurate measurements of both wheelchair and the individual...with the aim of removing the fear of custom configuration or “configuraphobia”.
- 10:45am **Preventing hip displacement through standing with children with Cerebral Palsy** *Felicity Parkinson, R82*
- Hip displacement is common among children with Cerebral Palsy with a incidence 30%. The incidence increases to 90% of children with GMFCS V. The consequences of progressive hip displacement are varied. In addition to pain and limited range of movement, it can result in deformation of the acetabulum and/or femoral head, and cause degeneration of articular cartilage. Whilst hip dislocation is largely preventable through surveillance treatment, it often results in a referral for invasive hip surgery. Clinical evidence shows that standing in a high degree of abduction can lead to better formation of the hip joint and significantly reduces hip migration in children with Cerebral Palsy, which in turn reduces the need for surgery. This presentation will explore the functional physical impacts of hip displacement, present the research supporting standing in abduction and discuss some case studies.
- 11:45am **The functional architecture of a gait trainer** *Martino Avellis, Ormesa*
- C P** The primary purpose is to identify the technical and functional features that a walker has to have to adapt to the different characteristics and needs of children with disabilities and in particular with Cerebral Palsy. The secondary purpose is to identify how a correct configuration and a correct attitude can prevent secondary deformities. The third purpose is to demonstrate how a configuration and an appropriate structure can influence, improve the social life of the child. Case studies will be presented during this session.
- 1:15pm **I’ve Been Everywhere Man** *Malcolm Turnbull, Permobil*
- C** Travel as a wheelchair user presents particular challenges but the extra effort is worth it. With over 36 years of experience as a wheelchair user and having travelled extensively both locally and internationally Malcolm’s hope is this presentation will ease any concerns and add motivation to those considering travel and enhance the experience of those who are already infected with the travel bug. This session covers tips, equipment and logistical considerations for manual wheelchair users interested in travelling as well as some highlights from Malcolm’s own travels. While targeted predominantly at manual wheelchair users there is also useful information for powered chair users as well.
- 2:30pm **Revolutionary seating technology for wheelchair users with asymmetrical body patterns** *Joana Santiago, Medifab*
- In order to properly address seating postural deviations, and avoid its continuous development, it is important to address causes rather than symptoms. That seems pretty obvious and easy to do, however we have been using postural supports that aren’t usually able to provide the precise position we want them to be. When clients present complex postures, that makes the process even more challenging, most of the times pushing therapists and clinicians for custom solutions, that may increase its overall cost and decreasing its lifespan or ability for changes. Axial Technology is a concept conceived to ensure optimum positioning for clients where traditional seating systems are unable to provide adequate support. It comprises a rotational system with infinite adjustments able to meet nearly every situation. That includes clients with asymmetric postures, postural changing needs or even reissue requirements. In this presentation we intend to demonstrate how this cost effective system, when combined with the SPEX seating system, allows for highly configurable seating setups and deliver a long term solution.
- 3:15pm **Clinical Selection of Alternative Drive Input Types and Access Sites for Assistive Technology** *Lois Brown, MPT, ATP/SMS and George Ajaka, OT, GTK*
- C** Whether addressing the needs of a client with a progressive disease or someone aging with a disability, continued access to mobility and AT is fundamental to enhancing quality of life, participation and maximizing functional outcomes for someone using a wheelchair. This course will address client interview and evaluation elements critical to the decision making process for alternative drive input and switch site access as well as a review of equipment drive control and input type options. Postural control, evaluating sites for access, visual acuity and motor control as well as other specific clinical assessment will be addressed.

ROOM 3

9:15am **Travelling Safely in Vehicles** *Ali Akbarian, Mobility Engineering*



This presentation is centred around travelling safely in vehicles and using standard commercially available child restraints, how they can work within the disability industry and potentially save end users a lot of money, as it is the cheaper and easier option to use a standard commercially available restraint than a specialised disability restraint. In many cases we have seen that OT's are prescribing medical restraints which are expensive and hard to get and in a lot of cases we find that they could have easily chosen an "off the shelf" option which would be easy to afford, have no barriers to purchase and are legally compliant to use in vehicles without a doctors certificate. Ali will also cover restraint safety in vehicles, covering the correct way to restrain a passenger in a wheelchair or specialised transport, what to consider when trying to get a doctors certificate and also how the doctors certificates for transport should be laid out. It covers legal obligations, responsibilities and duty of care for driver and organisations who are transporting disabled passengers and children.

