



David Sinclair, George Ajaka & NDIS Minister Linda Reynolds

ATSA Newsletter

Message from ATSA's Executive Officer, David Sinclair

It was great to be able to catch up face to face once again at the ATSA Independent Living Expos in May. It was pleasing to witness such a positive mood from the exhibitors, presenters and attendees. The seminar programs at both events were well supported with record attendance. I wish to pass on my thanks to everyone who has communicated their best wishes and compliments on the events. It would not have been possible for the events to be so successful without the support of all the exhibitors, presenters, attendees and the team behind the scenes, Interpoint Events supported by ATSA's Melanie Robertson.

We were very disappointed that the ATSA Independent Living Expo, Perth was unable to remain open for the final 3 hours on Thursday – the final day of the show. The decision to close the event was taken by the ATSA Board as a precaution following information from the WA Government health authority. It was a shame, as the number of attendees at that point far exceeded the previous show in 2018. Clearly, there was a lot of interest!

The ATSA Independent Living Expo, Canberra, is just around the corner; so book your space now. Call for papers also close at the end of June.

There is plenty happening on the AT industry advocacy front, including: Hand control issues in NSW, Motorised Mobility Devices (MMD), NDIS open quotes, Royal Commissions for both the Aged and Disability sectors, plus changes coming through with the TGA. If any of these subjects are of interest to you, please drop ATSA a line and we will go over the details with you.

On the 14th June, ATSA was able to raise a number of industry issues face to face with NDIS Minister Reynolds. It was a positive meeting that has opened the way for further discussions with ATSA on a number of industry matters. We look forward to sharing further developments in the near future.



David Sinclair

ATSA Board Members

Chairman:

Geoff Purtill (Invacare)

Vice Chair:Nikolas Witcombe
(Blue Badge Insurance Australia)**Financial Director:**

Chris Jones (Peak Care)

Directors:George Ajaka (GTK)
Philippa Bell (Board appointed)
Sally Farrow (Para Mobility)
Tom Hogan (KCare)
Chris Sparks (Board appointed)
Jaime Thomson (Wicked Wheelchairs)**Company Secretary:**

David Sinclair (ATSA)

Important Dates

Industry Briefing

25 August – Brisbane

1 September – Adelaide

ATSA Independent Living Expo

27 – 28 October – Canberra

www.atsaindependentlivingexpo.com.au

Annual General Meeting

24 November – Sydney

Followed by Industry Briefing

“
Supporting an
industry which
values the
independence
of people living
with disability,
seniors, their
families and
carers.

Phone: (02) 9893 1883

Mail: PO Box 7245 Tathra NSW 2550

Email: info@atsa.org.au

Website: www.atsa.org.au

ABN: 58 628 080 517

In This Issue

- Record numbers attended the ATSA Independent Living Expo's in May
- Free Business Education for ATSA members
- Equal access to information is a right of all Australians
- Papers Submitted
- TGA's SME Assist 'Meeting our Obligations' workshop
- Modern Slavery
- NDIS Commission website redevelopment - seeking NDIS providers and NDIS workers
- Assistive Technology Precinct Reports
- New Logo and updating the website
- The TGA is consulting on potential refinements to the new regulatory framework for personalised medical devices
- Preliminary insights from Motorised Mobility Devices research – University of Wollongong and ATSA
- Australian Access Awards 2021: Call for nominations
- Assistive Technology Precinct Reports
- Join us at Refresh Conference



Record numbers attended the ATSA Independent Living Expo's in May

Despite COVID and a number of date changes the ATSA Independent Living Expo's in Melbourne and Perth triumphed.

The first event was held in Melbourne and the sold-out two-day expo was the largest assistive technology event to be held anywhere in the world this year (to date), attracting 3000 visitors and 160 exhibitors on May 18-19. Shadow Minister for the NDIS, Bill Shorten, was a guest speaker on day two and he spoke about strengthening the AT sector by encouraging a domestic industry with more manufacturing and investment.

ATSA presented a number of awards at the popular ATSA member and exhibitor networking function at the end of day one: Amy Bjornson, from Sunrise Medical was awarded the Most Registered and Attended Session Presenter, TabTimer was awarded the Best Exhibitor Marketing Campaign, Best Small Stand was awarded to Independence Automotive and Best Large Stand winner was Invacare Australia & New Zealand.

The week following Melbourne, doors opened to the second ATSA Independent Living Expo to be held in Perth, where there was also a record number of exhibitors and attendees. Disappointingly, the recent COVID outbreak in Victoria meant that day two ended early. Everyone's support and understanding has been amazing.

