

Disability Employment Policy  
Department of Social Services  
Canberra ACT 2601  
(sent via email: [dep@dss.gov.au](mailto:dep@dss.gov.au))

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## **ATSA Comments on National Disability Employment Strategy Consultation Paper**

We would like to thank the Government for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed National Disability Employment Strategy.

ATSA is a national organisation representing assistive technology (AT) suppliers, including manufacturers, importers, distributors, retailers, tradespeople and technicians. We have 150 members who supply approximately 80% of the AT in Australia (excluding communication and sensory equipment).

Regarding the proposed National Disability Employment Strategy, we note there is a reference to JobAccess and the Employment Assistance Fund but no direct mention of the role Assistive Technology (AT) and AT suppliers have in supporting both employers and employees in the workplace.

The World Health Organisation recognizes the importance of AT regarding employment and state on their website “Assistive technology enables people to live healthy, productive, independent, and dignified lives, and to participate in education, the labour market and civic life”. Also, as noted on the NSW Public Service Commission website “Assistive technologies help people in the workplace every day to do the best they can at their job.”

To address the gap of AT in the Consultation Paper, we propose the following amendments to the strategy:

1. AT suppliers have a unique focus and role and it is important to highlight this in the Strategy by including AT suppliers in the list of key stakeholders as shown below.
  - people with disability.....
  - mainstream services, particularly recruitment providers
  - assistive technology suppliers**
  - disability service providers....

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2. In the section Lifting employer engagement and capability, a bullet point should be added to reflect the position of the World Health Organisation regarding the benefit of Assistive Technology. We recommend the inclusion of following:

**“Through the adoption of Assistive Technology and workplace modifications to support employees, the employers’ reputation is one where they take action to improve the productivity, health and independence of its’ employees.”**

3. In the section What we think could help, we recommend adding the bolded words below:

- Develop and promote information, tools and resources to:
  - o **provide a pathway for employers and employees to access assistive technology and suppliers**
  - o build employer capability and confidence to hire people with disability.....

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss our input further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Your Sincerely,



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