



atsa

Assistive Technology Suppliers Australasia Inc

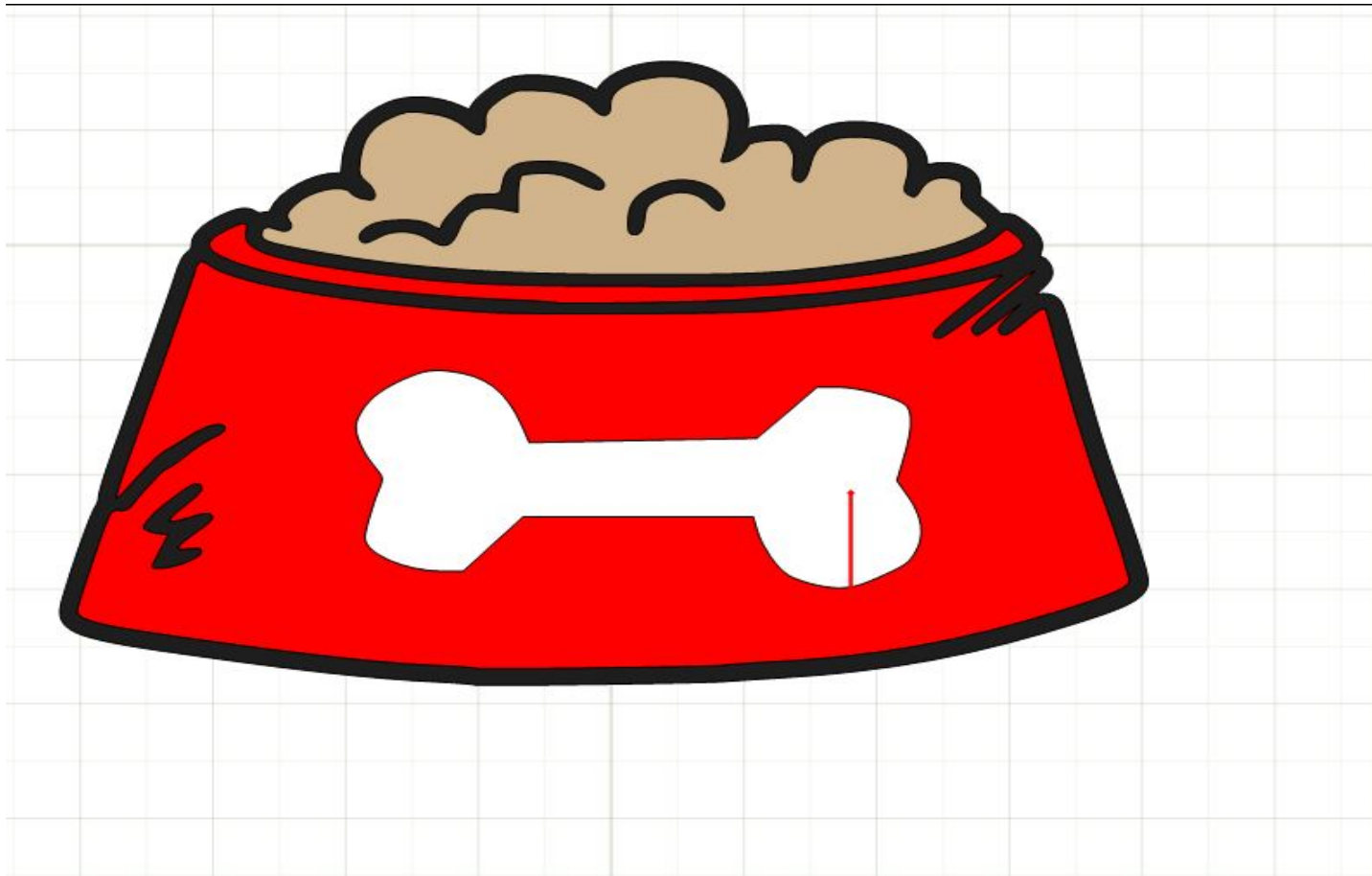


# A Summary of Assistive Technology Funding Throughout Australia

ATSA - May 2011



# A Dog's Breakfast



# Who is ATSA?

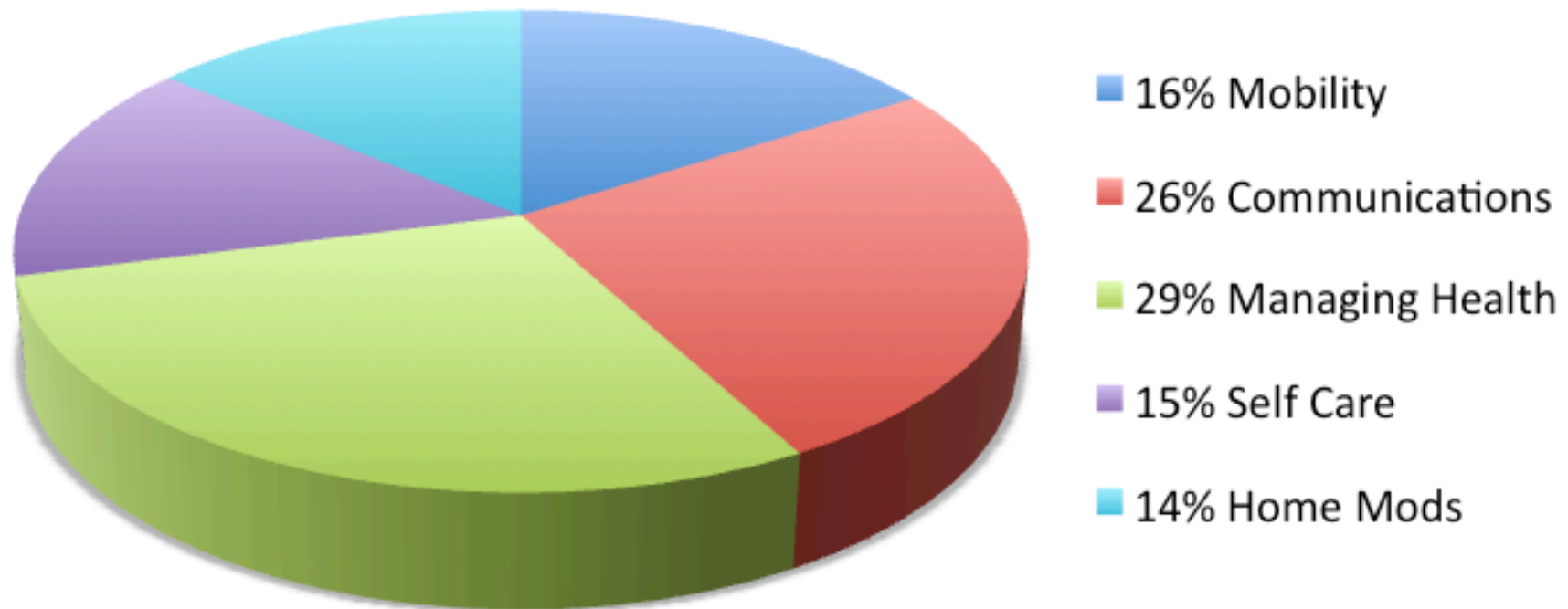


- Assistive Technology Suppliers Australasia
- Formed in 2000 as IRSA (NSW based)
- Largest organisation of our type representing the views & aspirations of assistive technology (AT) suppliers throughout Australia
- Over 50 members & growing
- Activities
  - Work with State & Federal Governments to deliver more efficient programs with better outcomes for PWD
  - Established an industry Code of Practice
  - Stage the Daily Living Expo
  - Training and education

# National Expenditure on AT



- Approximately **\$3.1 billion**



# Funding Snapshot



- 73% privately funded – huge unmet need
- Nationally there are more than 100 different AT funding programs
- Entitlements vary from State to State – who will be funded, what will be funded, co-payments etc
- Lack of portability of funded equipment, ie from school or workplace to home
- Repairs & preventative maintenance are issues and often ignored

# A Tale of 2 Entitlements



- Compensable (ie TAC, LTC&S etc)
    - Funding is immediate
    - No real cap, based on need
    - Will fund AT required for return to work, education and recreation
    - Includes motor vehicle & home modifications
  - Non-Compensable (ie MASS, A&EP etc)
