



About us

Advance the public interest in the provision of Assistive Technology, that contributes and supports New Zealanders through funding and promotion.

To give the Assistive Technology industry a voice.

To improve the quality of equipment provision and develop alliances with all industry stakeholders.



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Advocating for Inclusive Bicycle Modifications: A Call for Change

The ATSNZ committee has been recently advocating for changes to make bicycle modifications more accessible for members of the disability community.

One incident, in particular, has highlighted the need for these changes. A member of the disability community was unable to have a simple bike modification undertaken by a bike store - in this case, changing the brakes over.

In response to this incident, we reached out to Whaikaha, Standards New Zealand, the Minister for Disability Issues, Human Rights Commission, and other advocate bodies, seeking clarification and advocacy to improve the standard. Through our efforts, we discovered that AS/NZS 1927:2010 Pedal Bicycles - Safety Requirements, while not a cited standard, acts as common practice and provides agreed industry guidance.

It's essential to note that Standards New Zealand does not have subject matter technical expertise in the content of our standards. Instead, standards are developed through a consensus and

process, utilising industry and government subject matter experts.

AS/NZS 1927 was developed by the joint technical committee, CS-110 Bicycles and Bicycle Accessories. This committee comprises of technical experts from both Australia and New Zealand. In fact, there are three New Zealand technical experts on this committee representing the Ministry of Transport, New Zealand Transport Authority, and Cycling New Zealand.

Through our investigation, we discovered that if a member of the disability community needs a modification, the bike can be classified as a 'one-of-a-kind bicycle.' According to section 1.1 of the AS/NZS 1927:2010 standard, such bicycles are considered out of scope, and modifications can be made.

This finding has brought to light the need for clearer guidelines and improved accessibility not just for bicycle modifications but the wider policy framework, especially for members of the disability community.

We are committed to continuing our advocacy efforts to ensure that all members of society, including those with disabilities, have equal access to safe and suitable bicycle modifications. Together, we can create a more inclusive and accessible environment for all.

Managing Freight costs

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting you in your business endeavours, we wanted to draw your attention to an important aspect of managing freight costs effectively for ACC trials.

We understand that freight costs can significantly impact your bottom line, and we want to ensure that you are recovering costs where possible.

One area where you may not be maximising your freight costs is when it comes to unsuccessful ACC trials. Did you know that you may be eligible to claim freight costs for any unsuccessful ACC trial shipments?

To claim freight costs, simply record and invoice the freight details of your unsuccessful trial to acc.finance@enable.co.nz. Make sure to include the 'trial reference' number in your email, so that they can process your claim efficiently.

When considering freight costs, it's important to remember that they may be higher than just the actual direct shipping costs. Taking into account additional expenses such as pallets, packing, warehouse time, delivery time and various other associated costs is crucial to accurately assess your overall freight expenses.

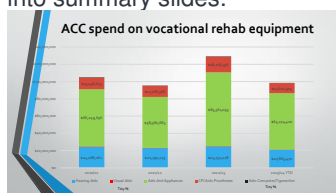
At ATSNZ, we are committed to helping you navigate the complexities of trial management and ensuring that you maximise recovery wherever possible.



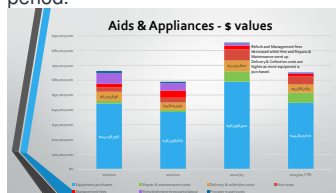
ACC spend on vocational rehab equipment is on the increase.

An OIA request for vocational rehab equipment spend was sent to ACC on 28 February 2024.

In the beginning of April we received data from ACC detailing their spend on disability equipment, which we used, turning the information into summary slides.

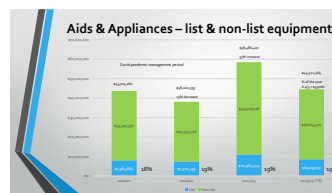


In 22/23 the spend on Aids and Appliances went up by 45% compared to the previous year and the spend for 23/24 could very well exceed that level. 23/24 spend included about 75% of the total period.

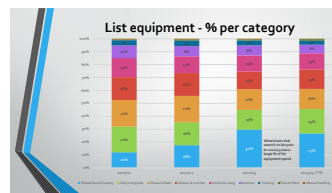


Of the spend on Aids and Appliances, about 69% is on equipment purchases. The rest of the spend is largely repair and maintenance costs, delivery and collection costs, and hire costs. Only about 3% of the total goes to management fees.

Only about 19% of the equipment purchases are on list products, leaving 81% being spent on unlisted products.



The Wheelchairs and seating category is the largest proportion of the list spend, with about 30% spent on this category in 22/23. Wheelchairs that weren't on list prior to 2022/23 are now a larger % of list equipment spend.