10:45am **The OT Driving Assessment: On the Road Again** *Bernadette Walsh, Ramsay Health*



The ability to drive is an important part of everyday life. It represents freedom and independence. It enhances your lifestyle and contributes to your participation, independence and engagement in daily activity. Driving however is a complex task, involving our physical ability, cognitive ability, vision and emotional skills. Physical limitations, changes in vision, co-ordination and cognitive as a result of disability, illness or injury can necessitate the need for an OT driving assessment. This presentation will explore all aspects of the OT driving assessment including clinical reasoning and decision making, RMS requirements and the impact of assessment outcomes on individuals and their families.

11:45am **Why is the head so difficult to position?** *Jane Crowle, Dejay Medical*



A head that moves is a person that moves – enabling them to live, participate and engage in the world around them. But what happens if we are not able to lift our heads – to look around, to engage with friends and family, if we are not able to eat effectively, or engage in communications - what picture does this paint of our world?



Head positioning is one of the ultimate challenges when prescribing postural supports for a child with low tone – whether for a wheelchair, standing frame or even a walking frame. We can successfully achieve good positioning for the child's pelvis and trunk, but the head is in a league of its own. Children are not little adults – and yet we often follow the same prescription pathway when prescribing equipment.

This presentation will look at some of the causes for poor head control, review some strategies to improve head control, and propose possible interventions.

1:15pm **Empowering the people: Shifts in community services under the NDIS**



Amy de Paula, Wendy Harris, Blair McFarlane and Angela Ryan

The rollout of the NDIS brings with it changes to the fabric and structure of supports for people with disability. The shifts in service require people to learn how to access and manage their support needs in a completely new way and with a new language.

ParaQuad NSW has been providing services under the NDIS since 2013 in the Hunter region and now as it rolls out across NSW.

This presentation will encompass the experience of both provider and participant in negotiating the NDIS, including assistive technology. It will reflect on the role of empowerment and outline tools developed to support participants to navigate the NDIS.

2:30pm **Ergonomic assistive technology does not need to be complex in order to restore continued participation in the work force after injury or due to permanent disability** *Sybbi Georgiou, MPS*



This presentation will examine the outcomes of ergonomic solutions in the work place, designed for people with an injury that affects posture or with permanent postural disability, and which allows them remain a productive individual within the workforce. Affordable ergonomic solutions can have significant and positive impacts on stamina, comfort and physical task completion, and through this boost overall productivity in the work environment. This presentation will discuss a versatile office chair and a dynamic arm support, and will further review opportunities these apparatus provide within the workplace.

3:15pm **Update on EnableNSW - Changed processes for aids and equipment funding applications**



Linda Elliott and Christa Roessler, EnableNSW

With the introduction of My Aged Care and the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, there have been a number of changes to the funding options available to people who require Assistive Technology (AT) in order to go about their everyday activities and meet their personal goals.

For therapists who prescribe AT, the prescription process includes consideration of the funding options available to the individual and completion of the required documentation. EnableNSW is one of the funding bodies that provide communication, mobility and self-care equipment to permanent residents of NSW.

This session will provide an update on the eligibility criteria for NSW residents; changes to the application process; and the updated clinical criteria for AT provided through EnableNSW. It will be of particular interest to new and current prescribers and their clinical supervisors.

ROOM 4

9:15am **Right Patient, Right Surface, Right Time** *Katherine T. Whittington, Alpha Care/Span*



This presentation is to explain and define a support surface algorithm, demonstrate how to navigate the support surface selection process utilising an algorithm, discuss the questions needed to gather data to utilize a support surface algorithm and review how a support surface algorithm is used to select the right support surface, for the right patient at the right point of care. Generic products and interventions will be presented to illustrate interventions.