Before the end of day one ATSA hosted the networking drinks in Perth where awards were presented. The award winners were: Pearl Chan and Unicare Health for the Best Marketing Campaign, and Bas Jansen was presented the award for Most Pre-registered and Best Attended Education Session. Wonder Sheet/Neeki Designs was winner of Best Small Stand and Para Mobility won Best Large stand.

"ATSA's Independent Living Expos play a huge role for suppliers to reach therapists, allied health professionals and the wider disability community. Nowhere was this more evident than the recent shows in Melbourne and Perth where record numbers attended. In spite of cancellations from last year and caution surrounding covid, both shows were sold out and in total more than 5000 people visited the events," said Simon Cooper, Managing Director, Interpoint Events.

Thank you to all our ATSA members, exhibitors, presenters, attendees, Interpoint Events and everyone who helped make ATSA Independent Living Expo's such a success.

ATSA Independent Living Expo – Best New Product Award goes to...

We had more than 30 entries for this year's Best New Product Award. After narrowing the field to eight including: Billy Footwear High Top from EVERYHUMAN; Krabat Pirat from MEDIX 21 Australia; The Handi Joystick from Handi; Tilt In Space Rehab Shower Commode from K Care Healthcare Solutions; Panthera ReTyre Traction from Motum (Australia); Trivida Wheelchair Wheel from Trivida; Rove Wheelchair from Rove Wheelchairs, and Sara Flex from Rehab Hire. All exhibitors were asked to vote.

This time, for the first time ever, we had tied winners... Congratulations to Trivida Wheelchair Wheel from Trivida and to Rove Wheelchair from Rove Wheelchairs.

Next stop, Canberra!

ATSA is now accepting submissions for presentations to be held at the second Canberra ATSA Independent Living Expo.

The ATSA Independent Living Expo's seminar program is a popular part of the exhibition, providing industry professionals with the opportunity to engage directly with attendees.

The education sessions provide a rare opportunity to highlight breakthrough technologies; present the latest research findings; speak out on issues relating to disability or ageing, and to demonstrate techniques for client assessment or introduce new developments.

Deadline is 30 June 2021 – visit: www.atsaindependent-livingexpo.com.au to submit your paper, register to attend or learn more about the event.

Business Event Grant update

For a recent update on the Business Events Grants please [click here](#).



Free Business Education for ATSA members

Join us for a series of workshops designed to help you drive growth for your business by developing a practical digital strategy. From Social, SEO and SEM to your website, ERP and CRM, these workshops will help you make better decisions and reduce your risk when it comes to the digital landscape. Run by Ben Barin, who has extensive experience with the full spectrum of digital – from strategy to delivery, his clients over the past 15 years have included Commonwealth Bank, Unilever, Hyundai, Cancer Council and P&O Cruises to name a few.

Ben's primary focus is on ensuring your *business* objectives remain the focus of any project and the role of digital is to establish a system that solves basic business problems. Once established, a good system will evolve to enable you to find better solutions to problems, which ultimately drives growth.

If you are interested in learning more, please [click here](#) for a quick survey – or email melanie.robertson@atsa.org.au with your interest.



Equal access to information is a right of all Australians

Could you imagine not having access to news and information that is important to your health and wellbeing? Vision Australia Radio's 600+ volunteers make newspaper and magazine articles accessible to the blind community and 700,000 Australians each month, but they need your help to do it. [Donate now during their 2021 Radiothon](#) and keep this vital service on-air.



Papers Submitted

There is plenty happening on the AT industry advocacy front, including, Hand control issues in NSW, Motorised Mobility Devices (MMD), NDIS open quotes, plus changes coming through with the TGA. If any of these subjects are of interest to you, please drop ATSA a line and we will go over the details with you. On the 14th June, ATSA was able to raise a number of industry issues face to face with NDIS Minister Reynolds. It was a positive meeting that has opened the way for further discussions with ATSA on a number of industry matters. We look forward to sharing further developments in the near future.

TGA's SME Assist 'Meeting our Obligations' workshop

Are you new to therapeutic goods regulation? Then don't miss the TGA's [SME Assist](#) online workshop about 'Meeting Your Obligations'.

It's a free workshop for those new to or unfamiliar with therapeutic goods regulation, including small to medium enterprises (SMEs), start-ups, and researchers. The workshop will help you navigate the regulatory maze so you understand your obligations at different stages of the regulatory process.

