



ATSNZ Disability Expo

19 - 20 August 2025

Airforce Museum of New Zealand,
Wigram, Christchurch



EXPO GUIDE



www.atsnzexpo.nz

Welcome

Welcome to the 2025 ATSNZ Disability Expo Christchurch.

On behalf of Assistive Technologies Suppliers New Zealand (ATSNZ - www.ATSNZ.org.nz), I would like to welcome you to the 2025 Disability Expo.

We are proud to bring to you our second Christchurch exhibition of assistive technology, which is aimed at enhancing and expanding the lifestyles of people with disability and seniors across New Zealand.

We are pleased to welcome the exhibitors who have come together to support the Expo, including local small businesses, international organisations and a number of not-for-profit organisations. ATSNZ is honoured to be able to facilitate the Disability Expo as an event that supports all involved with disability of all ages.

The Expo is sure to have something of interest for everyone, whether you are a consumer, care giver, allied health practitioner, equipment funder or support organisation. Through this year's event, ATSNZ is committed to:

- Showcasing a broad range of assistive technology (AT) and lifestyle services to support choice and control for those with disability, seniors, and care givers.
- Educating our expo visitors about the latest advances in AT and related services, and to support the development of their technical skills and knowledge.
- Helping people improve their independence, dignity, health, and well-being through awareness of assistive technology options.

The world-class Seminar Program has only been made possible through the generous support of many companies and organisations, both local and international. ATSNZ wishes to pass on its thanks to the outstanding panel of speakers who will be presenting and the supporters of the Expo for making this program possible.

Thank you for taking the time to attend this exceptional event and I hope you will visit us again at future ATSNZ Disability Expos.

Ingrid van Rijn - *Executive Officer, ATSNZ*

Exhibitors

ABLE AXCESS

Stand 47 and 48

www.ableaxcess.co.nz

Email: teena@ableaxcess.co.nz



Able Axcess Ltd is a New Zealand company that specialises in providing accessible mobility solutions for residential and commercial customers. Our products include: Aluminium Modular Ramps: These are reusable ramps that can be installed quickly and easily anywhere. They are designed and manufactured in our Palmerston North factory and installed by our trained technicians. Rubber Threshold Ramps: These are made from recycled tyres and help with access over small steps or doorways. They are wheelchair and walker friendly and can be ordered online and delivered to you door. Level Shower Insert: This is a product that converts most standard showers into accessible showers. It is installed by our technicians and does not require any alterations to the bathroom. We are committed to delivering high-quality products and services that improve the safety and mobility of our customers. We have a reputation for solving problems and standing behind our products.

ACCESS ADVISORS

Stand 15

www.accessadvisors.nz

Email: info@accessadvisors.nz



Access Advisors is a team of trusted digital accessibility experts. Our mission is to make Aotearoa New Zealand an inclusive place where everyone can participate online. We bring a caring, connected, capable and commercially smart perspective to every project. From discovery to design, reviews, or development and testing, Access Advisors can help make your organisation become more digitally inclusive. We also offer training and research with our Access Panel, all can combine to help make sure your business is access ready. With us, accessibility is a commitment to lasting inclusion. Our services are tailored to your business needs. We develop pragmatic solutions with you that align with your organisational goals. We will help ensure that accessibility is built into everything you do.

ACCESS COMMUNITY HEALTH | URU ĀTEA

Stand 65

www.access.org.nz/

Phone: 0800 284 663



We're all about meeting you in your space wherever that space may be. Since the 1920s, we've been right here in Aotearoa, offering disability support, nursing and home care. We work closely with MSD – Disability Support, Te Whatu Ora, and ACC to lend a hand to over 40,000 people nationwide. Our skilled team of nēhi|nurses and kaiāwhina|support workers are here to help you live your best life. Whether it's reaching your goals or connecting with your community, we're with you every step of the way. A partnership with Access means you paddle your own waka, we come along for the ride. Trust us to be part of your journey and discover a better day, every day.

ACTIVE HEALTHCARE

Stand to 62 - 64

www.activehealthcare.co.nz/

Email: sales@activehealthcare.co.nz



Active Healthcare is a trusted provider of specialist healthcare equipment, focused on safe patient handling, mobility, and pressure care. With over 30 years' experience supporting New Zealand hospitals, aged care, rehabilitation services, and community care providers, we're committed to reducing injury risk and enhancing care through ergonomically designed solutions. Grounded in human-centred design, our products support both user wellbeing and caregiver safety—enhancing comfort, usability, and efficiency. We supply market-leading brands including Guldmann Ceiling Hoists, HoverTech Air-Assisted Devices, LINET Hospital Beds, and Care of Sweden Pressure Mattresses. By prioritising ease of use and clinical fit, we help teams deliver safer, more effective care.

ALLIED MEDICAL

Stands 52 - 54

www.alliedmedical.co.nz

Email: helpis@alliedmedical.co.nz

Phone: 0800 316 181



What we offer isn't just products crafted from high-tech metals, alloys, and wires but real solutions that enhance the quality of life for the people of Aotearoa. We provide our customers with freedom. And we're pretty passionate about it. Whether you're shopping for yourself or a loved one, researching products for a client or purchasing stock for your business we're here to help.

ARJO

Stands 45 and 46

www.arjo.com/en-au/



Founded in 1957 by Arne Johansson, in Sweden, Arjo head office, including a R&D function, is located in Malmö, Sweden. Arjo has approximately 6,500 employees worldwide and our products and services are sold in over 100 countries. The group has five product development and production units worldwide. Empowering movement is at the heart of everything we do. It's at the centre of our product design philosophy. It's how we help care providers stay agile and efficient. It's about enabling caregivers to move freely and productively. And for patients, it's about enhancing mobility to promote healing, dignity and independence.

ASPIRE CANTERBURY

Stand 13 and 14

www.aspirecanterbury.org.nz



We are here for people with disability, aged adults, whānau, and the Canterbury community. Serving the Canterbury community since 1982, Aspire provides free disability information and advice, and access to resources that enable disabled people, and people with impairments to live their best life.

- Visit our shop online or in person and check out a huge range of products for purchase or hire
- Get free, personalised disability information and advice from one of our expert team
- Our mobile service make it easy for you to access information, mobility products and associated services in your local community
- We are proud to be a Total Mobility Scheme Provider

AVANOS

Stand 68 - 69

www.avanos.com.au

Email: vrushali.shah@avanos.com

At Avanos, we share your commitment to helping patients get back to the things that matter. Our broad enteral feeding portfolio from neonates and pediatrics to adults—along with the dedicated education, service, and support you and your patients need— makes Avanos Enteral Feeding a vital lifeline. In the face of the global opioid epidemic, our growing Pain Management and Recovery portfolio provides non-opioid solutions for the management and treatment of chronic and post-surgical pain.

BETTER DAYS

Trestle Table 11

www.betterdays.nz/

Phone: 0800 734 422



Nau mai, haere mai. At Better Days our community of allied health practitioners live and breathe whakawhanaungatanga / connection. We're here to improve the quality of life of Kiwis living with an injury, health condition, or disability.