10:45am **Free Online Education Website for Clinical Practice in Wheelchair and Seating Prescription – A walkthrough**



Charisse Turnbull and Dr. Iain Brown, NSW Health

Seating and wheelchair prescription are complex challenges for therapists of all levels of experience. The wheelchair must be correctly configured to support the client across a diverse range of activities and environments. Wheelchair seating also needs to deliver acceptable outcomes for the client in pressure management, postural support, functional capability and client comfort. This session will present a fully revised, internationally used, free wheelchair seating education modules. The development of this website has been funded by the Agency for Clinical Innovation as a State Spinal Cord Injury Service initiative and provides an unbiased clinical education resource. Website content has been revised and updated by experienced therapists with over 50 years of clinical practice in wheelchair seating. The modules highlight the key stages of wheelchair seating from client assessment through to clinical intervention and prescription. Attendees will be given a walkthrough of the new website structure and content, developed to support their clinical practice, including:

- Demonstration videos
- Downloadable forms
- Clear, informative diagrams
- Case studies
- Links to current research
- Handy tips

The website covers scripting considerations for manual and power wheelchair seating as well as newly compiled content relating to Power Assist devices.

11:45am **Smart Assistive Technology (SAT) Integration in the Built environment – a service innovation** *Jamie Matveyeff, Lifetec*



It is recognised that enabling an individual to remain at home longer presents multiple advantages – to individual, familial, social and community well being and for broader economic savings. Unfortunately, innovative interventions to enable individuals to remain at home haven't evolved and solutions have remained largely reactive. The healthcare system is having major reforms, and while the idealism behind these reforms is encouraging, the question remains "if the system is reforming, how can positive changes occur if we retain existing models of service delivery?" An innovative service now exists to assist consumers with the integration of smart assistive technologies (SAT). The service model is applied to existing homes and newly built environments. It uses consumer directed development of an SAT overlay for their built environment, integrating aspects of automation, Smart AT, structural preparedness, environmental operability, circulation and movement, health and safety monitoring and more traditional AT options. The aim of the service is to provide future proof built environment solutions utilising a project management model to ensure seamless interactions between clients, health professionals, builders, contractors, developers and suppliers of smart AT. We aim to provide client-centred smart solutions promoting independence, security, safety and longevity of the home environment through streamlined, coordinated, and integrated AT solutions for the built environment.

1:15pm **Strengthening our Assistive Technology Sector: a tour of ARATA's resources and community of practice** *Dr Rachael Schmidt*



The Australian Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Association, ARATA, is a national peak body including AT users, AT practitioners from all allied health professions, AT suppliers, AT researchers, policymakers and others. ARATA supports and promotes best practice for rehabilitation and assistive technology provision in Australia by:

1. Serving as a peak body and national forum for rehabilitation and assistive technology stakeholders;
2. Undertaking, supporting and promoting scientific, literary, professional and educational activities; and
3. Promoting active participation of AT users in the community.

This paper introduces you to members of ARATA's Board and Community of Practice, and will update you on:

- Current ARATA resources and projects
- Membership profile and reflections from the 2016 Australian Assistive Technology Conference
- Policies affecting AT provision in Australia

Come along, connect with your peers, and provide your perspective on AT today and into the future.

2:30pm **Deregulation causing existing regulated aged care towards independent living models** *Ross McDonald, Capital Guardians*

There are many future certainties in aged care, due to the aging population and consequent extreme funding needs. Certainties include: means testing; survival of the fittest operators and marketeers; and ongoing innovation to stay solvent as costs grow faster than government subsidies. Consumer directed residential care fits well into the new paradigm for aged care certainties.

The presentation will discuss what has happened in the USA and the new business models that are emerging in residential care, more closely aligned to independent living, that give transparency to the cost of care, operator overheads and enable choice for residents to spend money on what they value. Albeit, cross subsidies across inefficient functions will stop, providers will increasingly support operations through other services within communities.

Resident choice will increase with: provider's tolerance of risky activities; a la carte options for restaurant/café; carer choice; rostering around personal needs; outings, and entertainment.

3:15pm **Early Vs. Late Intervention with Custom Molded Seating** *Joseph Bieganeck, orthotist, ATP, Paragon/ Ride Designs*












Historically, custom molded seating has often been relegated to last ditch efforts to preserve an individual's ability to sit. Typical users are often dependent sitters with multiple disabilities, significant postural deviations and associated unique body shapes. In many instances the physical characteristics of traditional custom seating has been deemed appropriate for this population, but

frequently proved to be too heavy, bulky, and restrictive to be considered for more active and functional users, and was rarely justified in the realm of early seating intervention. Recent advances in custom molded seating based on orthotic and prosthetic principles that incorporating lighter, breathable and less bulky materials has significantly expanded the potential for custom seating application across a broader range of needs, and as a potential option for early intervention.

