



Types of Technology in Aged Care: Assistive Technology

Aged care services are increasingly embracing innovative digital technologies to improve the care experiences of older people and to enable care workers to do more, even with fewer resources (e.g., staff, financial). This information sheet on assistive technology is part of a series covering types of technology currently used in aged care. These information sheets are available on the [ARIIA website](https://www.ariia.org.au).

What is assistive technology?

Assistive technologies are products or services that enable individual functioning and social participation. [1] Assistive technology can include many different products, including non-digital (e.g., walking frames/sticks, medication packs), or digital (e.g., fall-monitoring technology, mobile apps, GPS phones/watches).

How are assistive technologies used in aged care?

Assistive technologies used in aged care may include smart technology, such as sensors and monitoring systems, mobile devices and apps, mobility aids (such as wheelchairs or lifters), or home modifications such as rails. [2] Assistive technology can be used both by people living at home and those living in residential aged care.

How can assistive technologies benefit the aged care sector?

Potential benefits of using assistive technologies for older adults and their care team may include:

- Increased confidence, autonomy, social participation, and quality of life
- Improved communication
- Decreased anxiety and injury
- Decreased impact of supporting a loved one for carers and their families
- Allowing older adults to live in their own home for longer. [1]

Examples of assistive technology in aged care

Some assistive technologies used in Australia include:

- **Accent 1400:** A communication-speech generating device that can be used to support older adults to communicate using the mouse, head tracking and/or eye gaze.
- **Telstra visual signal alert:** A device that provides a visual signal allowing a hearing-impaired user to see that the telephone is ringing.
- **Talking watch:** A battery operated talking watch with large number/characters that may be suitable for individuals with a vision impairment. The watch's voice output reports the time and can be activated by pressing a button.



References

1. National Aged Care Alliance. Position paper: Assistive technology for older Australians [Internet]. 2018 [cited 2023 Feb 21]. Available from: <https://agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au/system/files/2020-06/COT.9999.2222.0008.pdf>
2. Egan N. Latest assistive technology for aged care. Australian Ageing Agenda [Internet]. 2022 [cited 2023 Feb 21]. Available from: <https://www.australianageingagenda.com.au/technology/latest-assistive-technology-for-aged-care/>

www.ariia.org.au

For more information email ariia@ariia.org.au or call 08 7421 9134

ARIIA - Level 2, Tonsley Hub, South Rd, Tonsley SA 5042

ARIIA was established as an independent, not-for-profit organisation, set up to lead the advancement of the aged care workforce capability by promoting and facilitating innovation and research to improve the quality of aged care for all Australians.