

Consult Point

Get up and do IT!

Assistive technologies for older Australians



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10 years in information technology for ACSA members



- Experienced significant shifts since 2006
- Understand complexity in resi. and community care
- Work with many systems
- Integrate people and organisations transformation into all projects
- Assistive technologies



An incomplete framework for viewing assistive technology



- 1. Daily Living** – wheelchairs, new hips, walking frames, lever taps, adapted cutlery, remote controls, home automation, smart homes and.....the electric kettle!
- 2. Control systems – “Health” and Safety Communications**– nurse call, security systems, “health guide”, wifi systems, tagging
- 3. Social Isolation and Boredom**
 - Devices - telephones, speech synthesis, hearing aids, PCs, “toaster” computers, Seniors Kiosks
 - Applications - virtual visiting, language interpreters, wellness indexes, mapping applications, games, “Keep in Touch”,

* Adapted from Cowan & Turner-Smith The role of Assistive Technology in Alternative Models of Care

First the administrators



Then the carers



Now the cared for - Jannali



Now the cared for - Caloundra



- Devices and systems that help you do things you can't OR increase ease and safety in which you do it

* Cowan & Turner-Smith The role of Assistive Technology in Alternative Models of Care

Wii – Assistive technology can be fun and games

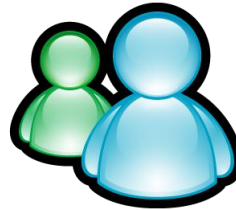


1. Nintendo Wii:

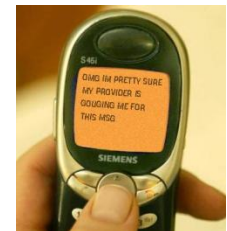
Novel way of encouraging residents to undertake physical activity

- Fun
- Easy to use
- Group activity

Our communication landscape

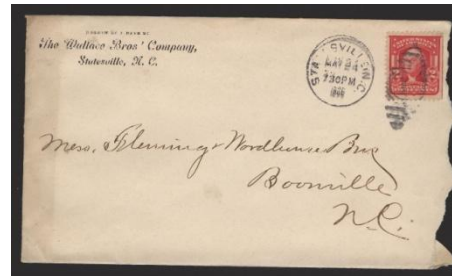


Microsoft Office Outlook 2007



- Many different ways to communicate

A typical resident's communications landscape



- Many different ways to communicate

Keep in Touch – A social isolation case study



- A “Toaster”
- Language and time independent
- It sends and receives audio messages
- Plans for other features



- A “Toaster” from the Sydney Uni School of IT
- Piloted in mixed residential environments in Sydney and overseas as well as Sydney Uni and Australian Technology Park labs
- Facility’s Residents Computer Club assisted in the pilot

An 80 something trialist, "Ted" his daughter, other family



“Changed how I communicate with the family as well as [my daughter]. When the great grandkids were around at her place I would always get a message and it was great to be able to hear from them. Because they have school I don’t get to hear them that often but with KIT I hear from them every week. I have become closer to my kids and grandkids since getting KIT”

“Teds” view on the carers use



“it is creating quite a bit of interest round here”

“the carers...would use it to say hi [to my daughter]
they thought it was excellent’

“ If I can’t actually see my son in Los Angeles I am not sure it is worth the effort”

- 92 y.o. aerogramme writer

“it is great to be able to see the picture and hear the voice, much more personal experience”

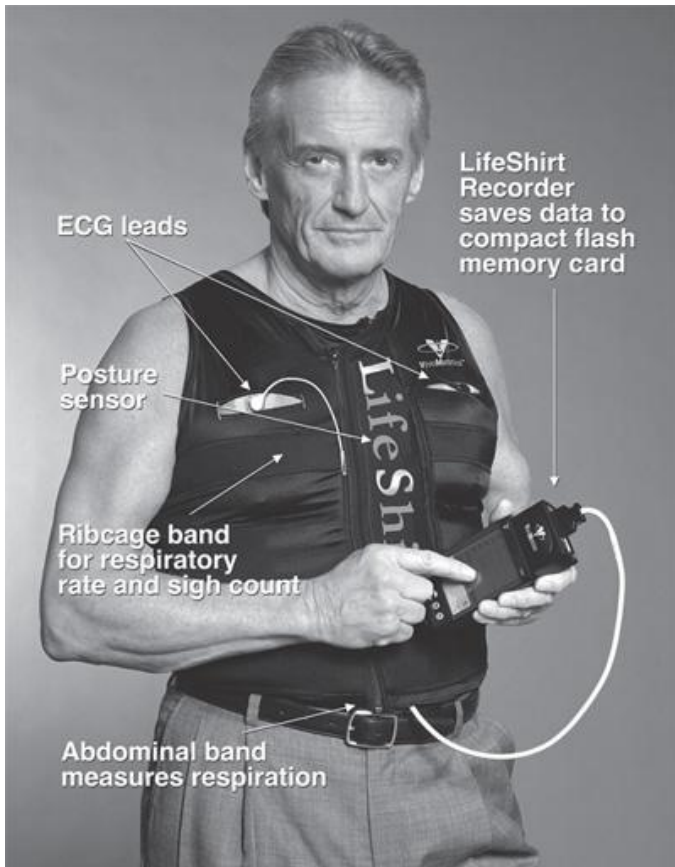
- A fan !

“it is non invasive and so easy. You don’t have to answer the phone [from dad all the time]. It’s like verbal emails, just easier to use”

- A relieved daughter

- High user expectations around reliability and simplicity
- Strong interest from Government and Care Providers
- Some interest from telcos, chip makers and others
- Place in the care model still being developed

Keep it simple



vs.



Assistive technology needs to be simple as possible

For more information or to discuss further

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