This workshop brings attention and direction to this potential by presenting unique seating strategies for early custom seating intervention. It is not just about a custom shaped seat and back, but about correct orientation of the seating for a constructive relationship with gravity, and optimal wheelchair configuration and seating interface to maximize the potential for mobility, function, and skin care. Client assessment, simulation, and fitting strategies will be discussed as well as documentation of need.

ROOM 5

- 9:15am **Tips and tricks for managing urinary continence** *Gabby Pragnaratne, Coloplast*
 There are two types of urinary problems. Urinary incontinence occurs when there is involuntary leakage of urine from the bladder and urinary retention occurs when there is an inability to empty the bladder. Urinary continence affects a broad range of people and can have a limiting and debilitating effect on someone's life if not treated well. While difficult to talk about with health care professionals, there are solutions and options that can help people effectively manage their bladder so they have less issues with leakage. Join interactive workshop where Gabby (continence Nurse Specialist) will talk about some of the different options available and how to try and get treatment and support. This workshop will cover: • why incontinence occurs • different ways it can be treated • products which can also help in management
- 10:45am **Understanding Powerchairs - Past, Present and Future** *Samuel Baker, Otto Bock*

 With an impressive line-up of products currently on the market and increasing consumer choice with the roll out of the NDIS an overall understanding of the market in Australia is more important now than ever. Whether you're new to the industry or a seasoned veteran, join this session to take a journey through the history of powerchairs in Australia and into the future. Let's reminisce about those old Rollerchairs users don't want to give up, discuss the latest in mid wheel drive designs, speculate about those Segways we're still not quite convinced about and everything in between. With information sourced from end users and industry legends alike, and an opening sequence to rival the Big Bang Theory TV series, this is one presentation not to be missed.
- 11:45am **Cultural Life', Disability, Inclusion and Citizenship** *Professor Simon Darcy, UTS*
 Disability is a complex multidimensional social construct where the type of disability and the level of support of individuals needs to be considered within leisure provision. In a leisure context, people with a disability often face a multitude of constraints to participation. However, when leisure is possible, the benefits are substantial and worth pursuing. While other marginalised populations have received a great deal of attention across disciplines and in the field of leisure and recreation, disability has received comparatively less attention and generally in isolation to the leisure context.
- 1:15pm **Honey: I shrunk the Kits - Why equipment for children is not adult equipment reduced in size** *Barend ter Haar, HIA*
 Frequently equipment for children is designed by adults on the basis that scaling down adult equipment will suffice. This presentation looks at why this is not the best of plans, in that the specific clinical and social needs of children need to be addressed: the aim of this presentation is to appraise the range of aspects that need to be brought into focus when designing equipment for children. These include physical growth, cognitive development, social needs, educational needs, family needs (which would apply to any children's equipment), and then from the areas we work in, what are the specific needs generated by the cause and effects of the disability we are meeting.
- 2:30pm **Equipping Intimacy** *Narelle Higson, MS WA*

 The ability to move and position your body to participate in intimate activities may be challenged by such things as acute or chronic pain, fatigue, sensation changes or movement limitations (to name a few). This lighthearted presentation will outline some useful strategies and equipment (both commonplace and purpose designed) that may be useful in supporting positioning, comfort and participation in intimate activities both in and out of the bedroom.
- 3:15pm **Evaluation and seating for wheeled mobility** *Judy Rowley, Invacare*

 Appropriate technology application can greatly impact the clinical and functional outcomes for clients who utilise seating and wheeled mobility systems. Common seated postures and various approaches will be discussed, with consideration of fixed and flexible postural issues. Criteria for the selection of seat cushions and back supports will be reviewed with a discussion of the benefits of a variety of seating component design approaches.

Thursday 11 May 2017

ROOM 1

9:15am **Shoulder pain is an epidemic: Let's talk about what we can do about it!** *Dr. Mark Richter, Permobil*



Pushing a wheelchair is hazardous to your health. Nearly 3 out of every 4 wheelchair users have shoulder pain. That is a staggering percentage. The old saying "Use it or lose it" does not apply any longer. Now we must be careful and take steps to reduce stress on the shoulder if we want to keep it healthy. Dr Richter to use a new saying "Use it, but don't abuse it". He will review the things you should know to help prevent shoulder problems, including wheelchair setup, propulsion technique, and ergonomic technology. Also discussed will be the use of new wearable activity trackers, like those built into the Apple Watch and others, that can help monitor and keep pushing at a safe level.

