

LifeTecTM
QUEENSLAND
towards easier living



Photo: The Townsville Sun

easyliving

LifeTec Quarterly Review
AUTUMN 2009



Welcome

In this edition of LifeTec Quarterly Review we would like to extend a special welcome to all of our new North Queensland associates and clients.

The official launch of our Townsville centre in March 2009 was met with an enthusiastic reception from the community and industry groups. We look forward to bringing our services to even more NQ residents as our presence in the area grows.

Our other exciting news this edition is the Queensland Smart Home Initiative project. This project will consist of a demonstrator centre which will be constructed at LifeTec's Newmarket premises. It will feature interactive assistive technology in a replicated home environment for clients to trial.

We invite you to drop in to either of our centres, or browse our website to find out more about assistive technology and our services.

James Barrientos
Chief Executive Officer

Townsville official opening



Photo: The Townsville Sun

Dignitaries and local health professionals joined with LifeTec on 13 March 2009 to officially open the new LifeTec Queensland Townsville Centre.

Former Minister for Communities, Disability Services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Multicultural Affairs, Seniors and Youth, The Hon. Lindy Nelson-Carr M.P. led the special guest speakers, and together with Townsville Mayor, Cr Les Tyrell and Deputy Chair of LifeTec Board of Management, David Edwards, declared the centre open.

100 representatives from over 40 health and service organisations took the opportunity to browse the new centre which displays products ranging from electric adjustable beds and speech generating devices to low vision aids and recreational equipment.

Cr Tyrell provided a warm welcome on behalf of the Townsville community. LifeTec CEO, James Barrientos said, "Our team has been overwhelmed by the positive response from health organisations and the community, and we encourage everyone to come in and have a look our new Townsville centre. There are over 500 items of assistive technology on display, and free monthly Great Gadget workshops open to everyone."



Photo: The Townsville Sun



As a member of the Queensland Smart Home Initiative (QSHI), LifeTec proudly announces the development of an exclusive demonstrator centre to be built within our Newmarket premises.

QSHI is a collaboration between LifeTec, industry, government, university researchers, commercial companies and education groups, committed to creating awareness of how assistive technology can provide greater self care and independence.

This aim clearly has a strong synergy with LifeTec's values, and we welcome the opportunity to share this project with the community.

While LifeTec's current centres display assistive technology for a broad range of situations, the QSHI Demonstrator focuses entirely on making life easier and safer around the home. The 60sqm demonstration room will resemble an actual living environment with interactive assistive technology fitted throughout. Visitors can walk through the demonstrator and experience the variety of solutions for themselves.

Chief Executive Officer, James Barrientos said, "Like LifeTec, the aim of the QSHI is to help people with everyday tasks, and to enable them to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. In particular, the assistive technology that will be on display will be of great interest to anyone looking to be safer and healthier in their home. Entry to the demonstrator is free, and our staff will assist visitors to trial the products."

It is anticipated that the QSHI Demonstrator will be completed in June 2009.

Staff Profile: Scott Green

In just one year, Scott Green has had a very positive impact on LifeTec; and as it turns out, the feeling is mutual.

As LifeTec's Community Development and Marketing Officer, Scott has implemented numerous initiatives to improve clients' access to our services. Scott's contribution towards the establishment and launch of our Townsville centre has helped people to access valuable assistive technology services in FNQ. Initially Scott spent much of his time raising awareness with NQ health organisations, government and community groups. In the last couple of months he has been busy taking this promotion further afield to the general public. His tireless PR efforts resulted in broad print and television media coverage of our launch, which translated to an immediate increase in awareness and patronage.

Scott previously worked in Community Development Teams at three Queensland local councils, for Social Services in the UK, and for community service organisations including Oxfam Australia and The Australian Red Cross.

Outside of work Scott is a mad keen Queensland Roar fan, and passionate about live music. Home life with partner, Ros revolves around the two bosses of the household - dogs, Charlie and Daisy.



"I have really enjoyed learning about the enormous variety of assistive technology, and my favourite part of the job is going out into the community and meeting a diverse range of people. The most rewarding thing is knowing that just one visit to LifeTec can completely change someone's life. The team here is very friendly and everyone is enthusiastic about what we do."

Outreach schedule

LifeTec's Outreach service travels throughout rural and remote communities to give all Queenslanders an opportunity to access assistive technology advice.

Services include talks and displays to community groups, individual consultations and interactive workshops for health professionals.

This is an appointment only service. As each region can be geographically diverse, it is essential that LifeTec receives booking requests prior to the closing date. This allows us to plan the best travel route in the region to accommodate as many requests as possible. Confirmation of bookings will occur after the closing date when travel schedules are finalised.

LifeTec Queensland will be traveling to the following regions in 2009: Cape York, Southern Cairns region, Gulf region, Northern Cairns region, Central Queensland, Mackay region and Wide Bay.

The Outreach schedule and closing dates can be found on our website www.lifetec.org.au or please phone 1300 885 886. Bookings can be made at any time throughout the year via mail, email, telephone or fax.

Visits to South West and Darling Downs regions took place in February and March. Bookings for Central West region in April have closed. Please contact us later in the year for the 2010 scheduled visits to these regions.

Bookings must be made at least four weeks before LifeTec's visit to a region.

Please note a fee may be associated with some of these services.

Dates and regions are subject to change.

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
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Townsville (Open Monday to Friday 9am–4pm)
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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

Workshop calendar

LifeTec's 2009 workshop 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.



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