



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

## **NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2009**

**amputees.org.au**

### **From the President**

Hello to you all—it's that time again.

I hope and trust that everything is well with you all. I have a busy week and next week too. My sister is coming to see me—I have not seen her for five years.

Dallas and I went out to see Cliff and spent a few hours with him. He was pleased to see us and is doing okay.

I talked with Barbara Mitchell on the phone. Hopefully she will have her operation in August. We wish her well.

The last meeting was well attended and there were a lot of ideas brought up so hopefully we will get a lot done from them.

I would like to thank Geoff for the DVD of the two amputees—Leftie and Rightie. It was fascinating.

I will see you all at the Sunset Bowling on Sunday 5th July at 10 a.m.

**President Terry**

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### **Next Meeting**

As Terry says, at the Sunset Superbowl on July 5th at 10 a.m.

Sandy is organising the Peter McKenzie Memorial Trophies. There will be a large perpetual trophy with the winner's name engraved on it, and a smaller trophy for the winner to keep. We have decided that with the lane bars up, everybody has a fairly equal chance regardless of age, disability or gender so winner takes all

## **The Nazi Clock Torture**

In a German POW camp during World War II, Commandant Fritz is using various psychological tortures on the prisoners to break their spirit over time. One day, he comes up with a task so boring, so repetitive, that he knows he will drive them absolutely crazy in a very short amount of time.

"Men," he tells the assembled prisoners, "today you will stand here perfectly still and you will keep time for me. You will tilt your head to the left and say 'Tic' and then to the right and say 'Toc.' You will do this until I tell you to stop!"

Walking among the rows, he notices that all the men are doing as he says, tilting their heads left while saying "Tic," and then to the right while saying "Toc." He continues to wander through their ranks, very amused and impressed with himself for devising such a fiendishly stupid, yet wonderfully effective, torture. All the men are following his orders except for one: Colonel Smith, who is only tilting his head to the left, over and over, saying "Tic" each time.

"Well, Colonel Smith," Fritz says to him, "you are a brave and defiant man. But as you know, we have ways of making you 'Toc.'"

## **.QALS Advisory Council Meeting**

I attended this on 15th June and a report is attached. Louise Salder will follow up our recommendations regarding the amputee clinic with TBH on our behalf. Cossette also promised me a report on the briefing that Brisbane members attended regarding disabled parking but so far have not received it.

### **Calendar**

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)

\*These two functions may be interchanged as Gary Small has booked 4th October for our Golf Day



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

### **Report on QALS Advisory Council Meeting 15th June 2009**

#### **Agenda**

1. **Budget:** With the new lean mean State budget being forewarned, QALS have given up hope of seeing their allocation increased to meet with costs and TGA requirements (see previous reports). There is speculation that the \$200 contribution from patients will be reintroduced. Debra has always opposed this and has legislation on her side. NSW has reintroduced it and has got around the illegality by calling it a “community health fee”.
2. **Quality and Safety:** All PSP’s have been inspected as have the majority of clinics (except Mackay and Rockhampton). QALS are pleased as most prescriptions have been acquitted to a high standard. There has been a problem with the updating of patient records between QALS and PA Hospital. This turned out to be a construction crane getting in the way of the laser-link. QALS have also arranged for a review of their own efficiency and a clear cut definition of who they are responsible to and who they are responsible for—a bit of a grey area at the moment. The review is waiting for the Ethics committee to come back to them—they want to broaden the scope to include amputee services and clinics. Anyone who has received a service in the last year will be asked to participate by means of a questionnaire. Anyone with queries can contact Jeanette at the QALS office.
3. **Prosthetists:** Negotiations are under way to increase the rate of remuneration for private PSP’s for doing govt. work so there is not so big a discrepancy between public and private PSP’s. The replacement of aging prosthetists is being pursued by QALS. They feel they are a bit isolated and running a niche service that doesn’t loom large on anyone’s radar and consequently welcome any publicity for any amputee.
4. **Clinics:** I sent a copy of my report to Toowoomba Base hospital to Barbara Stone and to Debra. She gave a copy to Louise Saldey (Shepherd), RBH clinic coordinator who will lobby for the parking and safety aspects to be addressed, even if QALS has to make a contribution, and provide a few extras like signage, water coolers etc.
5. **Questionnaires:** There has been no feedback from the UNSW regarding the questionnaires on phantom pain and amputee mobility that were sent out about 18 months ago.

#### **Next Meeting**

Monday 21st September 2009