BRACKENRIDGE

Stand 16

www.brackenridge.org.nz/



For over 20 years, Brackenridge has provided high levels of disability support to people and their families, along with family resilience care and community mentoring to adults and rangatahi in Canterbury. We're a charitable organisation with a core belief in all people and ensuring people are empowered by their environment. Brackenridge was formed in 1999 following the closure of the Templeton Centre, to support 84 intellectually disabled people with complex support needs. A clustered housing environment comprised of 14 homes was built adjacent to the previous Templeton Centre site.

CUBRO

Stands 1 - 7

www.cubro.co.nz

Email: communitycare@cubro.co.nz



Cubro is proud to be part of the 2025 ATSNZ Disability Expo, showcasing a wide range of innovative equipment designed to support better outcomes for clients and their support teams. This year, we invite you to test, try, and trust it. Get hands-on with solutions like the mighty 450kg capacity Big Bounder 1000 powerchair, the versatile VELA Tango independence chair, and R82 bathing aids for children, alongside a broader selection of assistive technology on display. Our team will be on hand for product demonstrations, clinical discussions, and to help you explore equipment that supports safe transfers, everyday mobility, and complex care needs. While you're there, scan the QR code at our stand to go in the draw to win a \$250 Prezzy card. See it in action. Ask questions. Try it for yourself. See you at stands 1-7.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE AGENCY

Trestle Table 15

www.florence2careco.nz/

Phone: 0800 348 7600



At the Florence Nightingale Agency, we specialise in delivering high-quality, compassionate in-home care tailored to meet the unique needs of every individual. Based in Christchurch/Ōtautahi and proudly serving the South Island/Te Waipounamu, we provide dependable, person-centred support that fosters dignity, independence, and well-being. Our approach is inclusive and culturally responsive, reflecting each kiritaki's identity, aspirations, and lived experiences. We are committed to creating culturally safe environments for kiritaki, whānau, and employees, ensuring all interactions are grounded in trust, respect, and equity.

FREEDOM COMPANION DRIVING SERVICES

Stand 30

www.freedomdrivers.co.nz/

Email: service@freedomdrivers.co.nz



Freedom Companion Driving Services offers a reliable, and friendly companion driving service. We will drive you to and from your destination with extra help (if required). Freedom drivers are perfect for non-drivers, mobility impaired, seniors, school children, rehab patients, ACC clients, tourists and holiday makers, outings etc. Enjoy stress free affordable travel, fully licensed and Police checked. Pre booked, single trips, or regular bookings. Gift vouchers available

HALOGUARD LTD

Stand 29

www.haloguard.co.nz

Email: info@haloguard.co.nz



Don't let life catch you unprepared! Whether you're at home, out and about, or at work, feeling safe matters just as much as being safe. At HaloGuard, we make sure you have both! We built a smart, easy to use personal safety app right here in Christchurch. It's made for everyone, because peace of mind should be part of everyday life. The HaloGuard app works on both iPhone and Android , or bundle it with a Galaxy smartwatch for next level protection. Either way, you can quickly and reliably alert your trusted contacts whenever you need help and support. The truth is, life can be unpredictable. Haloguard gives you reassurance, independence and confidence, no matter where you are or what's happening around you. Feel safe, stay connected, and take care of yourself every day!

Healthvision – At the centre of everything is you! Whether you need support recovering from an injury, need wound care, in-home help, or rehabilitation, we're here for you — with quality care that fits your life.

Why Healthvision?

- 25+ Years of Experience – A trusted, family- owned provider offering services across New Zealand.
- Support that works for you – We'll do our best to adjust care within the guidelines of what's available to meet your needs — from personal care to complex rehabilitation.
- Free ACC Nursing – We're an approved provider of free ACC services, including wound care, burns, and in-home rehab.
- Allied Health Team focused on your recovery and independence – Work with physios, OTs, dietitians, psychiatrists, rehab coaches, and more.
- Local, Friendly Team – We work with you and your whānau for the best outcomes.
- Help Navigating Support – We'll explain how to get started, what funding is available, and what support you're eligible for.
- Private Care Options – Looking for flexible services? Ask us about our private care offerings.

Our Values:

- Arohatanga (Compassion) – We treat you with kindness and respect, every step of the way.
- Manawanui (Dedication) – A highly trained team who are committed to quality care.

- Mahitahitanga (Collaboration) – We value your voice, your goals, and your independence.
- Auahatanga (Innovation) - continuously improving the way we support people

Let's Talk! Pop over to the Healthvision stand at ATSNZ for a friendly chat, take home some useful info, and learn how we can support you or a loved one to stay well, safe, and independent at home.

HT SYSTEMS

Stand 28

www.htsystems.co.nz/home

Email: rshepherd@htsystems.co.nz



HT Systems is a NZ assistive technology company that uses engineering ingenuity to develop solutions to assist the elderly and disabled to live a better life. Our first product, the award-winning, patented, Kera sit2sit is a revolutionary device that assists a single caregiver to transfer a person quickly and safely, who has no standing strength or balance, between seats. This reduces the number of caregivers, the energy and the time taken for a transfer, freeing up more time for living. The first Kera was sold in July 2019, and we have now sold over 300 in 11 different countries around the world. HT Systems launched a second product, the Kera Travel hoist, in September 2024. The Kera Travel is based on the same sit2sit technology platform and was the answer to the call from customers that they needed to have options for transfers outside the house. Our aspiration is to be global leaders in returning freedoms and giving choices to wheelchair users and their families.

INVACARE

Stands 36 - 38

www.invacare.co.nz

Phone: 027 238 3052



**Making Life's
Experiences Possible**

Invacare manufactures and distributes a comprehensive range of personal assistance products to help their users enjoy a comfortable, safe and active lifestyle. Invacare's mission is embodied in our company motto to "Make Life's Experiences Possible". Today, Invacare is a global leader in the worldwide market for medical products and services used in the home. Invacare designs, manufactures and distributes an extensive line of innovative home and long-term care medical products and services that promote recovery and active lifestyles. Invacare is committed to understanding their customer's needs and exceeding their expectations to help rebuild and maintain active lifestyles.

MEDIFAB

Stands 20-25

www.medifab.co.nz

Email: solutions@medifab.com



Our mission is 'Shaping Better Lives' Medifab make a positive difference to the lives of persons with a disability, therapists and carers globally by providing leading-edge postural support solutions for a wide range of special needs. We specialise in Complex Rehab Technology (CRT) Medifab is a team of specialists dedicated to helping children and adults who have significant disabilities and medical conditions. CRT products enable these individuals to deal with their daily physical, functional and cognitive challenges and play a critical role in addressing the complex medical needs of these children and adults and in keeping them active and functional within their homes and communities.

MEDIX 21

Stands 39 and 40

www.medix21.co.nz



Medix21 is a leading supplier of high quality assistive technologies that meet the needs in the patient handling, disability and rehabilitation areas. We have extensive experience, operating since 1987, in hospitals, aged care facilities, community environments, schools and homes, working closely with funders, assessors, therapists and other health professionals to deliver solutions for our clients and their families. Our product offering extends to the areas of ophthalmology and podiatry. Our product advisors are energised and trained to deliver excellent service and advice, backed by strong clinical and technical expertise. Collaborating with clients, families and health professionals we are committed to helping you move ahead.

