

Working with Amputees Industry Profile

Prosthetic technician
Chris Shannon



How did your involvement in Prosthetics begin?

Funny story actually, I was a panel beater in sunny England when I saw an advert in the paper for a sheet metal worker at Chas A Blatchford, which I applied for and successfully got the job in 1970. Little did I know that the job was for a prosthetic technician!

What does your job involve?

Manufacturing limbs (both upper and lower extremity) which includes:

- draping plastic
- laminating
- leather work
- shaping cosmetic covers

Basically all the technical aspects associated with fabricating prostheses and I also adhere to the high demands of the prosthetic clinicians!

Where have you worked?

1970 – 1990	Chas A Blatchford's, England
1990 – 2003	Orthopaedic Techniques (OT), Fitzroy
2003 – 2005	Otto Bock
2005 - Ongoing	Caulfield General Medical Centre, Caulfield

What is it about this career path that you enjoy?

I like the 'hands-on' aspect of my job. I have also enjoyed watching the progression of prosthetic technology as it develops. In the old days I made limbs by hand out of aluminum which I would planish to shape, now prosthetic technology includes carbon fiber, plastics etc

I also enjoy meeting people and in particular I enjoy seeing patients walk out of the facility after arriving in a wheel chair, knowing that I have contributed in the making of their prosthesis and helping improve their quality of life.

Are there any special events that have happened in your career?

I have many special memories that have happened in my 37 year career, including a Queens's award for new technology with Endolite (Blatchfords). When I first moved to Melbourne I was traveling the country with Orthopaedic Techniques doing workshops and meeting prosthetists which I thoroughly enjoyed. Another highlight was being selected to attend the Amputee Association golf week at Tweed Heads as the prosthetic technician.



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