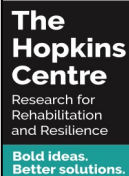


Exploring Access to Assistive Technology in Australia: Participatory Action Research Project with Needs Assessment



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Background

The purpose of this project was to explore and understand access to assistive technology (AT) through funding schemes in Queensland, from the perspective of key stakeholders.

Methodology

A participatory action research project was enacted alongside a 4-part needs assessment.

Project stages: Stakeholder group involvement

Stakeholder group
(n = 14)

AT Users (n = 2)
AT Experts (n = 3)
Experienced clinicians (n = 4)
Funding bodies (n = 3)
Other organisations (n = 2)

1 Needs Assessment

Provided recommendations on:

- Data collection tools
- Recruitment strategies
- Project progress
- Preliminary findings

2 Solution Building Workshop

Engaged with research team to:

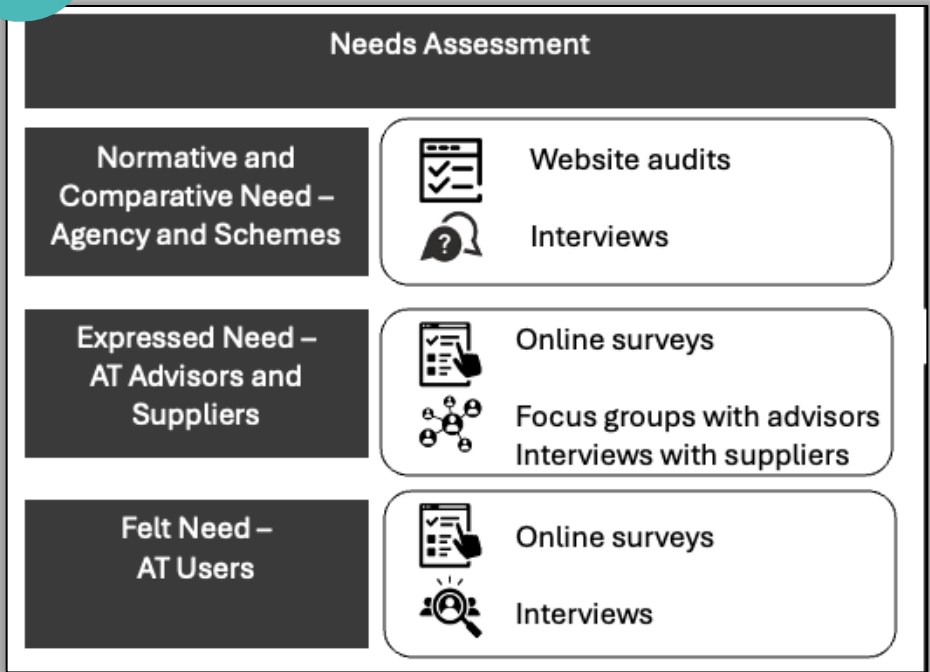
- Review findings and identify challenges
- Generate & prioritise solutions

3 Finalisation

- Refinement and finalisation of prioritised solutions
- Development of the action plan

Procedure for exploring access to AT

1



2

Solution building workshop recommendations	
Roles for people with lived experience	
Transparent information available from funding bodies	AT hubs
Transparent information available from suppliers	Trial to buy pathway
Good practice guides and communities of practice	Build expertise in workforce
Follow-up and evaluations	Undergraduate education

Recommendations from final action cycle

AT HUB

- Focus on complex or high-risk AT
- Supports access to AT mentors, suppliers, and AT specialists
- Support trial of AT
- Support training of use of AT

AT mentors

- Develop and trial training for AT mentors

AT advisors

- Develop and trial training and credentialing for AT advisors

Discussion

- Many of the finalised solutions and initiatives have been previously identified and promoted, however the findings and recommendations highlight that gaps persist in the existing AT ecosystem.
- The participatory approach was important for the generation of expert-led (lived and professional) and context-specific solutions for the future of this AT sector.

Link to paper

