



**Amputees & Families Support Group Qld. Inc.
Toowoomba Sub-Branch**

NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2009

amputees.org.au

From the President

Well hello to you all—I hope you all had a very happy Easter.

I had a very quiet Easter. I did try to ring a few members—must have been away having a good time.

The last meeting we had was well attended. I thank you all for coming. Also I would like to thank the President Mick Leahy from Brisbane for coming out on such short notice to help us select our new Treasurer. Geoff Tyrrell happily accepted. Thanks Geoff.

Other news:- Cliff is very busy getting ready for travelling and flying to weddings. Theo is still seeing specialists and getting treatment.

That's all the news for now.

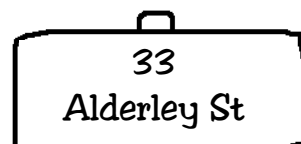
Terry.

o0o

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be a social BBQ at Graham and Marg Harland, 33 Alderley Street, to celebrate their new outside patio.

This will be **entirely BYO**—meat, salads, drinks and desserts. Come at about 11:30am for 12, when Graham will fire up the barbie. No need to bring chairs—they have plenty.



One of our members arriving at the BBQ with his new shoes.

Ageing Prosthetists

Geoff Tyrrell brought up the subject at the latest meeting after having spoken to Geoff Todd (ALA). The problem, first raised in 2002 by the Sunshine Coast Support Group, is that in 5-10 years most prosthetists would have reached retirement age with no-one coming up to replace them. After they got no satisfaction from the State Government they then in 2005 wrote to all members of parliament in their area who in turn forwarded the letters to the Minister for Health. His reply was that “the ageing health workforce was a global issue and not one unique to this profession”. The group identified several factors as mitigating against any short term solution:-

1. The lack of interest by the state government to fix the problem;
2. The lack of interest by potential graduates to come to Queensland;
3. The difficulty in attracting people to the courses;
4. The difficulty in keeping people on the courses as they are on the same strand as more attractive professions e.g. physiotherapy;
5. The hands-on training a graduate still needs after graduation, the cost of which training is beyond the means of most private prosthetists;
6. The discrepancy in salary between public and private prosthetists (nearly double in the public sector).

On this last item I questioned Debra Berg:

Did QALS pay more for a prosthesis made by a public prosthetist? -Yes

If they were prepared to pay the extra, why couldn't they pay extra to the private sector?
-end of discussion.

Possible solutions put forward have been:

1. Using a TAFE course rather than a university degree. The feeling was the pay for the qualifications obtained would not attract any takers;
2. Organising UQ to run a course. UQ wanted a guaranteed intake and a certain completion rate to even consider it;
3. Offering scholarships to retain people in Queensland;
4. Offering post-grad training in the public sector as the private sector couldn't afford it. The trouble is how do you persuade someone to go private after a public service salary.

Calendar

3rd May	-	Social—at the Harlands, 33 Alderley Street.
14th June	-	Meeting
5th July	-	Bowling
2nd August	-	AGM
26th Sept	-	Golf Day (provisional)
4th Oct	-	Meeting
1st Nov	-	Social
?th Dec	-	Christmas party (date to be confirmed)



Paul Watkins

Secretary

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