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Increasing learning opportunities for all students: a hands-on iPad workshop for professionals who work in supporting assistive technology to access the curriculum in school (e.g. school leaders, teachers, SENCOs and SLTs) - Feb 2026

PRESENTED BY

David Niemeijer and

Shannon Braithwaite

A three-hour workshop, either in the morning or afternoon, designed for school leaders (e.g., deputy principals, heads of curriculum, heads of instructional technology, heads of assistive technology), including speech-language therapists, and SENCOs.

About this event:

Even the best teachers struggle to accommodate the learning needs of all students, especially in special and inclusive education settings. Today's classrooms include students who require extra assistance with a range of developmental, communication or behaviour support needs. However, all students benefit from consistent visuals to help them build and activate knowledge and communicate what they have learned.

In this hands-on workshop, we will explore cutting-edge new tools and strategies to make teaching easier while increasing the learning opportunities for all students, including AAC users. These tools and strategies are designed to help you deliver grade-level lessons while effectively supporting students with higher and complex learning support needs.

First, we will demonstrate the use of brand-new educational apps from AssistiveWare, applied to lessons across a range of subjects, including literacy, maths, social studies and science. You will start from the perspective of the student, exploring how these apps support all students to participate and demonstrate knowledge. Next, you will work in pairs or small groups, from the perspective of the educator, to plan lessons and formative assessment across a range of formats, from teacher-led group instruction to independent student work.

The session will include hands-on work on (provided) iPads using AssistiveWare products. There will be one iPad per two participants.

Full disclosure - this presentation is by two representatives from AssistiveWare, which is the company behind Proloquo, Proloquo2Go, Pictello, and other assistive technology options to support communication. The session will focus on cutting-edge teaching strategies while leveraging unique features of AssistiveWare products to put these strategies into practice.

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About the presenters:

Shannon Braithwaite is a Special Education Teacher with over 15 years' experience working with children and young adults with Complex Communication Needs. She has worked as a Literacy Coach and AAC Coach in Australian Special Schools, and is currently working as a Special Education Specialist for AssistiveWare. Shannon is part of an active community committed to driving change for how AAC is seen and used in schools. She has a passion for social communication and literacy and enjoys sharing what she knows at conferences and with other schools

Dr. David Niemeijer is the CEO and founder of AssistiveWare. With over 25 years of experience, David is a pioneer in the field of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) and assistive technology. He has created software for people with physical, vision and communication challenges, including the award-winning Proloquo2Go and Proloquo software. David has presented at international Assistive Technology and Augmentative and Alternative Communication conferences on five continents.

Minimum numbers:

Events require a minimum of participants to proceed. We'll confirm if we can go ahead, at the latest two weeks before the start date of the event. We offer the option to attend at a different location or a full refund in case we need to cancel. Please keep this in mind when booking any travel and accommodations. Cancellations by participants less than 14 days before the event will not be refunded. Substitution by another person is possible when you notify us by email at events@atanz.org.nz no later than 3 days before the start of the event. Please check out our full cancellation and refunds policy here.

Who can attend?

This workshop is designed for professionals who work in supporting assistive technology to access the curriculum in school (e.g. school leaders, teachers, SENCOs and SLTs)

Cost:

- $90.00 for ATANZ members
- $105.00 for non-members (membership is $110)
- $35.00 for clinical students/(SLT/OT/student teachers)

Please note: If, 15 days before the start of the event, we have not reached the minimum required number of participants, we will contact registered participants to ask whether they would be willing to move to the morning or afternoon session—whichever has the higher number of registrations at that time. This will allow us to proceed with at least one of the workshops where possible.

Registrations close 20th February 2026
or when sold out – places are limited! Ensure you choose the correct ticket type to access the discount rate for ATANZ members!

REGISTER HERE

www.atanz.org.nz/events

For any questions please contact events@atanz.org.nz

Auckland, 27 th February

Morning workshop 9.00 AM- 12.30 PM
with 30 min morning tea break -
Morning tea will be provided

Afternoon workshop 1.30 PM- 5.00 PM
with 30 min afternoon tea break -
Afternoon tea will be provided