**TITLE OF PAPER**

*‘The Perfect Storm’: Continuity of Access to Assistive Technology Supports During the NDIS Transition*

**Aims**

To ensure that continuity of access to Assistive Technology (AT) supports is provided to all people with a disability during the nationwide roll-out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

**Findings/Results/Outcomes**

Acknowledging the need for service providers and funding bodies to be agile in their approaches towards systems and processes is the first step on the way to ensuring a future whereby the continuity of access to essential assistive technology supports is provided to all people with a disability.

**Abstract (max 250w)**

As the roll-out of the NDIS continues across Australia, it is increasingly important that support continuity is provided to all people with a disability. This is particularly pertinent during the time that services are being transitioned from previous state-funded programs to the NDIS. This paper explores initiatives implemented by the State-wide Equipment Program (SWEP) in Victoria to support participants through the transition from State-funded equipment programs to the NDIS.

The NDIS reform is proving to be an enormous adjustment for funding bodies, assistive technology prescribers and suppliers, and NDIS participants alike. With the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) estimating that by 2019, approximately 460,000 Australians under the age of 65 will transition into the NDIS, the demand relating to transitioning participants is enormous and will inevitably take some time.

As each roll-out region commences transition, the funding provisions to State-funded equipment programs is being reduced and the ability to be able to continue to support people with a disability in the same capacity is at risk of being compromised. In this time of change, the importance of the service providers and funding bodies’ ability to be agile in their approaches and in adapting systems to ensure support continuity is provided is becoming more evident. This paper will demonstrate current initiatives SWEP has used to ensure contemporary NDIS approaches.