The role of Rehabilitation Engineering in Australian AT service delivery

Aim: To discuss the role of rehabilitation engineering in assistive technology design and service delivery, both in Australia and internationally.

Abstract (237 words):

Engineers Australia is the peak body for engineering in Australia. Within the EA Biomedical College, the National Committee on Rehabilitation Engineering aims to promote the work and role of professional engineering involvement in the provision of assistive technology services to Australians with disabilities, improve Government understanding of, and support for rehabilitation engineering; and establish and increase the level of rehabilitation engineering research and development projects, manufacturing industry and training in Australia.

In this panel discussion, members of the NCRE and rehabilitation engineers registered with EA will discuss the role of rehabilitation engineering in assistive technology design and service delivery, both in Australia and internationally. The panel discussion will focus on five areas:

1. What is rehabilitation engineering and how is it part of AT service delivery in Australia?

2. Involvement of rehabilitation engineering in current evidence-based service delivery, including manufacture of custom-made assistive technologies and standards development.

3. Engineering design approaches used in rehabilitation engineering, such as participatory action design, user-centred design, and universal design.

4. Measuring outcomes of rehabilitation engineering services in Australia and internationally.

5. Overview of the Engineers Australia Chartered Status credential for members of the engineering team, and how it operates in the field of rehabilitation engineering.

Members of the panel have extensive experience in assistive technology service delivery, research, regulation, and policy development and implementation. The panel discussion will be of interest to all stakeholders involved in assistive technology provision in Australia.