

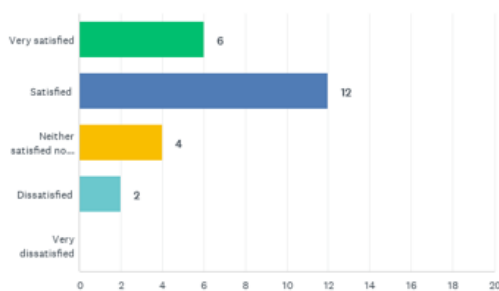


NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our April 2023 newsletter. This exciting newsletter is full of the latest developments that will keep you up-to-date with our industry.

It is best to view this in your browser.

ATS NZ MEMBERSHIP SURVEY



Kia ora no tātou katoa,

As the Chairman of ATSNZ, it is with great pleasure that we present the summary of our recent survey results to you.

The member survey this year received a high number of

respondents, with 85% of our organisational membership providing feedback. Of those respondents, 75% are satisfied or very satisfied with the performance and that resources were focussed in the right places for members in 2022.

The feedback received has provided the ATSNZ executive a clear picture of the value you see the organisation holds and the direction you wish to see the executive continue to pursue. We are a group of elected representatives who voluntarily represent you as our members. The direction you have clearly articulated is what we as an executive must continue to focus on:

- Collaborative relationships with the funders, Ministry of Disabled People (Whaikaha) and ACC.
- Reducing the trials process timeframes with ENABLE and ACCESSABLE.
- Driving and communicating sector information to all stakeholders.
- Profiling all Assistive Technology Suppliers' concerns at government and legislative levels, i.e. the recent Therapeutic Products Bill.
- Increasing the relationship and influence with the Ministry of Disabled People (Whaikaha).

I encourage all members to read the survey results in full for the deeper results and comments. We are currently working on the vision, strategic goals, and annual plan, to implement the priorities from your feedback.

We look forward to further serving you all in 2023. Membership renewal will take place in July, unless you opt out prior, by contacting the Executive Officer.

We hope to see you all at the ATSNZ Expo later in the year. Exciting developments (based on your 2022 feedback) are in play for the ATSNZ Expo, giving us confidence that we'll all see an improved expo.

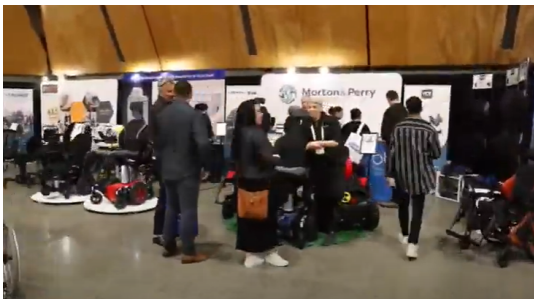
Formal announcement of the ATSNZ AGM timing and place will be coming out soon, so keep an eye out for this. We encourage you all to attend, to meet the executive and if you want to get involved, please reach out to me.

Nga mihi koutou,

Andrew Short

NB: The Membership Survey Report is located on the ATSNZ website in the Members Only section, under Reports.

ATSNZ DISABILITY EXPO – 2023 – 1 & 2 November



The ATSNZ Expo is still more than 6 months away, but a lot is already happening to make it a success. The marketing of the event has started, with able assistance from Accessable, Enable, OTNZ and PTNZ, to make sure the word gets out to the allied health

professionals in a timely manner.

At this point in time 85% of the available floorspace is booked out, with 6 3*3 and 8 2*2 booths left to be sold. We expect a sell out event and will keep updating members over the next few months. If you haven't already, its important you book as soon as possible.

Our event management team prepare a monthly newsletter that goes out to our contact database of exhibitors and previous visitors to our event. Two editions have been distributed to date, in March and April. It contains important expo information, promotes industry events and presents a selection of media headlines from the disability sector. Exhibitors can make use of these communications to highlight their products. Contact the event management team if you wish to do so: events@iconevents.co.nz.

Previous newsletters are stored on the ATSNZ Expo website and can be viewed via this link: <https://www.atsnzexpo.nz/newsletters>



My Skill has partnered with Atlas – Fios to provide online wheelchair and disability equipment technician training. The Atlas-Fios Level 1 and Level 2 online training and theory exams meet the requirements of the DMERT (Durable Medical Equipment Repair Technician) Group which is the recognised standards organisation for

technicians across USA and Canada.

It provides foundational training across a range of wheelchair and disability equipment which can then be supplemented by manufacturer specific training – a great way to get technicians upskilled and working independently whilst learning at their own pace.

