**Review of a prototyping kit to facilitate the development of client-specific adapted cutlery**

**Aim:** To promote the use of modular cutlery prototyping kits to support the practice of clinicians without access to technical support and to achieve better outcomes for clients.

**Outcomes:** 11 Occupational Therapists across NSW who have used the prototyping kit in their clinical practice were surveyed regarding its effectiveness. The results emphatically demonstrate that the prototyping kit is seen as beneficial to clinical practice and client outcomes relating to adapted cutlery (• client acceptance, • time to develop, • alignment with client needs).

**Abstract (249 words):**

Clients with impaired upper limb function may require the use of adapted cutlery to increase their functional independence in daily tasks such as feeding. Individual variations in impairment, particularly within the SCI community, mean that commercially available adapted cutlery often does not suit an individual client’s needs. In response, a low-cost, modular, prototyping kit was developed to facilitate therapists in developing client-specific adapted cutlery. A review was conducted to assess the effectiveness of the kit in achieving this aim.

The prototyping kit was developed to facilitate the practice of OTs developing client-specific adapted cutlery where commercially available options do not meet the client’s needs. It achieves this in three ways:

1. It gives a working prototype that can be used with clients to confirm the design’s effectiveness,
2. The prototype precisely communicates the orientation and arrangement of the desired cutlery to the fabricating technician,
3. The modular design specifications can be accurately captured by technicians allowing for replicas to be made in the future without access to previous cutlery.

The modular kit is particularly effective for rural and remote therapists who may have difficulty trialling commercial equipment and accessing local services for custom fabrication.

11 Occupational Therapists across NSW reviewed the kit as a tool to facilitate their practice. Responses demonstrate that therapists find the kit enhances their practice, typically gives better results, and reduces the time to develop adapted cutlery to meet the needs of individual clients and suggests that expanding availability to prototyping kits would be beneficial.