

*22ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE
A REPORT.*



Those attending the Conference were highly appreciative of the standard in presentation by the speakers. A wide spectrum relating to spinal injury together with sharing some thoughts with other nursing disciplines was of interest and informative.

Dr Stella Engel gave a 'futuristic reminisce' of spinal injury care outlining future hopes, highlighting some of the achievements and long standing problems that still need to be addressed. A major emphasis was on the need for well trained nurses in the spinal injury discipline which will become very pressing in the not so distance future.

Dr Suparn Gangopadhyay outlined the intense spinal injury care delivered with minimal resources and finance at the Christian Medical College and Hospital in Vellore South India together with an outline and study results in dry needle therapy in pain relief.

Julie-Anne Macey from Westmead Hospital outlined the role of spinal rehabilitation in paediatric care. Also was outlined the difficulties being confronted by the nurses in the changes to be implemented by the Hospital Administration

Geri Malone outlined role and shared her experiences in remote area care.

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Tonina Harvey gave an update on developments in care and in particular residential care maintained by Paraquad. The business development of Brightstar was also outlined.

Chris Anderson gave a history of the Enrolled Nurses Association with emphasis on what had been achieved and still needs to be achieved. The problems of education and training together with the recognition of the work of the Enrolled Nurse was also discussed.

Henry Chung who gained his PhD as a Paul Brock Scholar gave an intense presentation on stem cell medical modeling for disease. Three years ago Henry had spoken at the Conference on stem cell research in matters relating to spinal injury. This update was directed to work relating to dementia .

Sue Pinkerton from the Spinal Outreach Service presented on her involvement in sexual education for the spinal injured. Outlined were the problems encountered and the skills required in meeting needs.

Christine Regan from the Disability Forum NSW outlined the Forum's function and dealt at length with the forthcoming legislation at a Federal level of the disability insurance scheme. Anticipated benefits and outcomes are being eagerly watched!

Tacey Hawes from the Audiometry Nurses' Association provided a succinct and interesting description of the role and function of nurses involved in audiometry.

Associate Professor Lynn Kemp gave an update on the past two years in establishing a study of the function of skills that are specific to spinal injury care. It is aimed to cover the full umbrella from trauma to post trauma , community and home care. Efforts are now being directed to establish for the project to be conducted over a three year period.

Emma Friesen a post graduate student at the University of New South Wales outlined the study program that has been commenced into the ergonomics of using mobile

commode chairs by the spinal injured. Surprisingly, little research has been done into this subject.

Wendy Jannings from the Northern Sydney Area Health gave a report on her study of walking patients with spinal injury. Because they are able to walk, the side effects specific to spinal injury are often overlooked and many are discharged without adequate advice and continued care.

Conference Organiser's comments:

1. It was pleasing that once again the presentations were of very high standard and greatly appreciated by those attending.
2. The Conference, while low key, continues to keep costs to a minimum, with all the work being done voluntarily