10:45am **Standing and Gait Training - Complementary Goals for Functional Outcomes** *Jane Crowle, Dejay/RTD Australia*



Standing and gait training are often considered to be independently exclusive goals for clients with physical impairments. Independent mobility is a key milestone in a child's life which lays the foundations for experience, participation, growth, and development of skills including gross motor, spatial awareness and socio-emotional awareness. There are many schools of thought on whether a child must crawl before they stand and walk. What we do know is that they need to stand before they walk. With the advancement of technology – such as body weight supported gait, robotic assisted treadmill training and the developing exo-skeleton – gait training is fast becoming an option for many clients who were previously excluded from such an activity. As exciting as this advancement in technology is, there are many pre-requisites required for safe and effective gait training. Standing and gait training cannot be separated from each other. They are not mutually exclusive. This presentation looks at the pre-requisites required for safe and effective gait, and how standing and gait training complement each other for maximum functional outcomes.

11:45am **Equip Myself – An AT App Supporting Choice and Control for Consumers** *Celeste Fell, Independent Living Centre*

The journey to gain awareness of the role of assistive technology and the range of options available to support people can be complex. Making up-to-date and relevant information available to the individual is essential. Many consumers have access to tablet technology which provides a user friendly medium of information delivery. The shift to consumer directed services has meant that many people are in the driver's seat in planning for their supports and services. Our aim in this project was to support the consideration of assistive technology for independence and participation. The Independent Living Centre of WA has developed an innovative app called Equip Myself for people with disabilities and their support networks. Significant consumer testing was undertaken to ensure maximum accessibility, functionality and usability. Collaboration with consumers has been the key to the success of this project. The app allows people to walk through a 3D virtual world that provides linkages to product types in a home, work and leisure environment. The app enables users to directly access the National Equipment Database (NED) at the product area level to then support further information gathering. Equip Myself provides access to a number of consumer stories that demonstrate the positive impact of assistive technology in a person's life. Users can create and save wish lists to support their partnerships with planners, support workers and other networks. Equip Myself by The Independent Living Centre of WA supports consumers to consider the use of assistive technology and access information about the different types of assistive technology. By sharing their stories consumers have driven the message of how assistive technology has enabled their participation and inclusion.

1:30pm **The Virtual Seating Coach (VSC): New technology for power seat function monitoring** *Magdalena Love, Permobil*

Individuals who use power wheelchairs for extended periods of time are at risk for developing pressure ulcers (PU). Many individuals who cannot independently shift their weight within their wheelchair utilize power seat functions to perform pressure redistribution. For high risk individuals, clinicians often recommend a sitting regimen which includes how often and for how long a pressure shift should occur to reduce the risk of PU development. Almost every research study indicates that compliance to sitting regimens does not meet the recommended standards. Following a regimen is a huge life shift and clients often struggle with incorporating these repositionings into a daily routine and education on the proper use of power seat functions may be very minimal. Clinicians have needed to rely on client self-report (which is often inaccurate) to determine if power seat functions were being utilized as directed. The VSC is a comprehensive system where a therapist can create an individualized seating regimen for a client, including duration, frequency, and specific positions/angles for pressure relief. The client can then utilize a smartphone that is connected to a Permobil power wheelchair that will "coach" them to achieve this position with real time feedback. Compliance with seating regimen is monitored through the app and webportal.

ROOM 2

9:15am **Skin Integrity in Full Time Wheelchair Users** *Amy Bjornson, Sunrise*



We know that unrelieved pressure upon weight-bearing tissues can produce lesions and the prevalence is high - up to 28% for the elderly living in care facilities and between 50% and 80% of persons with a spinal cord injury will develop a pressure ulcer at some point in their life. Even using the lowest of these estimates demonstrates that pressure ulcers are a significant health care problem. Other factors, both intrinsic and extrinsic, also predispose load-bearing tissue to mechanical damage: friction, heat, moisture, incontinence, poor nutrition, and lower arousal also impact skin health and need to be considered. Typically, for full time wheelchairs users, therapists look to pressure relieving seating systems, independent pressure reliefs or

power seat functions to reduce risk. We know that cushions alone cannot protect skin –we also need position change. This session will discuss the latest research surrounding pressure redistribution strategies – what angles and positions are really the best at reducing pressure? What strategies are clients actually using? What strategies are they not using, and why? How can therapists influence behaviour to reduce pressure injuries? Can new technology influence behaviour and compliance with pressure relief strategies?

