In November 2006 the Fremantle Collaboration was successful in obtaining a $17,419 University of Western Sydney (UWS) Research Partnerships Program Grant to investigate the economic framework for people with a disability and the provision of specialist equipment for their needs. The Research Partnership Project is entitled *Assistive Technology in Australia: Economic Analyses from a user standpoint – methodological implications*. Independent Living Centres Australia; National Council on Rehabilitation Engineering and Novita Tech are grant industry partners.

Members of the Fremantle Collaboration presented papers at two state-wide, at four national and at nine international conferences. Other outputs include publication of a book chapter, a number of refereed abstracts and a refereed journal article (in press). Key external links were established with Renzo Andrich of Don Gnocchi Foundation, Italy.

**Overview of Activities 2006 - 2008**

- **Inaugural meeting with international members:**
  17-20 October 2006: Fremantle WA

- **Independent Living Centres Australia Meeting:**
  28 – 29 March 2006: ILC Melbourne

- **Research Partnerships Workshop 1:**
  23 – 25 May 2007: ILC NSW

- **Research Partnerships Workshop 2:**
  (with Renzo Andrich):
  28 August –1 September 2007 at UWS

- **Independent Living Centres Australia Meeting (with Renzo Andrich):**
  5 September 2007

- **Research Partnerships Workshop 3:**
  5 – 7 February 2008 at UWS

At its third research workshop the Fremantle Collaboration decided to change its name to Assistive Technology Collaboration and to establish a public website at [www.at.org.au](http://www.at.org.au)
In the context of the Collaboration several PhD projects have developed:

Jane Bringolf commenced her PhD on 1 February 2008 at the UWS Urban Research Centre under the supervision of Peter Phibbs, Ingrid Schraner and Ed Steinfeld with the working title: *Universal Design: Why don’t we have more of it?*

Natasha Layton is preparing to undertake a PhD in connection with her work with the Aids & Equipment Action Alliance in Victoria.

As the UWS Research Partnership Project is coming to an end, the Collaboration has identified two directions of further work:

1. The further development of cost-effectiveness analyses of AT based on the *International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health ICF*, as outlined in the upcoming article in the journal *Disability and Rehabilitation* (details below). This includes the evaluation of questionnaire software to use ICF’s Activities and Participation in larger studies that also include the relevant Environmental Factors, as well as the investigation of graphical representations of Activities and Participations in present and optimal situations and of the overall costs of the relevant Environmental Factors.

2. The further development of our first attempts at identifying the economic actors involved in the process of making AT available to users. Following the experiences with the first exploratory account based on Gerard Goggin and Christopher Newell’s book *Disability in Australia: exposing a social apartheid* (Sydney, 2005), we intend to use some of the cases used in the book *Assistive Technology in the Workplace* by Desleigh de Jonge, Marcia Scherer and Sylvia Rodger to identify further sets of economic actors and to investigate in more depth the incentive structures that operate for these actors.
Book Chapters


Refereed Journal Articles


Fully Refereed and Published Conference Papers


Conference Papers


de Jonge D & Schraner I (2008) Economics of inclusiveness: can we as a society afford not to provide assistive technology and use universal design? International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence St Petersburg, Florida US 21-23 February

Fremantle Collaboration Publications to March 2008


Walker L, Layton N & Hobbs D (2007) Assistive Technology – a part of the rehabilitation solution (poster) *Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine 15th Annual Scientific Meeting 22-25 May Sydney*

Schraner I (2006) Assistive Technology – Or how to make Health Economics more relevant *UWS College of Business Research Colloquium 7 – 8 November, Sydney, Australia*

**Reports and Other Publications**


Fremantle Collaboration (July 2007) 1 page briefing for industry partners

Assistive Technology (November 2007) 1 page briefing for industry partners
