

LifeTecTM
QUEENSLAND
towards easier living



easy living

LifeTec Quarterly Review

WINTER 2009



As the industry leader for independent assistive technology advice, LifeTec is continually researching the latest developments and promoting these new ideas to our clients.

In July 2009, Business Manager, Ian Rankin and I travelled to Europe to investigate trends in assistive technology by leading service providers in France, England, Scotland and Italy. Our meetings with industry experts have led to exciting potential initiatives to further improve our service delivery. In particular we were amazed by high-tech adaptive environments with cleverly integrated assistive technology solutions, designed to improve safety and mobility around the home. We'll keep you up to date on our new initiatives inspired by this international research in future editions of LifeTec Quarterly Review.

In other news, I am proud to announce that LifeTec has recently been appointed as the lead agency in a highly significant national project designed to create greater awareness and easier access to assistive technology solutions. More details will follow once an official announcement is made by the Minister; however I can say at this point that the three year project is an exciting development to help all Australians remain living at home safely, for longer.

As you'll see in this issue, LifeTec has enjoyed a very active quarter both out in the community promoting assistive technology, and in the office planning new programmes.

James Barrientos
Chief Executive Officer



LifeTec in the community

Free chronic disease management workshops

LifeTec is pleased to announce that the Department of Health and Ageing has granted funding for us to develop and implement a series of chronic disease management (CDM) workshops.

The workshops will suit healthcare providers in rural and remote regions wanting to increase their knowledge and expertise in a range of practical interventions and resources. Participants will gain skills to improve the independent living and quality of life of people living with chronic conditions. Content includes:

- Discussion about the prevalence and functional implications of chronic disease
- Teaching CDM techniques for independent and easier living
- Promotion of other support agencies and programs that can assist, including funding options
- Creating awareness of a range of assistive technology solutions for chronic conditions
- Interactive session to develop local models of service to meet your community's needs.

The workshops will be targeted to primary healthcare workers in rural and remote Queensland including Townsville, Cairns, Western Queensland, Mt Isa, Cape York and Torres Strait Islands regions. Workshops will be conducted during the 2009/10 financial year, with dates yet to be confirmed. Please contact LifeTec for more information or to register your interest.

NAIDOC Family Fun Day
National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week celebrations, held each July recognise the history, culture, achievements and contributions of indigenous Australians.

As part of our continuing commitment to improve services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, LifeTec participated in the NAIDOC Family Fun Day on 10 July at Musgrave Park. Our information stall displayed assistive technology products, and our staff advised over 100 people on solutions to assist their specific health needs.

LifeTec supports the theme of this year's NAIDOC Week: "Honouring Our Elders, Nurturing Our Youth"; an excellent message encouraging communities to acknowledge the status of indigenous elders as leaders and role models for young people.

CALD programme

LifeTec is currently structuring strategies to further improve awareness of our services within Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities.

Our aim is to work collaboratively with key organisations to introduce assistive technology to as many people as possible from diverse backgrounds. We encourage individuals and organisations to contact LifeTec for more information or to get involved with this project.

Staff Profile: Jamie Matveyeff

Senior Occupational Therapist, Jamie Matveyeff is based at LifeTec's Brisbane centre, but has helped people all over the state as part of our Outreach programme.

"To me, LifeTec's Outreach services are the best part of the job. I love getting out on the open road and travelling all over our state, meeting all sorts of great characters, and introducing assistive technology to communities that wouldn't normally have access to it. I have seen more of Queensland in the last couple of years than I have in over 30 years growing up here," Jamie said.

Jamie originally worked for LifeTec when it was known as the Independent Living Centre, and then in 2005 moved overseas to broaden his work experience. In 2007 he rejoined our team and was pleasantly surprised by the transformation of the organisation.

"LifeTec went through some major positive changes during the time I was gone. I came back to a more accountable, efficient and effective service with a great image and a really smart venue."

Since his graduation from the University of Queensland in 1999, Jamie has worked in a wide range of occupational therapy disciplines in both Australia and the United Kingdom. His experience in fields including acute medical care, surgical orthopaedics, palliative care, geriatrics, acquired brain injury and home modifications has given Jamie a comprehensive ability to assist clients from all walks of life as he tours the state.

Jamie's interest in design and home modifications has spilled over from work into his home life. A keen renovator, Jamie recently purchased a house and is incorporating ideas accumulated from his LifeTec experiences into the design concepts for his renovation projects.

"I love working with assistive technology. It is such a hands-on field, and always progressing. LifeTec is at the forefront of the industry - it is a very forward thinking, innovative and exciting organisation to work for. All the people here are awesome, and they go out of their way to make sure clients have a positive and beneficial experience."



Workshop calendar

LifeTec's 2009 calendar listing of up and coming professional development workshops and presentations can be viewed on our website.

For more information or to request a display or community talk, email us at mail@lifetec.org.au, telephone 1300 885 886 or contact us at our Brisbane or Townsville centres.

Acknowledgement of funding



Brisbane (Open Monday to Friday 9am–4pm and Saturday 9am–2pm)
Level One, Reading Newmarket, Cnr Newmarket & Enoggera Roads
PO Box 3241 Newmarket Qld 4051
Phone: 07 3552 9000 Facsimile: 07 3552 9088

Townsville (Open Monday to Friday 9am–4pm)
Shop G-3A, Domain Central, 103 Duckworth Street
PO Box 8280, Garbutt Qld 4814
Phone: 07 4759 5600 Facsimile: 07 4759 5688
Toll Free 1300 885 886
Email: mail@lifetec.org.au www.lifetec.org.au

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