When:

Wednesday 23 June 2021, 1:30pm – 4:30pm

Where:

Live stream, Therapeutic Goods Administration, Canberra

To register and get more information please visit: www.tga.gov.au

Modern Slavery

Following on from the Industry Briefings held prior to the Expos in both Melbourne and Perth, more information regarding Modern Slavery can be viewed at: [Modern slavery \(homeaffairs.gov.au\)](http://Modern.slavery.homeaffairs.gov.au)

NDIS Commission website redevelopment - seeking NDIS providers and NDIS workers

The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NDIS Commission) is redeveloping their website this year to make it more user-focused, intuitive and easy to navigate.

They are working with stakeholders to obtain feedback about the [current website](#) and to understand how it can be improved, and are inviting **expressions of interest from NDIS providers and NDIS workers** who would like to be involved in the following activities this month:

- **Activity 1: 30-minute interview:** The purpose of the interview is to understand the NDIS providers' and NDIS workers' experiences with the NDIS Commission in general, and your views on the website in particular (e.g. what is working well, ways it can be improved, etc.). The interview will be conducted by video call at a mutually agreed time in early June.
- **Activity 2: Online activities (approx. 20 minutes):** These activities will involve doing a card sort (organising topics and tasks into categories) and doing some task testing (seeing where you would go on the website to complete a task). The results of these exercises will help inform the new website information architecture. They will take around 20 minutes each and can be done on any computer at a time convenient to you. (Note that the card sort activity is not WCAG compliant.)

If you would like to participate in either of these activities, please email damian.mcdermott@iconagency.com.au with your contact details. Be sure to state which activity you are interested in.

Assistive Technology Precinct Reports

At the ATSA Independent Living Expo, Melbourne, Steve Zanon, Director, Proactive Ageing® launched two major new initiatives:

- A report on 'Establishing a High-Tech Assistive Technology Precinct', and
- A bid for a new "Care Economy" Cooperative" Research Centre, driving innovation in the disability, ageing, and related care sectors.

Visit www.atsa.org.au/resources to download the reports.



Steve Zanon,
Director, Proactive Ageing®

New Logo and updating the website

You may have noticed our logo has had a refresh. The logo design was completed in 2020 and due to COVID we delayed revealing the new look until the ATSA Independent Living Expo this May. We will be sending all ATSA members a set of logos for use in their marketing in the coming weeks.

We are also gradually improving our website - check out www.atsa.org.au/resources for plenty of helpful information.



The TGA is consulting on potential refinements to the new regulatory framework for personalised medical devices

Regulatory changes introducing a new framework for the regulation of personalised medical devices commenced on 25 February 2021, including a transition period for eligible manufacturers and sponsors until 1 November 2024. Comprehensive information about the new framework is available via the personalised medical devices landing page on the TGA website.

During the implementation phase a number of sectors have raised concerns over the impact of the new framework including comments that:

- the new regulatory requirements are a duplication of existing regulation already provided by professional accrediting bodies or other regulatory bodies;
- the classification of certain requirements for some devices were excessive compared with the actual risk posed by the device; and/or
- the regulatory burden associated with compliance is unreasonable.

The TGA are now seeking feedback through a public consultation process on potential options for refining the framework that will ensure risks associated with the production and supply of personalised medical devices are appropriately mitigated, without imposing unnecessary administrative and regulatory burden.

We encourage you to provide your feedback on the proposed options for refining the framework. You can do this via ATSA your feedback by COB 25 June. If you wish to submit directly to the TGA, **The consultation closes 11:59pm 14 July 2021**. Information about the consultation, including information about how to submit a response, is available on the [TGA website](#).

Preliminary insights from Motorised Mobility Devices research – University of Wollongong and ATSA

The year 1981 was proclaimed the International Year of Disabled Persons by the United Nations. It called for a plan of action with an emphasis on equalization of opportunities, rehabilitation and prevention of disabilities. It is now 40 years since Australia took part and based on the some of the preliminary findings, we are still a long way from inclusion and addressing some of the most basic needs for users of MMDs to get around.

To date, the University of Wollongong has interviewed 50 people using wheelchairs or scooters.

The initial common themes from respondents coming through is.

