**AUSTRALIAN ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE 2018**

*Experiences, Opportunities, Innovations*

**The Challenges and Triumphs of AT: A Users Perspective**

**ABSTRACT**

For a person with a disability, the ability to functionally participate in society can be heavily influenced by the interaction between their body function and structures, activities they are involved in, and their personal and environmental factors (World Health Organization, 2001). Dyskinetic cerebral palsy is a movement disorder characterised by changes in muscle tone and posture, with a varying element of involuntary movement (Stewart & Harvey, 2018). Functional participation in activities is particularly complex for this group of people when physical access options are limited.

This paper will be presented in conjunction with Clare who has used assistive technology extensively throughout her life to enable participation in a wide range of everyday activities. Clare has dyskinetic cerebral palsy with significant motor impairment and hearing loss. She mobilises using a powered wheelchair and accesses a speech generating device for communication, computer functions and environmental control. With life goals of study, work, travel and adventurous leisure pursuits; technology has given her independence and empowerment in all aspects of life.

Along with the triumphs of successful use of assistive technology has come many hurdles and challenges for Clare. Changes in physical functioning has meant ongoing assessments from therapists, extensive equipment trials and having to learn new ways of participating in her daily activities. New processes with the introduction of the NDIS has added additional challenges.

Through Clare’s inspirational story and journey through the world of assistive technology, considerations for client centred assessment, outcome measurement and successful implementation of technology will be highlighted.

Abstract: 249 words

**Bibliography**

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World Health Organization. (2001). *International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health*. (online) Available at <http://www.who.int/classifications/icf/en/> (Accessed 10 May 2018).