MELROSE KIWI CONCEPTS CHAIRS

Stands 31 - 32

www.melrosewheelchairs.co.nz

Email: sales@melrosechairs.co.nz



Melrose Kiwi Concept Chairs is a company that designs and fabricates custom-made wheelchairs, both for everyday use and sports, and offers a variety of related products and services. We have a strong focus on custom fitting and optimizing wheelchairs for individual needs. Melrose Chairs has been operating for over 30 years and is a New Zealand family- owned company.

NESST SOLUTIONS AND SOUND FOR LIFE

Trestle Table 18

www.nesst.solutions/supporttoolkit/

Email: adriennefurness@nesst.solutions



Soundsory® and Forbrain® are educational neurotechnology tools by Sound for Life Ltd, supporting sensory, motor, and cognitive development. Forbrain is a bone-conduction headset that enhances speech, attention, and memory through real-time voice feedback. Soundsory is a 40-day music-and-movement program using rhythmic, filtered sound to boost sensory integration and coordination, motor coordination and cognitive function, opening hearing pathways. In New Zealand, both tools are available through NESST Solutions in Auckland. NESST Solutions is partnering with Sound for Life in showcasing these products at the ATSNZ Expos. Both tools are used extensively by speech therapists, occupational therapists and educators, and at home worldwide. For Int'l Supplier - Sound for Life - please go to <https://shop.soundforlife.com/>

NEW ZEALAND HEALTH GROUP

Stands 9 and 10

www.nzhealthgroup.com/

Email: marketing@nzhealthgroup.com



**New Zealand
Health Group**

New Zealand Health Group (NZHG) is Aotearoa New Zealand's largest nationwide provider of home and community support services, disability support, rehabilitation, mental health and behavioural support, health staffing, workplace support, sector training, private care and medical alarms. Our team of over 10,000 carers, support workers, nurses, and other health professionals provide more than 100 specialist services across Aotearoa to tens of thousands of New Zealanders every day. With the purpose of achieving equitable wellbeing for everyone, NZHG works in collaboration with government, health authorities, local iwi, and communities to ensure people are supported with the care they need to live their best lives.

NZ SPINAL TRUST

Trestle Table 13

www.nzspinaltrust.org.nz/

Email: info@nzspinaltrust.org.nz



For over 30 years NZ Spinal Trust have supported positive futures for individuals and their whānau living with the effects of spinal cord impairment. We are a charity and exist on donations, grants and fundraising to provide our three key services free of charge - Peer and whānau support, Vocational Rehabilitation and many resources.

PERMOBIL NEW ZEALAND LTD

Stands 31, 41 and 42

www.permobil.com/en-nz

Email: andrea.woodall@permobil.com



Permobil's founder Dr. Per Uddén believed that helping individuals achieve the greatest level of independence is a basic human right and for over 50 years, that has been the driving force behind our innovative assistive technology. We are passionate about understanding our users' needs and helping them live life to the fullest. We are a global leader in trusted healthcare solutions for power and manual wheelchairs, seating and positioning products, and power assist. Permobil is part of Patricia Industries, a subsidiary of Investor AB and is headquartered in Sweden. For more information about Permobil, and our complete product line visit: New Zealand: www.permobil.com/en-nz | Tel: 0800 115 222

PORTABLE X-RAY

Portable X-Ray Vehicle

www.portablexray.co.nz

Email: info@portablexray.co.nz

Phone: 032600296



Portable X-Ray Services provides a mobile radiographic service to bedridden, immobile or frail patients in the greater Auckland area, Hamilton and Christchurch. Portable X-Ray Services proudly serves rest homes, hospitals, retirement villages, correctional facilities, and private homes across Auckland, Hamilton & Christchurch. Our fully portable radiographic equipment allows us to perform X-rays almost anywhere, including bedside or even in a chair—ensuring comfort and convenience for patients.

QUINN LIFTS & ELEVATORS

Stands 43 and 44

www.quinnlifts.co.nz/

Email: admin@quinn.co.nz



Quinn Lifts & Elevators are designers, manufacturers and installers of domestic and commercial passenger elevators and short rise mobility lifts. Our short rise lifts can rise to levels of both 1m and 1.5m, are designed to be free standing and portable while being durable and stable. Proudly New Zealand owned & operated Quinn has been designing, manufacturing, installing and maintaining lifts throughout the South Pacific Basin since 1990. Our reputation has been built by the fact that we stand behind our locally built products and service standards, we pride ourselves on being the most customer-responsive player on the field. Visit www.quinnlifts.co.nz or call our team on 07 867 6712 to find out more.

REID TECHNOLOGY

Stands 33 and 34

www.reidtechnology.co.nz/

Email: assistivetech@reidtechnology.co.nz



Reid Technology (<https://assistivetechtechnologies.reidtechnology.co.nz/>) is one of New Zealand's leading suppliers of assistive technology, offering equipment choices for people who impaired hearing, sight and cognition. We will be displaying equipment as follows; Bellman & Symfon - Alerting equipment for the hearing impaired, including smoke alarms, alarm clocks and flashing devices to inform people that there is an event happening around the home Bellman & Symfon – Personal Listening devices, for some people these are a viable alternative to hearing aids Oricom – A range of alarm clocks, amplified phones, 4G mobile phones, baby monitors and digital photo frames.

Abilia – Cognitive assistance devices, including the Cary Base, which reminds the user of events coming up for each day such as going to the shops, breakfast/lunch/ dinner, taking medicine, birthdays and anniversaries. The Cary Base can be programmed from mobile phones, tablets and computers over the internet. Emfit – Mat kits for under bed use, alerting caregivers to someone having a tonic-clonic seizure, or simply getting out of bed.

ROLAPAL



Stands 51 and 58

www.rolapal.co.nz/

Phone: 0211829287

Rolapal Ltd is a leading provider of wheelchair seating solutions, offering a diverse range of products to cater to individual needs and preferences. Our vision is to create revolutionary Assistive Technology products which are easy to use, have outstanding comfort & versatility, without requiring maintenance. Our range includes the renowned Dreamline brand, as well as Ignite, Splash, Snooza, and Woven Air, each offering unique features and benefits. Rolapal Ltd continues to revolutionize the wheelchair seating industry, empowering individuals to lead fulfilling and independent lives. For more information on Rolapal and our product lines visit www.rolapal.co.nz

SLICK STICK - PET CARE



Trestle 19

revilo.newdawnproducts@gmail.com

Eco Toilet Solutions Ltd. Trading as " SLICK STICK- PET CARE" Our company focuses on designing and producing products in New Zealand that are innovative and uniquely meet the needs of our customers. All our products have a strong focus on providing solution no other company has, and is the golden standard of innovation. Our Slick Stick "Poop Scoop" product is protected by design patent and we are justifiably proud of the Slick Stick Design. There is simply no other produce that is as versatile, and user friendly, . Don't take our word for this, contact us and we would be happy to give a demo . Eco Toilet Solutions Ltd,