10:45am **Predictable Bowel Management with Peristeen Anal Irrigation** *Emi Loveday, Coloplast*



Predictability is the key to better quality of life for people with bowel disorders. The most important thing for people suffering from bowel disorders is to minimise the likelihood that a bowel leakage occurs involuntarily during the daytime. Anal irrigation is a relevant choice for people who want to:

- Decide when and where their bowels should be emptied
- Prevent constipation and faecal incontinence
- Reduce the fear of faecal incontinence episodes
- Improve quality of life

Constipation and incontinence are prevented by emptying the bowels more effectively. Peristeen Anal irrigation empties the bowel so that full continence can be obtained in average for two days later. This provides confidence, predictability and peace of mind. Peristeen takes less time than many conservative bowel management procedures so people can reduce the time they need to spend on bowel care. Peristeen is now more accessible for patients given introduction of the recent NDIS scheme.

11:45am **Beyond Pressure' – what's happening under the skin, and what technology can tell us is going on** *Barend ter Haar, HIA*



Despite all the developments in different seating materials over the last 20-30 years, the incidence of pressure ulcers has not decreased across the total population. This has been because of the concentration on pressures alone, and not the equally, or more important aspects, of seating surface contributions to microclimate (heat and water vapour), pressure gradients (with the resulting shear damage to cell structures), pressure redistribution, and the posture of the client.

However, pressure, shear, and friction as concepts are often misunderstood. Part of the presentation will be presenting the ISO work on guidelines for understanding the impact of shear.

Pressure mapping is a great tool for the clinician, but its clinical value is wasted (and of questionable value) if just used as a cushion prescription tool. It has a value for showing the 'Butt Print' of an individual, which is as singular and unique as a fingerprint, but also a great tool for analysing what is happening elsewhere in the individual's posture. Sitting is a dynamic activity, and pressure mapping is a great tool for observing the consequences of attempting normal daily activities on posture and pressure redistribution.

The presentation considers the inputs that can affect a person's Butt Print, and resultant considerations for application of appropriate support surfaces and postural support devices, while tackling the more neglected areas summarised in the opening paragraph above.

1:30pm **The NDIS and assistive technology** *Lloyd Walker, NDIA*



ROOM 3

9:15am **Ctrl + Alt Your Device** *Rebecca Chedid, ILC*



There are multiple access options that could assist a person with complex disabilities to control, alternate, and access mainstream technology such as computers or tablets. This interactive presentation will demonstrate six different access options including: keyguards, styluses or head pointers, alternative mice, switches, mounts, and eye-gaze systems. Participants will have hands-on time to trial the equipment. The session will also cover Brain Control Interface as a potential access option in the future. Videos and live demos will be used to show how each piece of equipment could be used. The presentation will also cover multiple resources and services that are available to assist you in making a choice in the area of computer or tablet access.

10:45am **Person-Centred equipment solutions** *Chris Tynan, TAD*



TAD Disability Services is a volunteer-based organisation, which strives to improve the lives of older people and people with a disability through tailored assistive technology.

TADNSW began in 1975, when a small group of engineers led by George Winston AM decided to use their skills to profoundly change the lives of people within the community.

TAD have continued with that same approach for over forty years, and now provide custom equipment, a standardised range of adaptive furniture, and accessible Freedom Wheels bikes. These services are provided with the support of over 250 skilled volunteers who donate thousands of hours to designing, building and modifying equipment every year.

This presentation will cover examples of some of the simple and also more complex assistive technology projects that TAD has completed over the years. This presentation will also cover how TAD has been supporting people under the NDIS, and an overview of some of the challenges and opportunities facing TAD as a result of the changing policy and funding environment in the Disability Sector. If you are interested in finding out more about their services, how to apply and how projects are undertaken, then come along to this session and find out how TAD can help.

