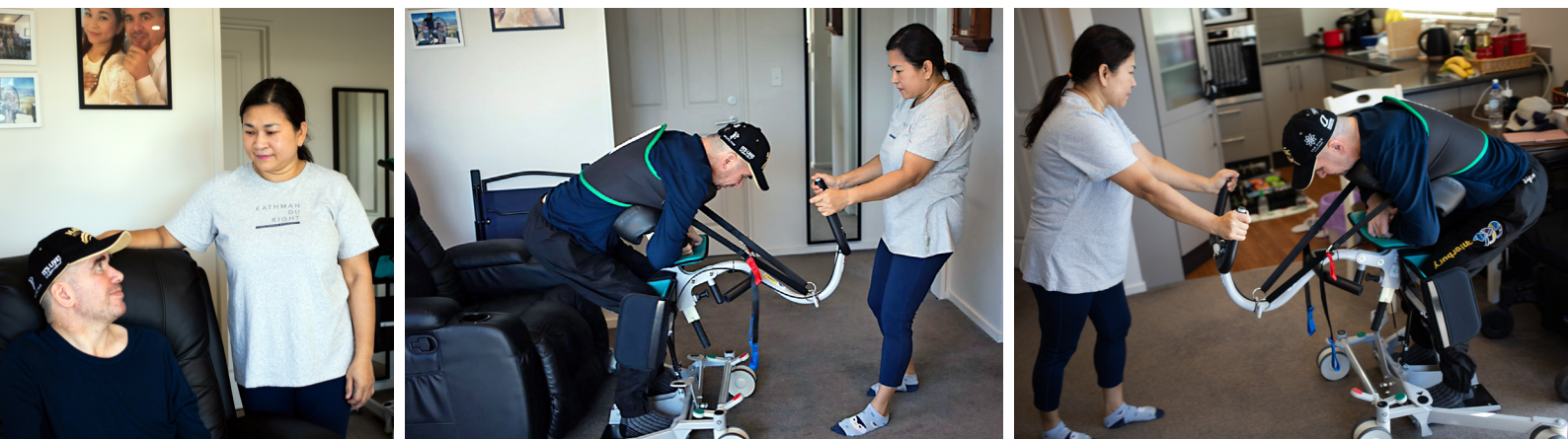


How the *Kera sit2sit* changed my life

ANDREW AND CHERRY CAN NOW SPEND MORE TIME ON LIFE, AND LESS TIME ON TRANSFERS

They say necessity is the mother of invention – so when hospital staff recorded high rates of injuries related to lifting wheelchair-using patients, they turned to engineering experts for help.



Above, left to right: Andrew and Cherry at home in Papanui. Cherry can now easily transfer Andrew using the [Kera sit2sit](#).

The problem was posed to students at the University of Canterbury (UC) as part of their studies but also piqued the interest of Keith Alexander, professor of mechanical engineering and now owner of HT Systems.

Over the next 20 years he trialled a range of methods to safely and efficiently move someone from their wheelchair to a bed, armchair or toilet – culminating in the invention of the [Kera sit2sit](#).

The new type of hoist has no electronics, requires minimal physical effort, and crucially it can be operated by one person. Member Andrew Renga, from Papanui, has Charcot Marie Tooth disease, and lives with his wife Cherry who is his primary caregiver at home. Andrew and Cherry were introduced to HT Systems via MDANZ as Andrew was looking for something to help with transfers between his wheelchair, armchair, bed and commode.

As Andrew has no standing strength he is unable to use a transfer aid or sit-to-stand hoist. Andrew has sitting balance on chairs and the side of his bed.

Prior to having the *Kera sit2sit*, Cherry was manually lifting Andrew for every transfer. They needed a solution that would allow transfers from the side of the bed to wheelchair, to toilet commode and to armchair for them to be able to comfortably navigate their life at home. They wanted a solution that would save Cherry from the strain of lifting, but not require extra help as it was important that they remained independent of external caregivers. They also wanted to be able to continue to travel, as this was important to them.

“I wanted something that could help Cherry lift me without hurting her back, something she could do by herself, without having other people help, so the [*Kera sit2sit*] hoist was good for that. Very happy with it.”, says Andrew.

The *Kera sit2sit* hoist's unique design uses an easy to fit backstrap and chest pad to securely hold a non-weight bearing person. Now it is possible for a single caregiver to quickly and safely transfer and perform hygiene processes for people that have no standing strength or balance. The *Kera sit2sit* eliminates the temptation of manual transfers - giving time, energy and dignity back to people living with a disability.

The device is now used in care homes and by individuals, and it has even meant some people have been able to remain at home and not require residential care, as family members can still look after them.

The first *Kera sit2sit* device was sold to Kaiapoi Lodge Residential Care, and owner Jonathan Prangnell said it provides another device between a standing hoist and a full hoist.

"The Kera can be used by one caregiver as opposed to two, so it's a huge time-saver," he said.

Andrew and Cherry have had their Kera for nearly 2.5 years, and say "Now we've had it for a while we are pretty quick, we can transfer in less than 30 seconds, get from the chair

to the toilet chair, shower chair, easily and fast..."

"I think now we would be lost without it; we won't even go on holiday now without it, we can pack that down, chuck it in the car and go down to our holiday spot. So, we can use it down there. It's great," says Andrew.

Andrew now advises HT Systems on new product development and tests prototypes of new devices with the team. HT Systems would love to hear from other MDANZ members who may have a mobility problem but need a practical product solution – together, you may just have an invention in the making.

"Alex O'Keefe, CTO at HT Systems, says "We are delighted to see Andrew and Cherry benefit so much from the *Kera sit2sit*, and now we are lucky enough to be working them to understand what else we can develop to help improve their independence." For example, Andrew told us that he has an international trip coming up so we are designing a new type of travel hoist to make this trip as effortless as possible. We welcome anyone to get in touch with us to learn more about our upcoming products or to tell us what we could do for them."

Spend less time and energy on transfers

Kera sit2sit



- No holding on, no standing strength or sitting balance required
- Only one caregiver needed
- No sling to fit or remove from under the user
- Replacement for a standing hoist or sling hoist



Proven by people living with MD, MND, MS, stroke, amputees and spinal injury and many other