SPECIALIST REHAB SERVICES LTD

Stand 70

www.srsltd.co.nz/

Phone: 09 903 0960



Specialist Rehab Services Ltd (SRS) is a community-based rehabilitation provider with a large multidisciplinary team delivering high-quality, client- centered services across Aotearoa. Our clinicians include registered professionals in Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Speech-Language Therapy, Physiotherapy, Dietetics, Social Work, and Psychology. We are committed to evidence-based practice, cultural safety, and working collaboratively with clients to achieve their goals. SRS delivers a wide range of services, primarily under contracts with ACC, as well as the Ministry of Education, Oranga Tamariki, Ministry of Health, District Health Boards (DHBs), and private clients. We are proud to have an exceptional team of professionals, and as a company, we prioritise strong internal support and ongoing training to ensure our staff continue to grow and deliver the best possible care. At SRS, we are passionate about making a meaningful difference in the lives of the people we support, empowering them to thrive in their everyday environments

TE WANA LTD

Stands 66 and 67

www.tewanaltd.co.nz

Email: jonathan.sibbles@tewanaltd.co.nz



Te Wana Supply a range of Assistive Technologies - Epilepsy Alarms that alert for a range of nocturnal seizures - Care Sensors to alert carers and keep those they support safe - Pill Dispenser to support self-management of medication - Memory aids to support routines, independence and orientation - Medical Alarm to support Independence by connecting directly with Whanau.

Family Connected Medical Alarms



In Home and Anywhere Medical Alarms that call
Whanau direct via an app from \$9 per week



Visit the Te Wana Ltd stand to find out more and register your interest!

021 438 067

sales@TeWanaLtd.co.nz

www.TeWanaLtd.co.nz



Combining 20 cooking appliances into one compact unit, Thermomix® has everything needed to help users prepare fresh, delicious, nutritious meals at home with confidence and independence. This simple assistive technology brings an extra pair of hands to the kitchen that make safer and lighter work of mealtime tasks. It brings more variety to every day with recipe inspiration, helps create menu plans and write shopping lists, and makes cooking favourite foods as easy as pressing 'next'. Thermomix® makes the kitchen space safer and simpler – 20 appliances in 1. It reduces physical tasks with hands-free functions and modes. Cooking steps and timings are all set and controlled. Built-in safety features give users greater confidence and protection. Taste and textures can be easily controlled with consistent results. Alerts can be adapted to suit different auditory preferences. Thermomix® saves money, reducing the reliance on takeaway and meal services. It also provides variety and healthy choices, reducing reliance on packaged foods. Unique to Thermomix®, our expert Consultants are available every step of the way. Starting with showcasing the Thermomix® online or in-person, they also assist with the delivery and set up of Thermomix® and Cookidoo®. The Consultant is also available for ongoing support, to answer any questions, provide recipe recommendations and help the user make the most of their Thermomix®. For those keen to keep learning new skills, Cooking Experiences and classes are also available.

WAY FINDERS

Trestle Table 16

www.wayfinders.org.nz/

Phone: 0800 273 030



We believe everyone deserves clarity, confidence, and fairness in navigating complex systems like ACC, so they can feel informed and supported throughout their journey. We provide free, independent advice so that you can understand what is happening with your claim and your ACC entitlements or any other query relating to ACC.

WS MEDICAL

Stand 12

www.wsmedical.co.nz

Email: admin@wsmedical.co.nz



Enabling those in the rehabilitation space to achieve better patient outcomes. We offer a unique portfolio of products and clinical support that allows providers to achieve the best result driven outcomes. We understand the needs of the New Zealand therapist and partner with the right companies to find the most innovative products. We provide therapists with peace of mind, a sense of pride and satisfaction which we have been providing since 1993. Our Team We are a growing team committed to providing excellent service to our customers. Our Auckland Warehouse (Wairau Valley) and professionally managed offsite facility (Near the Airport) are both managed by exceptional teams, ensuring your goods are delivered accurately and on time.

Professional Seminar Series Programme

Tuesday 19 August 2025

Room 1

TIME	ABSTRACT
10.00am - 10.45am	<p>Beyond Gel-Acid Batteries: How LiFeP04 Lithium Batteries Enhance Power Wheelchair Performance for Bariatric Users</p> <p>Henry Bertulfo</p> <p>Power wheelchairs are indispensable for individuals requiring mobility assistance, yet bariatric users often encounter limitations with traditional gel-acid batteries due to increased weight demands and higher energy consumption. This abstract investigates the significant advantages of Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFeP04) battery technology in addressing the specific needs of this demographic. Compared to conventional gel-acid batteries, LiFeP04 technology offers compelling benefits, including superior energy density, markedly longer cycle life (typically 2,000 – 5,000 cycles versus 300 – 700 for lead-acid), and a considerable reduction in overall battery weight.</p> <p>For bariatric power wheelchair users, these characteristics translate into tangible improvements in performance and usability. The higher usable capacity of LiFeP04 batteries extends operational range, while their lighter weight contributes to improved wheelchair maneuverability and reduced strain on the drive components. Furthermore, the enhanced depth of discharge tolerance and the integration of sophisticated Battery Management Systems (BMS) contribute to greater longevity and reliability-critical factors for users who rely profoundly on their mobility devices. Consequently, LiFeP04 batteries empower the design of more durable, dependable, and feature-rich power wheelchairs, substantially enhancing the mobility and quality of life for bariatric individuals.</p>

Morning Tea in Expo Hall

TIME	ABSTRACT
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11.45am -
12.30pm

Prescribing Power Standing Wheelchairs - Implementing Best Practice

Tracee-lee Maginnity

Feeling nervous or overwhelmed when determining if standing is right for your client? Or maybe you have made the decision, but where do you start? This session is designed to help build your confidence in all things power standing wheelchair related. From a brief review of the current evidence through to planning and facilitating a success outcome - we will provide you with practical hints and tips that you will be able to implement in your practice when prescribing power standing wheelchairs.

Lunch in Expo Hall

1.45pm -
2.30pm

Manual Mobility for Paediatrics - Reducing Barriers and Enabling Function

Tracee-lee Maginnity

The concept of on time mobility and early exploration mobility to support development are well understood by many. When do we consider a mobility base to support destination mobility?

The considerations when prescribing manual wheelchairs for Paediatrics are more than just providing a sized down mobility base. There are some unique considerations when identifying the best options for paediatrics. This workshop looks at an overview of the different types of manual wheelchairs specifically designed or prescribed for paediatric populations, from standard entry level chairs through to active manual wheelchairs for independent mobility and for the more complex children the considerations of manual tilt in space.

We will identify numerous considerations specific to this population group and addresses concepts such as sustainability and growth, supporting transfers, and managing parental expectations.

Afternoon Tea in Expo Hall

TIME	ABSTRACT
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3.00pm -
4.00pm

DSS Session

Anne Shaw

In 2024 the Government, after the latest review into Disability Support Services (DSS), transferred responsibility to the Ministry of Social Development and established a Taskforce. The immediate focus of the Taskforce was to respond to the recommendations of the Independent Review and stabilise DSS. This session will provide and update on progress so far and share the work ahead to make DSS fair, sustainable, transparent, and sustainable.

