A.T TALKS PODCAST
MENTORING PRACTITIONERS IN ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY
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1. BACKGROUND

The Australian Rehabilitation & Assistive Technology Association (ARATA) previously piloted a mentoring program to connect and educate practitioners in assistive technology.1 This project is an extension of their work. Assistive Technology (AT) & Mentoring
• Allied Health Practitioners i.e., occupational therapists & physiotherapists provide advice on, or recommend AT.2
• Practitioners not experienced in the field of AT are considered to be ‘novice’.2
• AT is an emerging area health practitioners are addressing through mentoring.4

2. THE ISSUE

1) Novice practitioners lack confidence:3
• Recommending and prescribing AT.
• Providing advisory services on complex AT
• Throughout the application process for funding
This can negatively impact a person’s AT outcomes, and thus quality of life, wellbeing and gaining independence.5
2) Health practitioners are seeking alternatives to traditional mentoring.4
• Practitioners are adopting contemporary practice styles such as ‘informal mentoring’.

3. A.T TALKS PODCAST

Podcasting provides listeners with a platform for asynchronous learning.6 A.T Talks was developed to address this through a 2-part episode.

PART ONE: EDUCATION
• Evidence-based conversation with guest speaker and hosts about a chosen AT topic
• Guest speaker to answer pre-prepared questions from host

PART TWO: MENTORING
• Continuation of same topic
• Guest speaker to answer questions that arise from listeners after listening to Part One

5. PILOT PODCAST EVALUATION

Mixed methods questionnaire:
Pilot Sample:
• Novice AT health practitioners and allied health students (convenience sample n=27)
Purpose:
• To evaluate podcast content and quality
• Measure whether it improves confidence

92% of participants said it would increase their confidence applying good AT practice.
81% of participants would listen to A.T Talks again in the future.

6. PROPOSED OUTCOMES

Educate and mentor novice AT practitioners to increase confidence and competence within AT Practice
Target a wide audience through an online audio platform
To create a sustainable mentoring method as technology advances

7. FUTURE EVALUATION METHODS

To determine if project outcomes have been achieved, future evaluation methods will contain principles from the Kirkpatrick Evaluation Model.7

STAGE ONE
• Data collection via questionnaire to evaluate whether A.T Talks are increasing the confidence of practitioners, following episode 10.

STAGE TWO
• Repeat data collection via questionnaire to evaluate whether A.T Talks are increasing the competence of practitioners, following episode 20.

REFERENCES: