**Title: Assistive technology as a pre-requisite for choice: the importance of connectivity, before expecting goals and planning.**

Abstract: The NDIS aims to deliver choice and control to people with disability, by empowering them to make decisions regarding their supports, including assistive technology. This presentation argues that, at least for some participants, this puts the cart before the horse.

People with dual sensory loss require assistive technology solutions to establish and maintain a connection with the world. AT enables people with disability to live a better, more independent and more inclusive life. It enables people with disability to maximise their abilities at home, in the community and in the workplace, ensuring greater economic and social participation. It is impossible for an individual to anticipate or choose the specific elements of assistive technology solutions that will best suit them without prior opportunity to learn about the possibilities through experience.

This presentation will discuss an innovative, peer-led model of assistive technology service delivery that supports people to discover, explore, learn and develop the knowledge and skills necessary to become an assistive technology user. It is only through this investment in supporting people to become assistive technology users that they come to a position where they can make plans for the future and exercise choice and control in decisions regarding support.