Title

Towards an Assistive Technology Practitioner Directory: an update on ARATA’s Credentialing Project

Aims

ARATA’s Credentialing Group have been working on strategies to empower Assistive Technology (AT) to choose Assistive Technology practitioner (ATP) services – regarding assessment, prescription and implementation - to best meet their Assistive Technology needs.

Background: The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), along with other policy reforms, endorses a person-directed procurement approach to empower consumer choice; including their assistive technology services and specific AT requirements. This insurance-style approach has transformed traditional service provision and known AT practice to a decentralised service sector encouraging greater cohort of independent service providers. Subsequently, consumers are having to navigate an evolving AT service landscape scattered with numerous sole practitioners and smaller private providers providing assistive technology assessment - prescription expertise and implementation.

Findings: The presentation provides an update on project progress. The dimensions of expertise will be discussed, the current aims and the vision for the future. An outline of a prototype national Assistive Technology Practitioner (ATP) searchable directory and database will be presented.

Conclusion: This paper presents the conceptual and project design work to date, as well as opportunities for ARATA member involvement during piloting phases. ARATA ATP database project is of interest to AT stakeholders including: sole practitioners, multidisciplinary AT services, expert AT users and support people and AT suppliers.

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