



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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Enabling Technologies Forum

The Enabling Technologies forum held on 26 February 2025 was initiated by Talklink Trust and included stakeholders from Government, Research, Users, Practitioners and Suppliers, who were invited to take part. The day was divided into two workshop sessions.



Picturing Nicky Banks from Disability Support Services

The first workshop focused on defining equitable access to assistive technology (AT) and identifying systemic challenges and opportunities across health, education, business, government funding, and private sector innovation.

Key themes emerged around funding, accessibility, training, policy, and data governance, highlighting the need for a coordinated, future-focused approach.

This workshop underscored the urgent need for a proactive, flexible, and collaborative approach to AT development, funding, and implementation.

Participants emphasised the importance of long-term strategy and sustainable funding models to ensure people with disabilities can fully participate in society with the right tools at the right time.

The second workshop explored strategies for advancing access to assistive technology (AT) through research, collaboration, advocacy, and measuring success.

Participants discussed the need for clearer problem definitions, stronger partnerships, and better integration of AT into everyday life. A key focus was ensuring users are at the centre of decision-making, with funding and policies supporting flexible, needs-based access.

Key Themes & Insights

1. Building Evidence & Advocacy for AT
2. Strengthening Partnerships & Cross-Sector Collaboration.
3. Commitments to Action: What Can Be Done Now?
4. Measuring Success & Embedding AT into Everyday Life

This workshop reinforced that sustained progress requires a collective commitment from government, businesses, service providers, and communities. By prioritising user involvement, expanding partnerships, and strengthening data-driven advocacy, we can drive meaningful change and ensure equitable access to assistive technology for all.

Following on from this forum the initiative has been developed to progress the conversations through an Enabling Technologies Impact Collective. Talklink are currently working on a draft Terms of Reference as a starting point for this group and will circulate a date soon for an online meeting in April to progress the work. ATSNZ are taking part in this forum, as it fits well with the purpose of our association

ATSNZ welcomes Scott Ambridge (CEO of Enable NZ) to Auckland

On 16 April ATSNZ is hosting a member event at the Jetpark Airport Auckland Conference Centre with Scott Ambridge as our invited speaker.

The last time we hosted Scott was at our 2024 Auckland Expo, midafternoon on pack-in day. At the time Scott announced several initiatives that would be developed and implemented over the coming months and its now time to update ATSNZ members on where they are at. The update will take about an hour and will be followed with a light lunch with our guests.

This is an opportunity for our members to hear about the latest developments in our sector and query the rationale behind decisions being made.



On 16 April the following will be covered off:

1. Enable NZ Update
2. Sector Update
3. Overview of spend/activity analysis undertaken
4. Proposed procurement activities for the next 12-18 months

Scott will introduce Jane Wenman, Enable's Chief Operations Officer. We expect that they will also bring their new procurement manager to the event.

ATSNZ Disability Expos

Following on from our successful 2024 expos in Auckland and Christchurch, we've agreed to keep to the annual scheduling of these events. November has been our slot in the Disability events calendar for the past two years, however a clash with Oceania Seating Symposium being held in Rotorua in November this year has caused us to reconsider. August seemed to be the preferable opportunity to host the ATSNZ Disability expos, so we're in Auckland 6 & 7 August and Christchurch 19 & 20 August.

The Due Drop Event Centre in Manukau remains the preferred Auckland venue and we will return there for the 5th time.

The Airforce Museum of New Zealand in Wigram was a great choice as a location, so we will return there for our second Christchurch show.



The Medifab team in Auckland

The call for papers for the seminar sessions will open tomorrow (1 April) and we look forward to receiving quality abstracts for presentations at our expos. Our review panel is ready to evaluate submissions, once we close at the end of May. The programme will be finalised and ready for distribution about six weeks in advance of the expos.

Booth sales are well under way for both expos and we anticipate a full house before the events begin.

Contact our event management team at events@iconevents.co.nz if you haven't already booked.

Welcome to our newest member: Independent Living

Independent Living is a Charitable Trust, existing to improve equity and access for disabled people, those living with an impairment and their families/whānau and support networks.

Independent Living has just joined ATSNZ and we'd like to introduce them to you with a brief overview.

Their business model includes:

- Importing equipment from around the world to supply their three retail stores and online channel.
- A small but diverse supply chain, warehousing and repairs service.
- Wholesaling equipment B2B across New Zealand.
- Supplying equipment for government tenders.
- Providing disability information.

IL has a history of 44 years. In the late 1970's, a display of aids for daily living to assist people with disabilities was started part time at the Rehabilitation Centre in Dominion Road. The display was moved several times to the Auckland Arthritis and Rheumatism Society in Mountain Road and an Information Service was added.

The Independent Living Centre was opened in 1981 in a purpose-built building on CCS grounds at Royal Oak. The building was the first of its kind in New Zealand, housing an information service, aids display, demonstration areas, function rooms and offices for community focused, tenant organizations.

This establishment of IL was a community collaboration between Auckland Coordinated Council for Disabled (ACCD), Auckland CCS, Arthritis and Rheumatism Society, Rotary and other organisations who joined together to raise funds and plan the development of the centre.

The Independent Living Centre went on to change its name several times in the coming years: 1983 Disabled Persons Independent Living Centre Inc., 1988 Disability Resource Centre Auckland Inc., 2012 Independent Living Service Inc., 2014 Independent Living Service Charitable Trust and in 2018 Independent Living Charitable Trust



CEO Karen Beard-Greer is pictured second left.

IL is led by CEO Karen Beard-Greer who also holds a range of Governance roles. She is an Independent Director of Manawanui Support Ltd (NZ's lead host provider for Self-Directed Funding), International Organising Committee Member for CREATE Asia (Coalition of Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology for Asia Pacific and has recently completed a 9-year term as Executive Committee Member of the NZ Federation of Disability Information Centres, of which ATSNZ is also a member.

Upcoming events in 2025

- ATSNZ Members Event, Jetpark Auckland Airport, 16 April.
- Aged Care Symposium, 21 July, Sir Howard Morrison Centre, Rotorua.
- ATSA Independent Living Expos
 - 14-15 May Perth
 - 20-21 May Melbourne
- ATSNZ Disability Expo Auckland, 6-7 August, Due Drop Events Centre, Manukau, Auckland.
- ATSNZ Disability Expo Christchurch. 19-20 August, Airforce Museum, Christchurch.