Living WITH Equipment means...
Having to accept what is available/provided
Having to use devices that look “medical” or “odd”
Learning to use the device to do the things you need to do
Having to manage the device – maintenance & repairs
Being further disabled – relying on a device which may not be available/useable everywhere
Dealing with changed perceptions of yourself
Being viewed differently by others

What does the literature tell us?
Factors related to Nonuse - User
Age
Gender
Expectations – own & social circle
Goals & Priorities
Perception of self
Nature of Condition – severity & progression

Garber & Gregario, 1990; Mann, Hurren, & Tomita, 1993; Scherer, 1998; Wessels et al., 2003
### Factors related to Nonuse - Device

- **Appearance** – social acceptability
- **Performance** - effectiveness, reliability, durability, comfort & ease of use
- **Quality of the device**
- **Use of multiple devices** – compatibility


### Factors related to Nonuse - Environment

- **Barriers to use or task performance**
- **Opportunities for use**
- **Acceptance within social circle**
- **Support within environment for user and device**

Philips & Zhao, 1993; Rodger, de Jonge, & Fitzgibbon, 1999a; Scherer, 1998; Smith, 1996; Wessels et al., 2003.

### Factors related to Nonuse - Service

- **Consumer involvement in device selection**
- **Availability and length of delivery period**
- **Access to meaningful instruction & training**
- **Correct provision process and installation**
- **Information about repair and maintenance**
- **Follow-up service**

Garbar & Gregorio, 1990; Mann, Hurren, & Tomita, 1993; Scherer, 1998; Wessels et al., 2003.

### What is the industry saying?

### Constraints

- Insufficient funding – devices & services
- Silos of funding and scattered service system
- Episodic funding
- Rehabilitation perspective – focus on defining impairment and fitting devices to the person
- Poverty mentality
- Administrative burden
- Expert gatekeepers
- Inadequate capacity building in the system
- Limited consumer input and feedback

### How do we ensure AT works for people today, tomorrow and into the future?
What AT users want...

- Needs examined holistically
  - addressed in every area of life
  - considered across the lifespan
  - best combination of equipment, personal care and environmental design
- Be actively involved in deciding on the best option
- Have personal preferences and identity considered when selecting equipment to suit lifestyle and participation

(de Jonge, Vicary & Layton, 2009)

What AT users want....

- Access to sufficient funding to pay for good quality and long lasting equipment
- Access to resources when needed
- Access to skilled practitioners who can work across life domains
- Access to expertise throughout the whole process
- Gain knowledge of AT and the processes involved in accessing it

(de Jonge, Vicary & Layton, 2009)

Consumer Involvement

AT users are best placed to evaluate the suitability of equipment for their specific situation and consider:

- their abilities and preferred way of doing things
- their preferences and image of themselves
- ease of use vs functional gain (hassle index)
- the range of activities undertaken with it (now & future)
- the effectiveness and efficiency of the device
- the impact of ongoing use
- where the device/s is to be used
- how others are likely to respond to them
- how well it can be supported

System Perspective

- Increased resources - A & ST, staffing, research
- Restructure of the service system - Nationally consistent & flexible funding systems
- User involvement in service & system development
- Systematic holistic evaluation & selection process
- Dedicated training & support for prescribers
- Co-ordination & collaboration between providers & services
- Supply improvements – better access to trial equipment
- Regulation – guidelines, training & accreditation of providers & services
- Follow-up & Feedback – training & review of users, feedback & outcome measurement, EBP

References


http://inclusive.com/AT_boogie/at30.swf


*N.B. This article will be emailed to students directly.


Wessels, R., Olijck, R., Soede, M., Gelderblom, G. J., & De Witte, L. (2003). Non-use of provided assistive technology devices, a literature overview. Technology and Disability, 15, 231-238.