



Exhibitor Interactive Workshop
Wednesday
D 11 am and E 1 pm

AAT (GB)

STAIRWAY PEOPLE HANDLING/SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS

From the manufacturing perspective markets are often price/equipment driven. The danger is that, whilst it is appropriate to seek to provide kit more cheaply, new or improved solutions to provide quality of life/social inclusion benefits can and do frequently come second to the scramble for market share.

We are fortunate to live in an environment of equipment that is usually viewed as entirely innovative.

I would like to share some of the instances where the views and suggestions of individual OT's and others resulted in life changing solutions for individual clients and many went on to change whole industries and market sectors.

Almost all of our most dramatic developments came from listening to professionals meeting difficulties in the field and working with them towards real, workable, effectively, sustainable solutions.

We don't always succeed but if professionals stop asking, guiding, advising, pressing us innovation will stop.

How can we make it easier for you to help us help you

Marrying fully adjustable seating systems with multiple carriers including buggies, feeders, car seats and stairclimbers, this simple idea has allowed difficult paediatric respite relationships to not only continue but in many cases have radically improved the scope of activities that can be safely (and pleurably) undertaken.

The full scope of possibilities in paediatric circumstances extends to adults (up to 25 stones/160kg) where wheelchairs and stairways have hitherto conspired to represent insurmountable barriers.

The powered stairclimbing concept can and has brought hitherto unsuitable housing stock into immediate use simply by overcoming the stairway barrier. In so doing it often allows hospital patients to return home when they are clinically ready to leave rather than waiting often considerable periods of time for home alterations to be effected. This has interested fund managers, housing stock and hospital bed managers all of whom are fundamentally involved in the same patient's circumstances.

The equipment can have a major effect on morale and quality of life since it enables social integration out of the home, which fixed apparatus cannot do.

Transport with dignity and comfort now includes air travel where uniquely engineered powered stair climbers are in regular service in almost all UK and many European airports to embark and disembark passengers with reduced mobility. In achieving this task it was necessary for our design team to shrink the chair to fit narrow aisle widths on smaller aircraft. As a complete spin-off the smaller chair can function effectively on small stairways and landings in houses and offices just as well as on aircraft.

A large proportion of Ambulance trusts now routinely use their own unique version to help manage the potent intrusion of RSI and musculoskeletal injuries which beset the role of ambulance personnel

who must otherwise lift and carry patients. The equipment is obviously of importance in the management of bariatric patients.

There are literally hundreds more individual OT led, patient specific examples, sometimes relatively short term with equipment recycled to new users at the appropriate time.

There are even pieces of similar equipment widely in use in the delivery of beer, vending machines, white goods and office equipment in this case managing RSI absenteeism costs and the physical well being of delivery staff i.e. helping to minimise future back injury patient numbers.

The common theme in all of the foregoing is the irreplaceable contribution to design and development made by real people in each sphere.