

LifeTecTM
QUEENSLAND
towards easier living



easyliving

LifeTec Quarterly Review

SPRING 2009



On behalf of the LifeTec team, I am happy to report that this quarter has seen us continue to expand our range of free service offerings to health professionals and the general public.

Recent changes to our service delivery model mean we are now offering even more Queenslanders access to our free advisory and information services.

In February 2010, LifeTec's free Chronic Disease Self-Management workshops will tour rural, remote and regional Queensland including Townsville, Cairns, Western Queensland, Mt Isa, Cape York and the Torres Strait Islands. These workshops, designed for health professionals, will teach self-management strategies and provide advice on complementary assistive technology to help successfully manage diabetes, heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, lung diseases and a range of other illnesses. The workshops will have a focus on providing information to indigenous communities, whilst still being beneficial to all clients. We are still seeking expressions of interest before confirming our tour schedule, so please contact LifeTec if you are interested in participating in a free workshop.

In other news, we have made good progress with the funding of the Queensland Smart Home Initiative Demonstrator Centre. We are now almost at the point of commencing construction of the Demonstrator within our Newmarket centre with an official opening anticipated for 2010.

James Barrientos
Chief Executive Officer

LifeTec in the community

Queensland Multicultural Festival

More than 50,000 Queenslanders gathered in Roma Street Parklands on Sunday 18 October 2009 to celebrate our state's cultural diversity in a festival filled with live music, dance, art, food and information from all over the world.

LifeTec aims to help as many Queenslanders as we can, and we have never let barriers such as distance, remoteness or language stand in our way. Equipped with brochures translated into 28 languages, LifeTec's display at the festival was an ideal way to further promote our strategy of helping Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities.

The LifeTec display proved popular, with hundreds of visitors stopping in for a chat and free advice.



OT Australia Qld Conference

LifeTec is not only active in the general community; we also have a strong commitment to developing and sharing skills and knowledge within our industry's community.

At the recent OT Australia Qld State Conference in Brisbane, occupational therapists and health professionals met to discuss industry issues ranging from paediatrics and rehabilitation to pain management and palliative care. The conference celebrated 60 years of occupational therapy in Queensland, and three of LifeTec's OTs were called upon to conduct sessions:

- Kathryn Hunt** – Student Supervision: Issues for Novice Therapists
- Amy Eldridge** – Queensland Smart Home Initiative
- Jamie Matveyeff** – Remote Home Modifications: A Model to Tackle the Tyranny of Distance

Congratulations to Kathryn, Amy and Jamie for their interesting and insightful presentations.

Have you been in yet?

Come and visit our Brisbane and Townsville display centres!

LifeTec is open to the general public, and FREE for anyone to visit.

We are continually improving our service delivery, including access to our free information and advisory services. We invite you to visit and browse either of our display centres, staffed by health professionals who will give you general advice about what options, products and features can help you move towards easier living.

With over 1500 items of assistive technology on display across the two centres, and over 5000 products on our database, you can find solutions to help with: daily living, hygiene, communication, mobility, computers, prosthetics, vision, hearing, recreation and home modifications. LifeTec also provides free community talks, fact sheets and workshops.

To ensure you receive personalised attention from a trained health professional, we recommend that you phone in advance to book a free advisory session to discuss what products, features and options are available to meet your goals. Phone numbers and opening hours are listed on the back of this newsletter.

Alternatively, you are welcome to drop in anytime to browse our displays.

Complex consultations, including sourcing equipment not already on display may incur a small fee.

Staff Profile: Judy Jacobsen

Anyone who has visited or phoned our Townsville centre will be familiar with the friendly, warm welcome of Administration Officer, Judy Jacobsen. Since the opening of Townsville, Judy has been instrumental in keeping operations running smoothly and providing support to our occupational therapists.

"After spending 33 years in the retail industry, I was ready for a career change, so I undertook studies in business administration. I enjoy meeting people, so I was looking for a job in administration that still had contact with the community.

"When LifeTec offered me the role of Administration Officer in their new Townsville centre, I knew it was the job I was seeking - I felt I would get great satisfaction in offering the community information and advice on assistive technology to give people the ability to live independently for a longer period of time.

"I am happy to be part of a fantastic team of health professionals who offer services such as talks and displays to community groups, individual consultations and hands on interactive workshops.

"The best part of working in administration is the interaction with the public, meeting people from all types of backgrounds and societies. I love hearing stories people tell about their lives and cultures. My job is rewarding and challenging and I find LifeTec a very exciting organisation to work for. I look forward to spending many more years here."

Judy is a Townsville girl, born and bred. "I've spent all but four years of my life living here. I love the carefree lifestyle Townsville has to offer and the sunshine. It is beautiful one day and perfect the next. The summers can be a bit humid, but it is worth it to live the life I love with my friends and family."



Workshop calendar

LifeTec's 2009/2010 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



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