ATSNZ Disability Expo Christchurch - Day One Closed

Room 2

TIME

ABSTRACT

10.00am -
10.45am

Custom vs. Off-the-Shelf Sleep Systems: The Big Ws: What, When, and Why?

Claire Grey & Ana Pacheco

A Lying and Positioning Assessment is a crucial part of a therapist's work when involved with clients with Mobility Needs. During the assessment, the therapist can understand the client/whanau's needs, limitations, preferences and goals.

With the information gathered at the assessment, the therapist can move to selecting the products that assist the client to achieve their main goals, be this improved sleep duration, increased comfort, reduced pain or pressure relief. Aotearoa has a large variety of equipment available, and while this is hugely beneficial, it can also be confusing to know where to begin.

At times, a client with complex needs cannot have their goals achieved by an off-the-shelf product, necessitating the use of a customised or custom product fabrication.

For the sake of comparison and greater understanding, a few examples will be provided of clients using different ranges of equipment, including adjusted or custom-made options.

This talk aims to inspire greater confidence when prescribing 24-hour postural supports to assist therapists with prescribing the correct equipment, be that off the shelf, modified or custom

Morning Tea in Expo Hall

TIME	ABSTRACT
11.45am - 12.30pm	<p data-bbox="325 210 1356 309">Beyond Standard: Clinical and Technical Considerations for Scripting Bariatric Wheelchairs</p> <p data-bbox="325 342 580 387">Jacelyn Goh</p> <p data-bbox="325 427 1430 622">As the demand for bariatric mobility solutions continues to rise, healthcare professionals face increasing challenges in prescribing wheelchairs that meet the complex and individualized needs of users with higher body weights. This presentation explores the critical clinical, biomechanical, and functional considerations involved in scripting bariatric wheelchairs.</p> <p data-bbox="325 667 1453 976">The session explores an overview of current bariatric wheelchair categories, including manual, power, and tilt-in-space models, followed by a discussion on common pitfalls in equipment selection. Attendees will learn how to assess and accommodate for factors such as weight distribution, seat width and depth, turning radius, frame durability, and propulsion efficiency. Special attention will be given to pressure management, postural support, and the impact of comorbidities such as lymphedema, joint instability, and cardiopulmonary limitations.</p> <p data-bbox="325 1025 1433 1135">Using case studies and evidence-informed guidelines, the presentation will provide a practical framework for interdisciplinary collaboration in the scripting process, from initial assessment to long-term outcomes.</p>

Lunch in Expo Hall

TIME	ABSTRACT
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1.45pm -
2.30pm

Housing Modifications for Safe Access and the changing relationship between Able Access and Occupational Therapists

Teena Marlow

Over the years, the relationship between Able Access and Occupational Therapists (OTs) has undergone significant transformation. This evolution reflects broader changes within the healthcare setting, technology, and societal attitudes towards accessibility and inclusion.

As an Occupational Therapist with Able Access, I bring experience, clinical expertise, and an understanding of the access needs of individuals living with disabilities. This seminar will focus on housing modifications that enable safe, independent access - specifically, the assessments and measurements required to prescribe our modular aluminium ramps and rubber threshold ramps.

I will share practical insights and real-life experiences of individuals whose lives have been transformed through improved accessibility. This session will combine research-based clinical instruction with current best practice guidelines, highlighting the critical steps involved in conducting thorough access assessments.

Attendees will gain an understanding of how to identify environmental barriers, complete accurate measurements, and apply solutions that are both functional and client-centred. Join me as we explore the intersection of clinical reasoning, lived experience, and innovative product solutions in achieving safer, more inclusive environments.

By working together, we are driving systemic change towards a more inclusive society. As we continue to adapt and innovate, the future of accessibility in New Zealand looks promising

Afternoon Tea in Expo Hall

Room 1

TIME

ABSTRACT

8.45am -
9.30am

Navigating Differently: Lived Experiences of Alternative Wheelchair Access Solutions

Jacelyn Goh & Steve Burgess

For clients with complex physical needs, standard joysticks often aren't viable for powered wheelchair control. Fortunately, advances in technology and AI now provide diverse alternative access options— such as head arrays, switches, and smart glasses—that empower users to move and interact more independently.

This session supports therapists in confidently prescribing special controls through a blend of evidence-based practices and real-life case studies.

Break in Expo Hall

TIME	ABSTRACT
10.00am - 10.45am	<p data-bbox="323 210 1390 309">When does safety become restraint & does restraint become damaging when we just need sleep?</p> <p data-bbox="323 342 555 387">Claire Grey</p> <p data-bbox="323 439 1445 551">This session aims to discuss the role of safety and restraint in healthcare, specifically what the Ministry of Health guidelines advise, why these guidelines exist and why they must remain important in day-to-day practice.</p> <p data-bbox="323 595 1465 752">How as assessors do we make sense of and ensure we address restraint when requesting and providing equipment for the use of harm reduction in clients who demonstrate challenging and self-harming behaviour to themselves or others throughout the daytime and during the night.</p> <p data-bbox="323 797 1406 869">Working through examples when restraint and safety can be seen to overlap and become hard to quantify.</p> <p data-bbox="323 913 1401 1111">How do we ensure we explore all solutions to minimise restraint and always keep the user safe overnight, as well as supporting whanau through difficult situations while answers are being sought. Reviewing the role of high sided beds and enclosed sleeping rooms and their part in promoting function with children and adults in homes, schools and care facilities.</p> <p data-bbox="323 1155 1380 1227">One the solution is in place; how do we continue to ensure it is being used appropriately and if its use should be discontinued.</p>

Morning Tea in Expo Hall

TIME	ABSTRACT
11.15am - 12.00pm	<p data-bbox="325 210 1197 311">Understanding Individualised Funding and purchasing rules</p> <p data-bbox="325 342 564 387">Sue Gibson</p> <p data-bbox="325 427 1426 504">Our content will cover the application of purchasing rules with flexible funding packages and the purchase of items to support independence.</p> <p data-bbox="325 506 1305 582">We aim to have this as interactive with the audience as possible, with opportunity to discuss scenarios and Q&A.</p> <p data-bbox="325 584 1374 703">We are aware our DSS community with flexible funding options are really confused about how the funding they have can be used, so our aim in this presentation is to provide some clarity and next steps for tangata.</p> <p data-bbox="325 745 1469 819">The PDF PowerPoint below give a little bit of an overview on what I would speak to. This is only a draft.</p>

Lunch in Expo Hall

TIME	ABSTRACT
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1.00pm -
1.45pm

Beyond Pavement: Empowering Lives with Off-Road Power Mobility

Kathleen Sodder

Off-road power wheelchairs are transforming what's possible for individuals with mobility impairments—but are we, as clinicians, fully prepared to support users venturing beyond traditional environments?

This session dives into the clinical landscape of prescribing off-road power wheelchairs, presenting a comprehensive and practical framework for assessment, trial, and implementation. We'll explore how to tailor equipment to diverse terrains, manage complex clinical presentations, and address the real-world functional goals of users—like tending to livestock, accessing beaches, or navigating rural properties.

Grounded in evidence and brought to life through powerful case studies, this session will equip you with tools to match the right technology to the right person and environment. You'll walk away with actionable insights on drive systems, seating, alternative controls, programming, and safety—all through the lens of clinical reasoning and goal-oriented care.

