FOCUS AREA 5. ***Policies and systems*** *…* AT policies, funding and service development

TITLE OF PAPER Australia’s National Assistive Technology Alliance

Once a highly specialised field, assistive technology (AT) has become more broadly used in the wider community, with an expansion of people using AT as well as recommending and prescribing AT. Government spending on AT is now occurring beyond the traditional areas of disability, aged care and community into education, early childhood, job access, housing and beyond. This burgeoning environment of AT use, funding and practice requires sector connection and collaboration.

**Aims** The National Assistive Technology Alliance Is a community of nearly 20 peak national stakeholders. Established by several Independent Living Centres and Australian Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Association (ARATA) as an unincorporated entity, NATA aims to foster collaborations and connections across the AT sector in response to rapid policy change.

**Outcomes**

This poster describes the work of this broad-based Alliance of nationally-focussed organisations concerned with assistive technology use, innovation, manufacture, supply, provision, service delivery, research, education or oversight. Eighteen months after its inception, NATA includes Australian peak bodies across five broad stakeholder groups:

* AT Consumers
* AT Practitioners
* AT Services
* AT Suppliers
* AT researchers/ educators

As a centralised point for knowledge sharing and a portal for communication across the diverse sector, the Alliance’s activities are strategically prioritised by NATA participants. A range of outcomes will be presented.