



Occupational Therapy NDIS Success Story

Chloe Thorne, Occupational Therapist
NCN Health Numurkah

Chris experienced a stroke in 2009, resulting in weakness and reduced range of movement in his left upper and lower limb. Chris has difficulty controlling and coordinating movements on the left side of his body. Chris wears a knee ankle foot orthosis at all times on his left lower limb.

Chris' initial contact with Occupational Therapy at NCN Health-Numurkah was in November 2016; as Chris was having difficulty transferring in and out of his living room chair. A trial of electric lift chairs took place and an application was submitted for funding

assistance to SWEP (State-Wide Equipment Program). Chris aware of wait time for funding through SWEP (approx. 12 months). Electric lift chair delivered September 2017.

Chris was re-referred to Occupational Therapy in November 2018, as he was having difficulty stepping over the shower lip. Occupational Therapist Brooke arranged for joint home visit with Department of Housing to discuss recommendations for a major bathroom modification. Bathroom modification completed in April 2019, which involved removal of shower recess, bath, vanity, wall between bathroom and toilet and removal of linen cupboard to create one big open space. Chris now has a level entry shower with grab rails, hand held shower hose, shower stool, weighted shower curtain, semi recess hand basin, toilet seat raiser and drop-down rail beside toilet.

Chris transitioned onto NDIS in May 2019. Funding was allocated in Chris' NDIS plan for Occupational Therapy to assess and trial for an electric wheelchair and trailer that can be used in the community. Chris is limited in his mobility and can only walk short distances with a single point stick.

Chris' NDIS goals were:

- I would like to maintain my independence in the home and to rely less on my carer with personal care and domestic tasks
- I would like to be able to stay longer and go further in the community and not be confined to a bench at the mall
- I would like to be able to get bread or milk from the grocery store independently.
- I would like to have appropriate assistive technology to enable e more freedom at home and to participate in the community

In October 2019, Chris contacted the OT to proceed with electric wheelchair trials. Electric wheelchair trial conducted in November 2019 with reps from Scooters and Mobility Shepparton, where a range of wheelchairs were trialed.

The OT then had to write a report, outlining the trial and recommendations of wheelchair with quote attached and sent to NDIA. This was approved in December and delivered to Chris in January.

The provision of an electric wheelchair has been instrumental in increasing Chris' independence and quality of life. Chris is able to achieve all of his NDIS goals using his electric wheelchair.