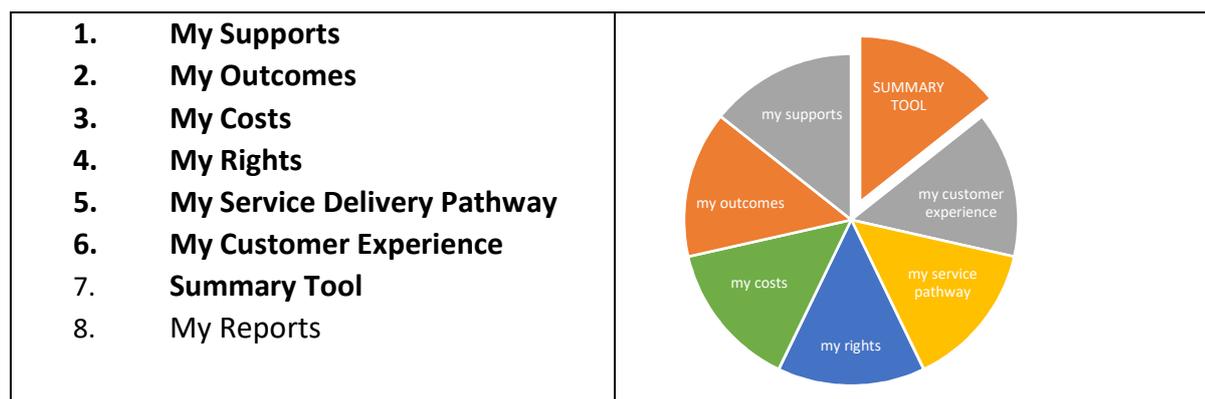


My Assistive Technology Outcomes Framework

The Project

My AT Outcomes Framework builds on PhD research into disability costs and outcomes. The Framework fills an identified gap in **policy-relevant, consumer-focussed outcome measurement**. Dr Natasha Layton is leading its development in a cross-sector co-production with AT consumers, disabled persons organizations, and AT practitioners. The anticipated outcome is an evidence-based Framework containing a valid and reliable set of tools to articulate the outcomes of significance to AT consumers, practitioners, and funders.

My AT Outcome Framework capture



The *My AT Outcomes Framework* will provide:

- Tools to educate consumers and AT stakeholders about AT and outcomes;
- Tools for individual and systemic advocacy;
- Tools for data collection to contribute to individualised planning processes;
- Tools to measure policy performance.

Project Rationale / Background

Disability, health and aged care policy is shifting towards consumer-driven care and individualised budgets. In order to be heard and understood in these new funding contexts, assistive technology (AT) consumers and the practitioners who support them must 'make the case' for adequate funding of supports in new ways. Significant challenges are emerging whereby:

- a) The relationship between consumer (AT user) and practitioners is altered. Consumers select their practitioners therefore relationships and record-keeping may be shorter term and subject to fee for service arrangements.
- b) Service and funding opportunities are different, as consumers are 'customers' with individualised budgets.
- c) Established outcome tools may not fit with the new language of 'reasonable and necessary' and 'social and economic outcomes'¹

Consumers are now in the position of selecting and directing their allied health practitioners and resulting supports. AT consumers are calling for assistive technology and service delivery research evidence to be translated into practical tools in order to support discussions with their allied health practitioners. Needs

¹ NDIA, 2018 <https://www.ndis.gov.au/participants/reasonable-and-necessary-supports>

analysis conducted by a consortia of stakeholders from disability² and from aged care sectors³ has identified the need for case study formats which have content validity and enable an aggregation of data to identify and evidence the impact of AT provision upon outcomes. These tools enable consumers to collate evidence as to their support needs according to established criteria, and communicate this to planners and funders. An online platform housing the tools will also enable a database to optionally collate AT user experience data, within ethical and privacy limits, for systemic advocacy purposes.

My AT Outcome Framework aims to deliver this. This project has high potential impact as consumers and policymakers from the disability and aged care sectors demonstrate significant interest in these tools for self-advocacy, data collection and policy performance purposes. AT funders have expressed interest from an AT outcome forecasting perspective.

FIVE YEAR RESEARCH PLAN includes:

- a) Fully scope and design research plan, and embed sector engagement
- b) Literature review and develop initial web design specifications into web-based platform with specifications for associated database);
- c) Web development and database for pilot tool;
- d) Run research pilot with identified populations;
- e) Scale to full study
- f) Knowledge Translation and Deployment

Steering Group	Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able Australia • Polio Australia • ARATA • Solve Disability Solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Federation of Disability Organisations • Occupational Therapy Australia • Swinburne University
<p>The researcher Dr Layton is an occupational therapist, researcher and longstanding member of the AT community in Australia and internationally, holding roles with ARATA⁴, NACA⁵, ISO⁶, WHO GATE⁷, Polio Australia⁸ and Motivation Australia⁹, Swinburne and La Trobe Universities.</p>	

CONTACT DETAILS

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³ ATOP Assistive Technology for Older Persons Action Group, COTA, Victoria

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⁵ Independent Chair of the National Assistive Technology Alliance, NATA www.arata.org.au/nata

⁶ Australian Expert to International Organisation for Standardisation, ISO TC173/SC2/WG12

⁷ World Health Organisation Global Access to Assistive Technology, WHO GATE Initiative

http://www.who.int/phi/implementation/assistive_technology/en/

⁸ Polio Australia <https://www.polioaustralia.org.au/>

⁹ Motivation Australia <https://www.motivation.org.au/>