- The lack of infrastructure continues to create difficulties for respondents to participate in everyday activities these include broken footpaths, cars parked across footpaths, steep gradients, no ramps. This in some cases, forcing MMD users to take risks such as using the road as a passage to get around.
- Evidence is emerging that due to the approach to design spaces for standing and walking bodies this attitude is contributing to real emotional – fear, frustration, anxiety, embarrassment, and shame as people encountered situations that caused interruptions to their journeys. These emotional intensities may accumulate over time and work to prevent people from living the lives they want to live.
- Mobility is inherently related to independence and positive emotions such as happiness, love and joy at being able to move freely. This is reinforcing the importance of social and material infrastructures that can support the free flow of sitting and wheeling bodies.

We encourage people to take our survey: [Qualitative Survey](#) and Invitation to Participate.

We are looking to speak to people in the Wollongong area so if you use an electric wheelchair or mobility scooter please be in touch at: tharada@uow.edu.au or telephone **0423 383 113** and leave a message.

“

They call it my Harley.
It's bloody awesome.

MALE, 68 YEARS, FATHER, GRANDFATHER

”



ACCESS
Australian Centre for
Culture, Environment,
Society & Space



“

I think of myself as the happiest
man alive. I have had a life
well lived and I am still doing it,
albeit with a few challenges.

MARINE BIOLOGIST, FATHER OF 2, 50 YEARS OLD

”



ACCESS
Australian Centre for
Culture, Environment,
Society & Space



Australian Access Awards 2021: Call for nominations

The Australian Access Awards are a celebration of organisations and individuals that have made their websites and apps accessible.

Centre for Accessibility (CFA) Australia are proud to announce the [Australian Access Awards](#) presenting partner, Infosys. Infosys and CFA Australia have been working together on supporting the digital access needs of Australian organisations. They are also proud to announce Platinum and Gold sponsors Coles and ANZ who have likewise committed to celebrating digital access best practice through the Access Awards.

The Award categories are: Corporate website of the year, Government website of the year, Not-for-profit website of the year, Educational website of the year, Corporate app of the year, Government app of the year, Not-for-profit app of the year, Educational app of the year, Accessibility initiative of the year, Individual or Organization of the year to be inducted into our Hall of Fame alongside 2019 winner Gian Wild.

This year, there are two new categories: International website of the year and International app of the year, to celebrate international organisations that have websites or apps used by Australians that meet accessibility best practice.

The Australian Access Awards 2021 will be held on November 19 in Fremantle, Western Australia. Nominations opened on May 20, Global Accessibility Awareness Day 2021.

From CEO CFA Australia, Dr Scott Hollier '1 in 5 Australians are living with disability. As the pandemic has proven, digital accessibility provides essential connections to community, services and products. Equitable access in the online world is as important as physical accessibility.'

'We are proud to be working with Infosys, our awards presenting partner alongside Platinum and Gold sponsors Coles and ANZ.'

To learn more about the Centre for Accessibility Australia or to enter the awards visit www.accessibility.org.au



Join us at Refresh Conference

Join us for the two-and-a-half-day conference to Refresh your business with new ideas on how to manage and rejuvenate your business. The Refresh Conference is being held from **Sunday 7 November - Tuesday 9 November 2021 at the RACV, Gold Coast**, focusing on business skills and knowledge.

Refresh Conference Highlights

- Hear from some great speakers on business topics that are important to you
- For every full-paying delegate, book in additional team members at 50% off!
- Great opportunities for networking
- Use the conference to set up your own team building activities before or after the conference
- With plenty to do and see on the Gold Coast, why not spend an extra couple of days enjoying some activities or bring your partner/family along to enjoy all the Gold Coast has to offer.

With speakers such as "The Sales Dr" Ingrid Maynard, "The People Whisperer" Anneli Blundell, Nina Mapson Bone, Beaumont People, Julian Moore, SMS Online and MC'd by Andrew Klein this event is sure to be a showstopper! To make the most of the Refresh Conference, ATSA encourages you and your team to join us. We will be offering the following to all ATSA members: Book 1 full priced registration, bring along additional team members at 50% off (must be booked in single transaction, cannot be used for non-members).



The ATSA Independent Living Expo Melbourne

Entire gallery and highlight video can be viewed at: www.atsaindependentliving.com.au



The ATSA Independent Living Expo Melbourne

Entire gallery and highlight video can be viewed at: www.atsaindependentliving.com.au



The ATSA Independent Living Expo Perth

Entire gallery and highlight video can be viewed at: www.atsaindependentliving.com.au



The ATSA Independent Living Expo Perth

Entire gallery and highlight video can be viewed at: www.atsaindependentliving.com.au

