ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY community of practice

Natasha Layton
Robert Bingham
Assistive technology is a powerful change agent yet is a rapidly evolving and complex field. It only takes a small group of committed, innovative people to serve as ‘game-changers’. Imagine the possibilities when individual champions collaborate, building an international network and community of practice for the African continent....in this way contributing towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

PRODUCTS

AFRICA: inequitable supply, costly imports, poor environmental /cultural appropriateness; lack of support for local innovation

GREAT SUMMIT link
http://www.who.int/phi/implementation/assistive_technology/great_summit/en/
Australian Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Association – who are we?

ARATA MEMBERSHIP

- 65% allied health and specialist engineering
- 19% manufacturers/suppliers
- 17% administrators
- 5% consumers
- 5% educators & researchers

www.arata.org.au
Australian Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Association – the birth.

1st AGM October 1995 at the “Second Australian Biennial Conference on Technology for People with Disabilities”
• Barry Seeger President,
• Bill Fisher Vice Pres,
• Robert Bingham Treasurer

203 paid up members
Australian Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Association – early years...

Initial Member Services

• List server
• Biennial Conference discounted registration
• Forum for Special Interest Groups

Special Interest Groups

• Wheeled Mobility and Seating,
• Computer Applications
• Electrical Stimulation
• Augmentative and Alternative Communication,
• Technology Transfer,
• Personal Transportation,
• Prosthetics / Orthotics,
• Education,
• Employment and Accommodation,
• Service Delivery and Public Policy Issues.
Australian Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Association – early years.

Quarterly Newsletter

Membership Directory
Australian Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Association – early years.

Web Page
(www.arata.org)

- Biennial conferences
- Better Technology Awards
- Soft Technology Awards
MEMBER OF:

- International Alliance of AT Professionals (was Tokushima agreement – RESNA, AAATE, RESJA)
- CREATE Asia
Australian Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Association – maturity.

- Standards Australia ME 67 Assistive Technology Products for Persons with a Disability Since 2015
- The National Disability Insurance Scheme
- Accreditation Project
Australian Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Association – hurdles & milestones

- Not all initiatives succeed.
- May be a stage to enlist external professional services
Australian Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Association – the future.
ARATA’s Strategic Goals

- Influence policy and sector development to ensure access to AT products and services for those who need it
- Support and develop assistive technology education and research by promoting specialised skills and knowledge
- Develop strengthen and support local and global assistive technology communities
- Ensure ARATA’s sustainability, financial viability and relevance.
ARATA actions against the WHO GATE ‘P’s

http://www.who.int/phi/implementation/assistive_technology/phi_gate/en/
PERSONNEL: Global work
PERSONNEL: connecting global and local communities of practice

ARATA listserv

ARATA publications

ARATA Conference (November 2018!)
PRODUCTS: Global work
PRODUCTS

Universal/ Inclusive Design (enabling all)

BASIC Mainstream/generic and off the Shelf Products (enabling all)

STANDARD AT devices minor modification product with Training Needed (moderate needs)

SPECIALISED AT devices (significant needs)

COMPLEX solutions requiring integration and intensive training (high needs)
Access to AT products needed in:

- Disability
- Aged care
- Chronic illness
- Early intervention
- Schools
- Vocational training
- Job access
- Intersect with housing sector
- Intersect with built environment

AT Funding in Australia

National Assistive Technology Alliance
Saying ‘what good looks like’

- **Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology**
  *Informing the Australian government on AT policies: ARATA’s experiences* 10(3), 236-239. doi:10.3109/17483107.2014.913711

- **Steel, Layton, Foster & Bennett (2014)**

- **Australian Occupational Therapy Journal** Steel & Layton (2016)

- **Occupational Therapy International** Steel, Buchanan, Layton & Wilson (2017)
  *Currency and competence of occupational therapists and consumers with rapidly changing technology* Article ID 5612843, 5 pages doi:1155/2017/5612843

- **RESNA Conference (North America)** de Jonge, Layton, Vicary & Steel (2015)

- **AAATE Conference (Europe)** Layton, DeJonge & Steel (2013)

**Champion the need for wholistic AT provision**

**Explore the role of the AT user expert**

**State AT Good Practice Steps and argue for their implementation**

**Improve knowledge about disability-specific and mainstream technologies**

**How AT users and AT practitioners can collaborate**

**State ‘what good looks like’ from the perspective of AT users**
ARATA’s Policy Actions

• Evidence of good practice
• Position Papers (‘what good looks like’)
• Issues Papers (what needs to change)
• Government submissions
ARATA’s Actions to support PEOPLE

Research Translation: ‘My Outcomes’ Framework

Launch at AATC 2018
The leading Assistive Technology (AT) conference in Australia

Hosted biennially by the Australian Rehabilitation & Assistive Technology Association (ARATA)

Three full days of evidence- & practice-based conference sessions – short, poster & longer presentations, AT demonstrations & spotlights, & panel discussions

National & international keynote presenters focused on the latest policy & practice in the field of AT

Collaborative breakfast meeting led by ARATA with AFDO & OT Australia, delivering an evidenced set of outcome tools available for AT users to document the impacts of AT

Over 300 delegates & 30 exhibitors, including AT users, advisors, providers & suppliers

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY
community of practice

Check out our website
www.arata.org.au