Whether you're new to power wheelchair prescription or seeking to expand your scope into more adventurous terrain, this session offers inspiration and practical strategies. Join us to discover how off-road power mobility can break down barriers, restore independence, and empower users to truly go where they want to go.

TIME	ABSTRACT
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2.00pm -
2.45pm

Functional Independent Powered Mobility for Complex Outcomes - Alternative control considerations

Tracee-lee Maginnity

Regardless of cognitive capacity, not all end users will have the physical capacity to independently access a standard joystick to mobilise a powered wheelchair. It may require a simple solution such as an alternative or modified joystick knob through to an alternative control method. How do we assess for best access...what are the options available? How can programming and input methods provide the best opportunity for an end user?

This workshop will provide attendees an overview of input access options from proportional through to complete switching and beyond. We will work through the considerations for controller selection based on the individuals capacity and mobility related goals as we discover and implement sustainable outcome solutions. Practical opportunities to get “hands on” using different input methods will assist us in understanding some of the crucial elements of training set up and programming to consider.

ATSNZ Disability Expo Christchurch - Closed

Room 2

TIME

ABSTRACT

8.45am -
9.30am

Managing Lower Extremity Contractures: The Role of Supported Standing

Britta Schwartzhoff

Course Learning Objectives:

- Discuss the mechanisms that contribute to changes in LE range of motion
- Describe how supported standing addresses LE range of motion
- Identify the indications and contraindications for LE range of motion of available standing technology

Individuals with disabilities frequently remain in static postures throughout their day. These static postures contribute to the development of contractures.

Research has shown that children with Cerebral Palsy consistently lose LE range of motion from the ages of 2 to 14. Without the ability to independently change positions the body adapts to the sustained posture. This course will explore how supported standing technology provides positional changes and prolonged stretch to the lower extremities and trunk that can have a positive effect on range of motion

Break in Expo Hall

TIME**ABSTRACT**

10.00am -
10.45am

The importance of early interventions - Paediatrics

Kine Huseby Michelsen

The human brain needs stimulation from the baby is born and all the way through life. Within the first 2 years of life it is extremely important that the baby is stimulated, and given the opportunity to develop and grow. Babies that are born with disabilities does not always get this chance.

Often, they have long stays in the hospital, their parents are exhausted from worrying, or they are not believed in by their caregivers. Too often we see children that have had to wait for years to receive a technical aid that can help them move around by themselves, and they are delayed more than necessary in their development. This slows down their brain development, their motor development and their ability to develop social skills.

All children with disabilities are able to develop, and it is our job as providers and caregivers to give them this experience. They need to learn what happens in their environment when they move around, when they move towards a person, when they knock over an item or when they don't adjust their speed. All of this is nutrition for the brain to thrive and learn new things.

Morning Tea in Expo Hall

TIME	ABSTRACT
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11.15am -
12.00pm

Recommending Complex Rehab Technology Early After SCI: Supported Standing Devices Course

Kristen Cezat

Course Learning Objectives:

- Describe two physiological effects of a spinal cord injury on an individual.
- Identify two evidence-based reasons to use and recommend supported standing early after an individual's spinal cord injury.
- Discuss three evidence-based clinical predictors for functional expectations following spinal cord injury and how that affects the function and design of a supported standing device.

Course Description: First, this course will review the types and secondary effects of spinal cord injury on an individual. Secondly, we will discuss evidence related to supported standing devices and recommendations for use early after spinal cord injury. Lastly, we will discuss functional prognosis for the different types of spinal cord injuries and how this relates to supported standing device recommendations.

Lunch in Expo Hall

TIME	ABSTRACT
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1.00pm -
1.45pm

Making Sense of the Numbers - Using ISO Test Data to Guide Cushion Selection

Terri Davies

Choosing the right wheelchair cushion is a critical part of pressure care and postural management, but clinicians can be left to interpret technical data with little guidance. This session explores how ISO 16840 testing is used to assess many properties of wheelchair cushions. It can be a valuable tool in clinical decision-making.

We'll break down what this data actually tells us, why standardised testing matters, and how to critically interpret manufacturer-provided results. We will use Rolapal Woven air cushions as an example case to show the various test standards and result interpretation.

The University of Pittsburgh, home to the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC) on Wheelchair and Seating Mobility, plays a key role in developing and conducting ISO standards like 16840-2 and 16840-6. We will translate technical specifications from this testing into clinical relevance and attendees will be better equipped to select cushions that meet individual user need.

This should assist them to get beyond trial and error or marketing claims. Whether new to seating assessments or an experienced prescriber, this session offers practical insight into integrating ISO data into everyday practice.

2.00pm -
2.45pm

The Transformative Power of Wheelchair Rugby: Beyond the Court

Dr Cherie Harris

Unleashing Potential, Building Independence, and Fostering Community

Wheelchair rugby stands as a dynamic and compelling sport, renowned not only for its fierce physicality, speed, and strategic play on court, but also for its profound impact on the lives of athletes beyond the boundaries of competition. This abstract explores the dual role of wheelchair rugby: as a stage for physical prowess, agility, and tactical brilliance, and as a catalyst for personal empowerment and social connection off court.

On court, wheelchair rugby is characterized by its intensity—athletes collide with controlled force, navigate rapid gameplay, and make split-second strategic decisions to outmaneuver opponents. The game's structure demands not only physical strength and resilience but also mental agility, fostering an environment where confronting challenges head-on is the only path to victory. Players continually refine their tactical insight, learning to anticipate, adapt, and execute under pressure. These moments—fierce, confronting, and at times overwhelming—forge a spirit of determination and grit that resonates far beyond the final whistle.

Off court, the transformative power of wheelchair rugby becomes even more apparent. Within teams, athletes share more than tactics; they exchange stories, support, and lifeskills essential for navigating daily life with a disability. The sport's community is built on empathy, mutual respect, and the shared pursuit of independence. Players mentor one another, fostering an environment where experience is valued and vulnerabilities are addressed collectively. This camaraderie empowers individuals to break barriers, enhancing self-confidence and independence in all facets of life.

Wheelchair rugby is more than a sport—it is a vibrant ecosystem where physical contests and strategic mastery are inextricably linked with personal growth, mutual support, and the continual pursuit of greater independence and community inclusion.

Speakers

Henry Bertulfo

An occupational therapist, specialising in wheelchair and seating assessment, and for the last six years has practiced as product solution consultant / specialist focusing on wheeled mobility and seating products.



Claire Grey

Claire Grey has been working as an Occupational Therapist for over 22 years, gaining extensive experience in the UK and Australia, working in hospitals, special schools, community teams, and NGOs including Whizz Kidz (UK). Claire is fortunate to volunteer with the Altus Pacific Aid team to participate in wheelchair clinics in Tonga.



Relocating to New Zealand 12 years ago, Claire worked in a wheelchair and seating team and joined Medifab in 2022. Today, she works closely with therapists and clients, offering practical solutions and advising on seating, 24 hr. postural management and providing education sessions throughout NZ.

