

Spinal Outreach Team Newsletter

Issue 19, January 2016



Welcome to 2016! Everyone here at SPOT wishes you, your family and friends a Happy New Year. The theme for this year's newsletter is:

Spinal Outreach Team: Celebrating 21 Years

In July 1995, a project titled 'An Ambulatory Outreach Service and Description of an Episode of Care at the Queensland Spinal Injuries Unit.' began life at Princess Alexandra Hospital.

One of the outcomes of this project was to design, implement and evaluate the service that became the Spinal Outreach Team. After 21 years the Spinal Outreach Team continues to build on the service



model piloted by the original project team: Ruth Cox, project manager, Delena Amsters and Kiley Pershouse, project officers, (pictured above), with the final project report in 1997.

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Since 1995, the Spinal Outreach Team has had **9,101 referrals** and delivered over **129,000 hours of service** to people with spinal cord injury, families and the service providers who work with them throughout Queensland. We estimate we've covered over 250,000 kilometres, enough to travel around the earth at least six and a half times! In delivering this service, the Spinal Outreach Team has been an early adopter of technology. Kiley is pictured above using video conference equipment from a client's home in 2002. Now most of us carry the technology to make a video call in our pockets!

In celebrating 21 years of service delivery, the team looks back on 2015 with a series of photographs that depict the work we do in partnership with you, to achieve our service mission:

Supporting people with spinal cord injury throughout Queensland to participate in meaningful life roles within their community by providing a quality, client focused, consultancy and education service.



Queensland Government

If you would like to receive information electronically from SPOT email: spot@health.qld.gov.au and request to be added to the SPOT email list.

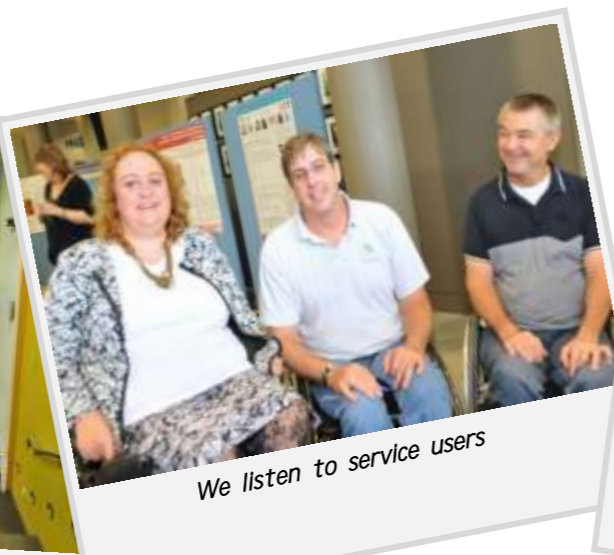
SPOT: Supporting people with spinal cord injury and their service providers



Teaching students



Research symposium
Keeping us up to date



We listen to service users



SPOT tackles the big issues



Using telehealth to connect with other professionals around Queensland



Back home in North Queensland



Involving the whole family in consultations



SPOT travels thousands of kilometres to all corners of Queensland to assist people with SCI, their families and local service providers



Working with rehabilitation engineers for custom seating solutions



Getting back to health and fitness



Assistance dogs



Getting back to enjoyable tasks



We learn things too!!



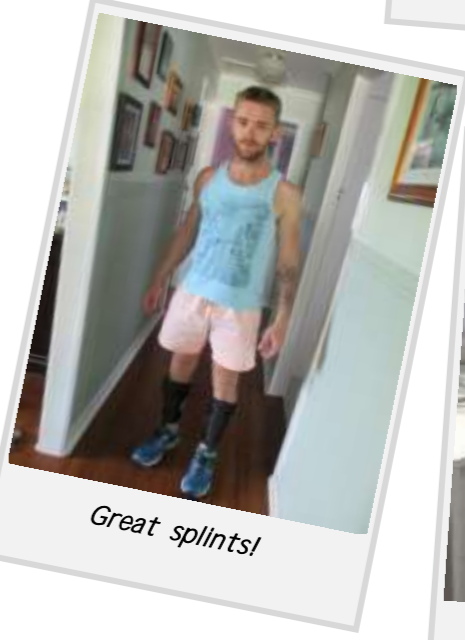
Innovative clients



Working jointly with local health professionals and clients ...



... and even in remote locations



Great splints!



Awesome administration staff

Regional visits 2016

Check out this year's schedule so you know when we will be in your area.

Area	Week Of
Toowoomba and Pittsworth	1st February, 2016
Roma, Dalby and West	22nd February, 2016
Mackay, South to Sarina and North to Bowen	14th March, 2016
Rockhampton and West, Emerald & Dysart	18 th April, 2016
Cairns and Hinterland, North to Cooktown and the Cape	9 th May, 2016
Bundaberg & West, Monto	30 st May, 2016
Nambour and North of Nambour to Gympie	20 th June, 2016
Qld West, Longreach, Winton and surrounding region	18 th July, 2016
Stanthorpe, Warwick and West	1st August, 2016
Kingaroy, Murgon, Gayndah and Mundubbera	22nd August, 2016
Townsville and Mt Isa (including Palm Island)	12 th September, 2016
Cairns and Hinterland, South to Tully	10 th October, 2016
Gladstone, Biloela, Theodore and Bundaberg	7 th November, 2016
Hervey Bay and Maryborough	28 th November, 2016



Education Update Contact SPOT if you want to know more

The new website hosting our education packages is called SpotOnHealth and is located at www.spotonhealth.org.au. We have just launched a new e-learning package on how to make some commonly used typing and writing splints. Take a look at www.spotonhealth.org.au/elearning-courses.

We will also be providing one hour **videoconferences for health professionals** on the following topics:

Spinal cord injury: What you need to know Monday 21st March at 10:30 and Tuesday 22nd March at 14:00

Splinting: Resting and short opponens splints Wednesday 15th June at 10:30 and Tuesday 5th July at 14:00

Lower motor neurone injuries Tuesday 6th September at 10:30 and Thursday 22nd September 14:00

NDIS National Disability Insurance Scheme

This year we have received many questions about the NDIS or National Disability Insurance Scheme. This scheme will be a new way of providing individualised support for a person with a permanent disability who is aged under 65 and whose ability to take part in everyday activities is affected. Ideally it will increase choice and control over the course of their life, including the disability services and supports that they use. There are already various trial sites in operation throughout Australia. In Qld, eligible people with a disability in Townsville, Charters Towers and Palm Island will be able to sign up to the NDIS from early 2016. For the rest of the state, the NDIS will progressively rollout over 3 years from 1 July 2016 to June 2019. The phasing and timing of when each area will transition to the NDIS is currently being negotiated by the Qld and Commonwealth Governments.

The NDIS homepage <http://www.ndis.gov.au/> is a great way to keep informed.

A corresponding scheme, called NIIS or National Injury Insurance Scheme has also just been announced for Qld and proposes to cover new cases of people sustaining catastrophic injuries eg spinal cord injury, on the road, at the workplace, or through medical and general accidents. The details are still in the planning. From July 2016 anyone involved in a motor vehicle accident, on a public road in a registered vehicle, will be covered under the NIIS. This will replace Qld's current at fault Compulsory Third Party insurance scheme. Further details are available here <http://lifetimecare.initiatives.qld.gov.au/>

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