    - Funding delays up to 2 years
    - Generally only for in-home use
    - Restricted range of what will be funded
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# Subsidy Schemes – Fundamentally Flawed



## – Subsidy Schemes (ie MASS, A&EP etc)

- Flawed premise...
- Unrealistically low caps by category
- Exacerbate delays
- Turns therapists into fundraisers
- Utterly fail those they are designed to assist

– *Scope (Vic) study showed 153 cases where clients applied for top up funding due to A&EP funds being inadequate. The average funding shortfall was a massive 56% of the actual funds required.*



# A Case in Point



- Mary is a 22 year old T10 paraplegic
  - She is single & not compensable
  - Relies on the Disability Support Pension of \$335.45 per week paid fortnightly
  - Mary requires assistive technology...
    - Custom lightweight manual wheelchair \$3,000
    - High-end pressure care cushion \$800
    - Motor vehicle hands controls \$1,500
- TOTAL \$5,300**
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# Mary's Entitlements



<b>STATE</b>	<b>DELAY</b>	<b>FUNDING</b>	<b>SHORTFALL</b>
NSW	6-12 months	\$3,700	<b>-\$1,600</b>
VIC **	6-12 months	\$3,550	<b>-\$1,750</b>
QLD	< 3 months	\$2,950	<b>-\$2,350</b>
ACT	3-6 months	\$3,800	<b>-\$1,500</b>
SA	< 3 months	\$3,800	<b>-\$1,500</b>
TAS	6-12 months	\$3,750	<b>-\$1,550</b>
WA **	3-6 months****	TOP SECRET ****	

*\*\* VIC & WA are the only States that fund vehicle mod's*

# Questions...