Daily living aids, shower and bath, kitchen and living and walkers and crutches are similar size categories. Patient lifters and manual handling are the smaller categories in terms of spend.

The financial year ends on 30 June, therefore we will request the 23/24 spend data next August, when we expect that the data will be available. We intend to update this spend overview on an annual basis.

When we requested spend data previously, we were informed that the spend on unlisted products was not readily available and would require much work to manually categorise the spend.

We have inquired what investment it would take to acquire the categorised spend of unlisted products and are yet to receive a response.

We have also requested spend data from Whaikaha and have accessed most of the relevant reports from the past 3 years. However, the data is not yet a complete set, so we are awaiting more data before preparing it for our members to view.



Ministry for Disabled People-Whaikaha

It will not have gone unnoticed that the unrest in the disability community following the purchase rules changes, announced back in March, has not been ignored. On 24 March the Prime Minister still had confidence in the Minister for Disability Issues Penny Simmonds as attested to in:

https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/hansarddebates/rhr/document/HansS_20240326_050820000/2-question-no-2-prime-minister

However, after a lot of media attention on how changes were communicated, on 24 April, Penny Simmonds was removed from her responsibility for

the Disability Issues portfolio and has been replaced by Louise Upston, who also has responsibility for MSD, under which Whaikaha is placed as a government ministry.

An update on the purchasing rules coincided with the removal of Simmonds as Minister, with the intention of reassuring the disabled community. In the 24 April communication Whaikaha is providing clarifications to support disabled people, tāngata whaikaha Māori and whānau to apply the Purchasing Rules for flexible funding supports.

ATSNZ is in the process of organising a meeting of our members with Paula Tesoriero, the CEO of Whaikaha, to hear directly from her:

- what the impact on assistive technology will look like in relation to Whaikaha's strategy and implementation,
- what funding will look like for 24/25 and further
- what the vision is for equipment within the EGL approach.

Further details on this will be communicated when they have been fleshed out.

EYE ON IT Current Industry Trends

The Ministry for Disabled People/Whaikaha updated their guidelines for purchasing rules.

Scott Ambridge starts his position as CEO of Enable on 6 May, returning to Enable after 5 years elsewhere.

New Members The Bidet Shop BQ Mobility

Welcome to The Bidet Shop, who are the largest & oldest supplier of bidet toilet seats in New Zealand.

The Bidet Shop is the official supplier of Coway, Throne & Eco Bidets in New Zealand stocking the very latest in electric and natural water bidets also known as the Japanese toilet seats.

Because the bidets they sell are perceived as technologically and aesthetically the best, they have been embraced by and are in use in government departments, health services, hospitals, leading hotels and they are the proud addition in thousands of New Zealand homes.

We also welcome another member - BQ Mobility - who we cover in the Member Focus on the left.

Member Focus – New member BQ Mobility

BQ Mobility is the combined innovation of C5 quadriplegic Phil Booth and business partner Paul Quinn. Phil recently celebrated 28 years since his rugby accident and in those years has embraced innovation to adapt everything from his toothbrush to go-karts. An adrenaline-seeker, Phil is motivated to create experiences that evoke genuine buzz regardless of his disability. The SiMAX Handcycle Simulator is his response to wanting more motivation, social connection, and quality fitness from his own home. Having designed and built handcycles which have traveled across otherwise unreachable terrains, importantly a community

unreachable terrains, Phil wanted to recreate this experience from the safety and comfort of his home garage. A serendipitous connection with business partner Paul has allowed the pair to develop, build, and distribute the first fitness equipment of its kind right here in New Zealand. Quadriplegics from across the country connect through online gaming exercise platforms such as Rouvy to create competition, motivation, and most importantly a community of people. Already the impact on the quality of life among users has exceeded expectations. From notable improvements to health, pain management, and energy to the camaraderie and connection between other spinal injured people, the impact is huge, it changes lives.



Professional Development

Wheelchair and Disability Equipment Technician training can be done online via <https://myskill.co.nz>.

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

Upcoming Events

- ❖ **ATSA Independent Living Expos - Sydney**
22-23 May 2024 – Sydney Showground
- ❖ **ATSA Independent Living Expos - Brisbane**
29-30 May 2024 – Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre
- ❖ **Healthtech Week 2024 – MTANZ Conference**
24-25 June 2024 - The Pullman Hotel, Auckland.
- ❖ **Rehacare**
25-28 September – Dusseldorf, Germany.
- ❖ **ATSNZ Disability Expo - Auckland**
6-7 November – Due Drop Events Centre, Manukau.
- ❖ **ATSNZ Disability Expo - Christchurch**
20-21 November – Airforce Museum, Christchurch.