

Drawing on Technology: Finding the right IT solution for OT's

Melanie Dennis¹

¹*Country OT Services, Regional areas of South Australia, Australia,* ²*e-AlliedHealth, Finniss, South Australia, Australia*

A private Occupational Therapy practice in Regional SA recently went through the process of implementing a variety of Information Technology (I.T.) solutions in order to move towards their goal of a 'paperless practice'. This poster presentation will outline the aims of the project, the process under-taken, the solution(s) that were implemented and the outcomes that have been reported as a result.

The application of Information Technology can assist OT's to improve the quality and efficiency of their service delivery. If an appropriate solution is found, time spent on administration and paper-work can be significantly reduced, increasing the time available to see clients. Documentation can be more efficient, yet at the same time, more accurate and professional in appearance (including home modification recommendations). Communicating recommendations clearly with the client (on site), as well as with builders and funding bodies can help reduce delays and save costs, as can having immediate access to all required forms, reference material, websites, etc.. Numerous logistical issues were also discovered and addressed as part of the project, including meeting privacy requirements and exploring adequate back-up solutions.

It is essential an organisation considers **how** a therapist works (eg moving around a home versus sitting at a table) when considering Hardware and Software options. Planning is crucial for any project and without adequate forethought, I.T. solutions may cost you a lot (in terms of time & money) and not end up meeting your needs.