Ana Pacheco

Ana Pacheco is a dedicated Occupational Therapist with over 15 years of experience, specializing in 24-hour Postural Management for the past nine years. Originally trained in Brazil, Ana graduated in 2008 and has since built a career focused on improving mobility and comfort for individuals with complex needs.

For the last two years, Ana has been working as an Educator and Product Consultant for Medifab, bringing the latest advancements in postural care and equipment to therapists across New Zealand. Passionate about knowledge sharing and clinical excellence, Ana is committed to supporting professionals in making informed decisions that enhance their clients' quality of life.

Tracee-lee Maginnity

Tracee-lee Maginnity joined Permobil Australia in July 2019, as a clinical education specialist. Originally from New Zealand, she graduated Auckland University of Technology with a BHSc (Occupational Therapy) in 2003 and has since worked in various roles related to seating and mobility including assessing, prescribing and educating. After gaining experience as an assessor and prescriber at Seating To Go / Wheelchair Solutions prescribing for both disability and injury, she moved to Australia in 2011 to take on the Senior Occupational Therapist role in a custom moulded seating service. She then worked in clinical consulting and education roles until joining Permobil.



Tracee-lee is passionate about maximising functional outcomes with end users and the importance of education within the industry. She has mentored many therapists interested in AT. Her experience includes working with individuals with complex postures to achieve customised client focused outcomes.

Jacelyn Goh

Jace is a highly experienced occupational therapist with a strong clinical background in neurological rehabilitation. A 2008 graduate of La Trobe University, she has worked across a range of healthcare settings and countries, gaining valuable international experience across diverse healthcare systems.



In 2021, Jace joined Linds Rehabilitation as a Product Representative and Clinical Educator, specialising in complex wheelchair seating and prescription. In this role, she provides expert consultations and delivers targeted educational sessions to support occupational therapists in enhancing their clinical decision-making and prescription processes.

With her deep expertise in mobility and postural care, Jace plays a pivotal role in ensuring clients receive the most appropriate mobility solutions while empowering fellow clinicians through education and knowledge-sharing.

Teena Marlow

Teena Marlow graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Occupational Therapy from Auckland University of Technology in 2001. Teena has had a varied career; working as an OT in England for various London boroughs in the community /social services setting. She has worked as an OT for the Ministry of Education at a special needs school and recently worked as a community Occupational Therapist at Te Whatu Ora Waikato for 10 years. Teena currently works as an Occupational Therapist for Able Access and is passionate about providing safe, sustainable, and effective access solutions for clients.



Anne Shaw

Anne leads DSS delivery. She joined DSS in 2024 to lead the team delivering DSS-funded services to disabled people, their whānau and carers.

She spent the last decade on executive leadership teams at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

At HUD, Anne was responsible for contracting more than \$2b funding for public and transitional housing delivery and housing support programmes, including Housing First.



Britta Schwartzhoff

Britta Schwartzhoff, PT, DPT, ATP/SMS earned her Doctorate of Physical Therapy from St. Catherine University in St. Paul, MN. She is a RESNA-certified Assistive Technology Professional and Seating and Mobility Specialist. Throughout her career, Britta has worked as a physical therapist and clinical educator across various settings, specialising in working with individuals with complex rehab needs. She also has extensive experience providing collaborative care in a custom seating and positioning clinic and is passionate about promoting independence, function, and health optimisation across the lifespan. She currently serves as a Clinical Education Specialist with Altimate Medical and is an active member of the Clinician Task Force, St Catherine DPT Alumni Advisory Board, APTA member, and a board member for her local United Cerebral Palsy chapter.



Kine Huseby Michelsen

Kine is a physical therapist from Norway with a special interest in working with children and assistive technology. She now works as the Export Manager for Technical Aids at Hepro.



Sue Gibson

For the last 14 odd years my mahi has been in the enabling good lives arena, supporting people with their flexible funding to engage in ways that have meaning to them. My roles have taken me from contract procurement to developing practices, policies and teams that are situated to best service our disabled community with using their funding in creative ways.



Kathleen Sodder

Therapist with a specialised focus in complex and custom wheelchair prescription, and a strong background in clinical education. Her career spans a wide range of healthcare settings, including assistive technology prescription, home modifications, aged-care and rehabilitation, where she has consistently delivered person-centred, outcome-driven solutions.



In her previous role as a Wheelchair and Seating Specialist, Kathleen provided advanced mobility interventions across Australia, supporting individuals with complex needs and guiding therapists through clinically demanding cases. Her work has been instrumental in bridging the gap between evidence-based practice and real-world application, empowering clinicians to approach assistive technology with greater confidence and clarity. In her current leadership role, Kathleen leads with both expertise and compassion—facilitating high-quality clinical education, mentoring therapy teams, and championing meaningful outcomes for clients and their families.

Kathleen's professional mission is rooted in personal experience. Having witnessed the profound impact of assistive technology through her brother's journey with Cerebral Palsy, she brings deep empathy and purpose to her work. This lived insight continues to shape her advocacy for enhancing clinical reasoning and delivering interventions that not only meet functional needs but also transform lives.

Kristen Cezat

Kristen Cezat, a Board-Certified Neurologic Clinical Specialist and RESNA-certified ATP/SMS, has focused her career on SCI rehabilitation since earning her DPT from the University of Central Florida in 2011. She received the APTA SCI SIG Award for Clinical Excellence and serves on ANPT SCI SIG leadership (2021-current). Kristen works full-time as a Clinical Education Specialist at Altimate Medical, Inc, serves as adjunct faculty at Florida Southern College DPT program, and treats clinically at Orlando Health. She presents nationally on SCI rehabilitation and complex rehap technology, emphasizing evidence-based practice.



Terri Davies

Terri Davies brings over eight years of experience in the Assistive Technology sector, with a strong focus on seating and positioning. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Public Health from Brigham Young University, alongside qualifications in health science and rehabilitation.



