**AUSTRALIAN ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE 2018**

*Collaborate, Empower, Transform -* realising opportunities with assistive technology

**Technology for All**

**Evidence for AT Practice**

**ROCKY BAY WA**

**ABSTRACT**

This oral presentation describes the learning’s and successes of a rural and remote AT project undertaken by Rocky Bay between Oct 2015 and Oct 2017. The project focused on improving independence and participation of people with disability in daily activities, using environmental control devices and/or monitoring/alerting technologies.

A Perth based project team delivered services in Geraldton, Albany, Bunbury, Kalgoorlie and Broome, in collaboration with professionals from local disability organisations. Participants presented with a range of diagnosis for example Intellectual Disability, Acquired Brain Injury, Multiple Sclerosis and Visual Impairment.

Project aims:

* Improve independence and participation of people with disability in rural locations
* Understand the AT needs of those in rural WA
* Raise AT awareness among participants, carers, professionals and organisations in rural WA:
  + demonstrate the capacity of technology to improve quality of life
  + increase capacity of carers and professionals to support the use of AT
  + increase skills and knowledge of individuals in the range of AT options available
  + prepare for NDIS - be informed for future planning
* Increase understanding of the challenges in using AT in rural areas and strategies to overcome
* Understand investment requirements in terms of cost and time

Previous AT projects undertaken by Rocky Bay, within metropolitan Perth, provided significant learnings that supported and enabled optimum delivery of this project.

This presentation will examine the project; present case studies and outcomes, consider the challenges and successes of delivery in rural locations, and provide recommendations for future service delivery.

**SUMMARY**

Technology of All has focused on the provision of emerging technologies for people with disability living within regional Western Australia supported by a range of disability service providers. An important goal has been to increase the skills and knowledge of both clients and therapists in the field of emerging technologies.