The course can be purchased online via:

<https://myskill.co.nz/wheelchair-and-disability-equipment-technician-training/>

Or you can contact training@myskill.co.nz if you'd rather be sent an invoice.

As a member of ATSNZ you are eligible for a discount. Contact Ingrid for the code.

LEVEL 1 TECHNICIAN TRAINING

Level 1 training consists of 12 modules and an optional theory exam covering repairs and adjustments to basic disability equipment, from walking aids and manual wheelchairs to hospital beds, scooters, and standard power wheelchairs with proportional controllers.

Level 1 Modules:

1. Manual Equipment Foundations
2. Rollators, Walkers and Aids to Daily Living (ADLs)
3. Manual Wheelchairs
4. Tilt-in-Space Manual Wheelchairs
5. Electronics Theory
6. Motors
7. Lift and Recliner Chairs
8. Mobile Hoists, Standing Frames and Hospital Beds
9. Batteries: Theory and Troubleshooting
10. Joystick Controllers and Programming
11. Scooters: Components and Troubleshooting
12. Standard Power Wheelchairs

LEVEL 2 TECHNICIAN TRAINING

Level 2 training consists of 8 modules and an optional theory exam covering seating and positioning, and complex rehabilitation equipment from high end manual wheelchairs to power seating and electronics platforms.

Level 2 Modules

1. Seating 101
2. Seating Adjustments
3. High End Manual Wheelchairs
4. Power Wheelchair Actuators
5. Curtis Electronics
6. Dynamic Electronics
7. R-Net Electronics
8. Complex Power Wheelchair Programming

ENABLE SUPPLIERS MEETING



Enable invited suppliers to a meeting in Palmerston North on the afternoon of the pack-in day of Show your Ability, to share their ownership and governance structure changes, health sector structure changes, an introduction to their executive team, their draft strategy, the MoH/ACC

assessor request volumes they process, service volumes, subcontractor networks, technology changes and tender updates.

The CEO acknowledged and apologised for the challenges suppliers have been facing with the technology changes. After the Suppliers meeting, ATSNZ met with Enable to discuss the ongoing payment delays. We were reassured that they were focused on speeding up the manual handling of invoices and were recruiting more staff to resolve the backlog in invoice payments.

Enabling Good Lives was talked about at the start of the session, with a positive focus on what it could mean for disabled people and their families. For Enable and suppliers it will mean adapting processes in meeting requirements for greater control for disabled people.

The Enable Suppliers Meeting presentation was shared with all members and a **copy is saved in the members only section on the ATSNZ website.**

WHAIKAHA UPDATE

The Purchasing Guidelines, which govern Individualised Funding and Carer Support, have recently been updated in consultation with members of the community, host

providers, the Whaikaha Carer Support Working Group and Office for Disability Issues Whānau group.

The update aims to provide clearer guidance on how to apply the rules. Plain language is used throughout, a definition of the role of the host is provided and examples which help illustrate how funding can be used using real life scenarios are included. Whaikaha have also improved their guidance on the use of Carer Support funding.

Links to the guidelines can be found here:

The guidelines can be found here: <https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/assessments-and-funding/types-of-funding/purchasing-guidelines/>

More information can be found here:

Carer Support: <https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/types-of-support/support-and-respite-for-carers/carers-support/>

Individualised Funding:

<https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/types-of-support/support-and-respite-for-carers/individualised-funding>

Trials Process:

ATSNZ is in ongoing conversations with the EMS manager Cath Williams, Accessable and Enable to improve the trial process. We sought an update at the end of March, and we were informed about next steps for April.

- Rachel & Ngaire to review ATSNZ trial proposal with their respective business teams.
- Meet with Mob Sol & STG to ensure alignment.
- Cath set up mtg with ATSNZ to finalise.

Progress is slow but we are optimistic that a new process, in terms of time frames and responsibilities, will be developed and communicated to all parties involved.

We will then be pushing for measures, demonstrating that improvements are realised and maintained, so we can see how effective the process improvement is in real terms.

We continue to follow up on this discussion with all parties on your behalf. We're hoping to have more information after Cath returns from leave next week.



ATSA Independent Living Expo in Melbourne is just under a month away and is shaping up to be another quality event. You can read more about it via:

<https://expo.atsa.org.au/melbourne-expo/>

The Perth Expo is on 31 May – 1 June and the Canberra Expo is on 7 – 8 November, just under a week after our ATSNZ Disability Expo.

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