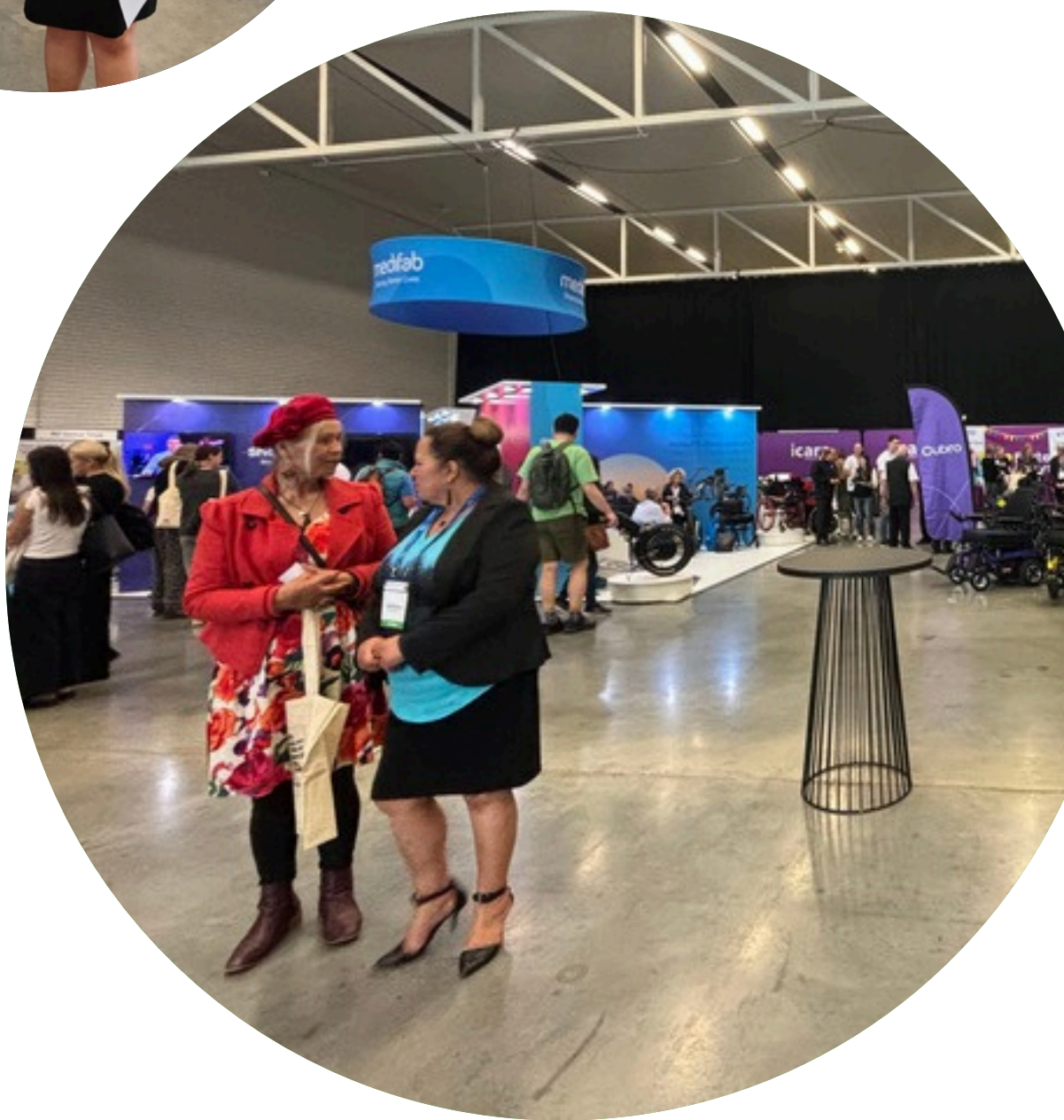
Her early career in neurological rehabilitation sparked a deep interest in pressure care and complex seating. During her time working in the United States, Terri developed a broad clinical perspective, particularly around pressure injury prevention and the role of seating in long-term health outcomes.

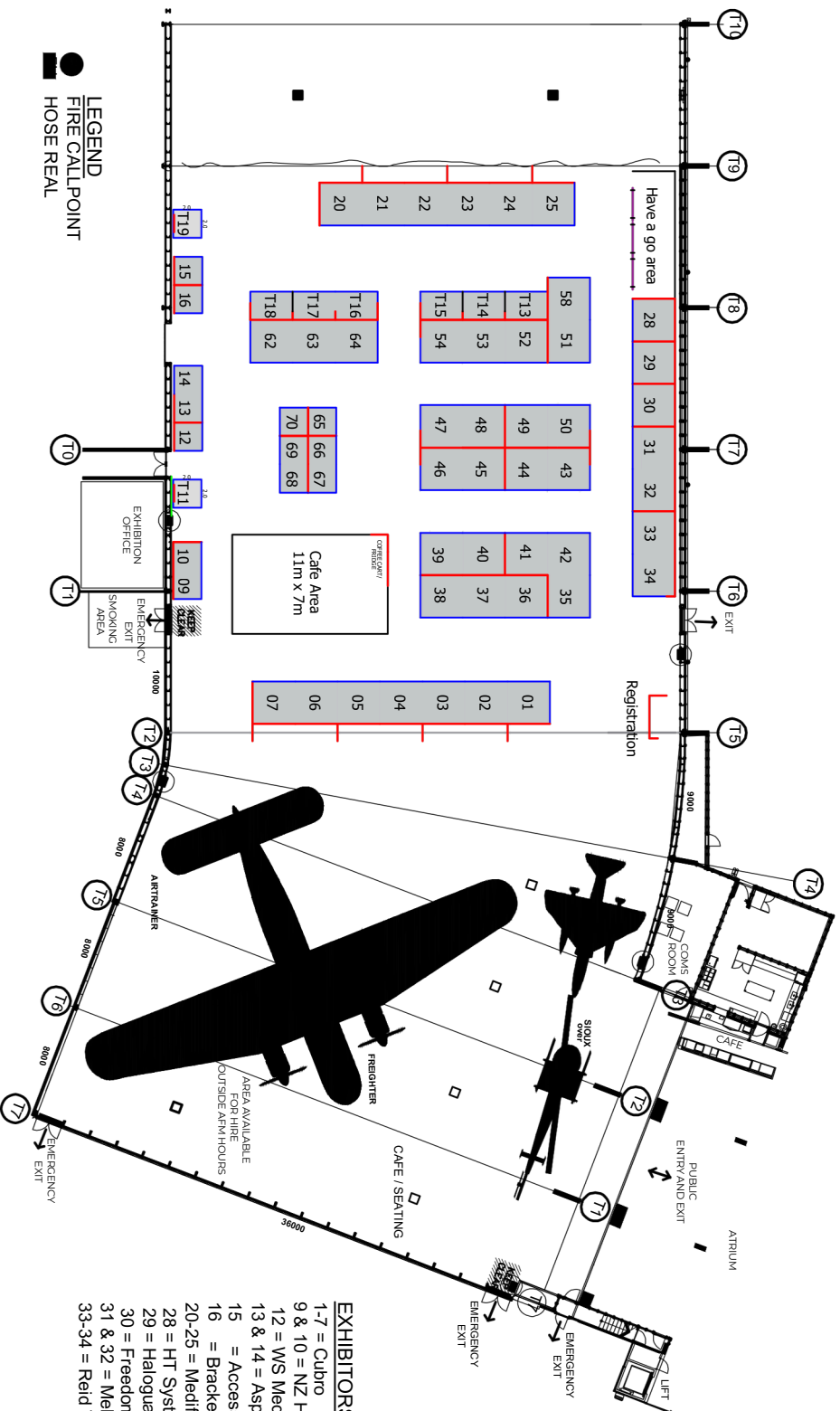
Now based in New Zealand working for Rolapal NZ, Terri works closely with clinicians and suppliers to support evidence-based decision-making and practical solutions for seating and mobility. Her approach is grounded in clinical insight and a commitment to improving user outcomes through well-matched equipment.

Dr Cherie Harris

PhD in Sport Psychology (Disability Sport) Masters of Social Science in Community Psychology Over thirty years involvement at all levels across all roles in wheelchair rugby including sport development globally.







ATSNZ Disability Expo, Christchurch 2025

Airforce Museum, Wigram

Stand Size

3m x 3m stands
 2m x 2m stands

Panel: Corinthian

Fascia: N/A

Drawn by: Nicola Ransome

Date: 14.08.25

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