AATC 2018 Submission

Learning Objective:

* Co-designing peer support around assistive technology to facilitate decision making.
* How people with disability want information to be delivered to assist in choice and control.
* Implementing a peer led initiative, 'by people with disability for people with disability.'
* How AT Chat is having the ‘*assistive technology conversation’*.

100 word description: (232 words)

Danielle Loizou-Lake (AT Chat project manager) will explain how in an Australian first, a team of people with disability are changing the way information, advice and support is created and shared around Assistive Technology (AT) in a capacity building initiative by the Independent Living Centre WA called AT Chat, which is funded by the Disability Service Commission and NDIA.

Following its successful launch in 2017, this innovative online AT Community hub delivers multimedia information connecting people living with disability to assist them to make choices around AT solutions. Danielle will share the co-design framework that this peer developed project undertook engaging an extensive engagement with over 300 West Australians with disability. The outcomes of this engagement allowed AT Chat to better understand the frustrations and barriers around accessing AT information and how people would like to see AT information communicated. Using this feedback AT Chat has been working to break down barriers and improve how people access information about AT (aids and equipment) using practical and engaging real life examples.

The AT Chat Facebook page (@atchatwithus) releases ‘user led’ video content based on what people wanted to know. Regular stories and information encourage other people with disability to see what is available for them to consider in a fun and contemporary style. This is supported by ‘Chatterbox’ a Facebook group to share knowledge and experience about AT and is supported by ILCWA health professionals