11:45am **Advancements in Wheelchair Technology** *Paul Banz, Paragon*

As technology in the world of complex rehab advances, it is important for the ATP to maintain an understanding of how it works so they can best match the end user with appropriate technology. As allied medical professionals, clinicians count on the ATP to have the most thorough knowledge in the state of the art. This will be divided into two parts:

(1) Advancements in Tilt in Space Wheelchairs: The uses of tilt in space chairs have grown significantly over the last 20 years; with this have come significant changes in design. One of, if not the most popular design is the "rotation in space" concept. This concept has many benefits over older designs such as the potential for a shorter wheelbase; reduction in the effort to tilt and

recover; and a decrease in the negative effects of tilting on the end users. Along with these benefits the “rotation in space” concept has increased in complexity when it comes to specification and adjustment.

(2) Advancements in Foot Positioning in Manual Wheelchairs: Manual wheelchairs today offer many different styles of footrests. To a large part, this can be attributed to the growth in the understanding of the importance of positioning the feet. Foot positioning has a significant effect on seated stability, pressure on the bony prominences of the pelvis and the risk of lower extremity deformity.

ROOM 4

9:15am **Modular Seating for a Customised Fit** *Amanda Hebben, DME*



Utilisation of a modular seating system empowers Therapists to be able to solve complex issues and provide custom solutions on the spot.

As an off the shelf range these products provide cost effective solutions and significantly reduced time frames for complex seating, allowing you to produce a solution at the front end that may also be adapted to clients changing needs.

This presentation will center on the multiple adaptations that can be made within an off the shelf cushion, enabling Therapists to meet the ever changing needs of clients in a short time frame.

Whilst most seating is a snapshot of the current condition the ability to customise, adapt and alter products over time reduce dramatically the costs in time, money and more importantly the risk to the client.

This methodology increases the ability of Therapists to solve more complex seating problems in the field or allow clinics to spend less time per client in delivering quality seating outcomes.

Amanda will use the ProMedicare range of products to show how this can be done in situ economically in terms of time and costs – and deliver long term seating solutions.

10:45am **Best Practice in Gait-Rehabilitation** *Helmut Krause, THERA-Trainer*



The principals of motor learning are still not followed consistently in therapy. Patients typically spend two thirds of their rehabilitation treatment practising active tasks, but they still do not reach the necessary number of repetitions for meaningful changes in neuroplasticity.

Current scientific findings suggest the need to establish therapy models for quantifiable performance measurement, enabling the transfer of current evidence into clinical practice.

The lecture will introduce the latest findings in gait rehabilitation and a concept of gait rehabilitation approved in German clinical practice; an introduction to the challenges and possibilities of the THERA-Trainer's Loko Solutions® concept.

11:45am **Smart Assistive Technology** *Matthew Manalis, Livigy*



Smart Assistive Technology (SAT) is about the integration, control and monitoring of the devices throughout someone's home. Matt will be giving examples of our SAT is helping change the lives of disabled and elderly people with the help of technology. Matt will also be introducing a new and exciting monitoring product that will help keep our elderly and disabled population safer and more connected than ever before.

Some of the SAT that will be discussed will be: • Lighting Control/Monitoring • Appliance Control/Monitoring (stoves/ovens etc.) • Air Conditioning Control/Monitoring • Audio/Video Control/Monitoring • Access and Door Control/Monitoring • Intercom Systems • Bed Monitoring • Fall Detection • Emergency Duress

These are just some of the systems that we will integrate and control to make elderly and disabled people's lives safer and easier, Matt will also give an insight into some of the other AT devices that we are integrating to currently and what is being worked on for the future.

1:30pm **Innovation: Today's lightweight manual wheelchairs - new materials, new concepts** *Amy Bjornson, Sunrise*



Wheelchairs have rapidly evolved in recent years. Just a decade ago, the world's lightest wheelchairs were in the range of 10kg. Now, it is possible to find ultra-lightweight wheelchairs in the range of 5 kg or less including wheels. These new ultra lightweight wheelchairs are possible due to advances in materials, technology and designs. New ideas in shapes, structures and engineering are producing better, lighter and efficient manual wheelchairs. What impact does this have on client mobility, long term independence and overall health and well being?

ROOM 5

9:15am **Comparing stakeholders' actual experiences and preconceived expectations of National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participation: five Australian seating service participants share their experiences**

Rachael Schmidt, Schmidt Consultancy



For Australians - living with complex postural-mobility disabilities – NDIS participation provided profound hope for procuring sophisticated wheelchairs as and when required; thus ending impecunious funding battles.

A follow-up qualitative study collected participants' actual wheelchair procurement experiences 12months into NDIS trial-implementation. The study aimed to compare same participant data pertaining to before and after NDIS participation. Data collected on participants' actual NDIS experiences during wheelchair procurement (2013-14) was compared with their preconceived NDIS expectations: data collected from their original study participation into Australian seating services – pre-NDIS launch in 2010-11.

Findings exposed both issues and benefits. Negotiating within a NDIS-inspired changing service sector and working NDIS staff with variable sector knowledge were issues impacting on judicious acquisition of specialised services and appropriate wheelchair procurement. NDIS' potential to capture consumer knowledge; provide new service opportunity and its potential to collect wheelchair-user data nationally were recognized benefits.

Conference Program

Relevant findings are discussed in relation to sustainable wheelchair-seating sector development to address a person-directed market-place, as envisaged by NDIS philosophy.”

10:45am **Including sexual expression in healthcare practice: a simple guide**

C *Narelle Higson, MS WA*

Many people experience challenges related to sexual expression as a result of living with disability/health conditions or the treatment for those conditions. Although many health professionals consider sexuality to be an integral part of being human and therefore an important part of wholistic health care, there are many reasons why this area is often left out of routine daily practice. This presentation will outline some simple steps and strategies that can be taken to increase the confidence and competence of all healthcare team members when supporting the area of sexual health and expression. Common barriers to participation will be identified, together with useful strategies to assist in problem solving solutions.

11:45am **Why Weight Matters**

C *Jane Fontein, Astris/ Motion*

Wheelchair manufacturers often promote having the lightest wheelchairs made of the lightest materials. Does this matter? And, if so how much? Understanding the benefits of a lighter wheelchair is important for the user and anyone involved in the wheelchair industry. The decisions you make when ordering and setting up a wheelchair will impact wheelchair weight and efficiency and can have a significant effect on user function, independence and safety. There is research evidence which suggests a lighter wheelchair will be easier to propel and clinical practice guidelines support the use of the lightest adjustable wheelchair available for upper limb function preservation. There is also evidence indicating wheelchair non-use among older adults is linked to wheelchair weight and weight impacts the user or caregiver who must lift the wheelchair. Knowing and understanding the evidence-based recommendations for wheelchair weight, configuration and set up are essential for anyone using, prescribing or selling wheelchairs. Making informed decisions when ordering a wheelchair and selecting components as well as adhering to best practice recommendations during set up can result in big benefits for the user and the caregiver. Understanding of the evidence can help avoid or minimize common problems, such as wheelchairs, which are difficult to propel, injury to the upper extremities and even wheelchair non-use.

1:30pm **Seating the Unseatable Posture**

Tracee-lee Maginnity & Kylie Chambers, Astris

Functional access to independent mobility is often a primary goal in wheelchair and seating prescription. How can this be achieved when significant hip flexion ROM limits the ability to enable what we historically perceive as a seated position? This interactive workshop will involve an in depth case study of a consumer from MAT evaluation through to seating and mobility outcome. As a group we will work through the clinical reasoning process to identify some potential solutions prior to presenting the outcome that was successfully trialed. The final solution was an innovate concept that used a range of custom and off the shelf seating products and the positioning actuators of the powered mobility base to achieve the clients desired functional outcome whilst supporting his postural needs. Feedback on the process and outcome from the consumer will also be included. Whilst this workshop will work through some complex seating principles we welcome any therapists that want to challenge the way they assess and clinically reason seating solutions to achieve client centered options.

HOW TO GET THERE

ATSA Independent Living Expo is in Exhibition Halls 5 & 6, corner of Grand Parade and Showground Road, Sydney Showground.

- Parking:** Sydney Olympic Park has a range of parking options making travelling by car a convenient option for your visit to Sydney Showground.
- Arriving by train:** Olympic Park train station is on Sydney Showground's doorstep. The Sprint service, operated by CityRail, travels between Lidcombe and Olympic Park Stations daily, every 10 minutes.
- Arriving by bus:** Sydney Buses operate direct bus services to Sydney Olympic Park from a number of locations including Lidcombe, Strathfield and Parramatta.
- Arriving by ferry:** Sydney Ferries run a daily service between Circular Quay and Parramatta stopping at Sydney Olympic Park Ferry Wharf. To travel to Sydney Showground, visitors must also catch a connecting bus.

For full timetable information, visit www.transportnsw.info

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