



PRESENTING THE 5TH ANNUAL

National Acquired Brain Injury Conference

24 – 25 October 2017 | Rendezvous Hotel, Melbourne



CONFERENCE DAY ONE Tuesday 24th October 2017

09:00 **OPENING | Opening remarks from the Chair**

Nick Rushworth, *Executive Officer, Brain Injury Australia*

09:10 **CONSUMER OPENING ADDRESS | Scams and brain impairment: Perspectives from a survivor and his therapist**

- The internet helps connect people but a downside is losing money to sophisticated scammers
- Anyone can be affected, but having a brain injury increases this risk
- We will present our experience as well as current research and suggestions for treatment

Colin Brokenshire, *Consumer*

Dr Kate Gould, *Clinical Neuropsychologist, Thinkfully*

09:50 **Changing service models within the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS): Optimising participation outcomes for people with ABI**

- Focused on building participation outcomes following ABI, this presentation will:
- Demonstrate approaches to use of allied health assistant and support coordination roles within the NDIS
- Provide practical resources to assist with service model planning and implementation
- video-based consumer presentations to demonstrate application of capacity building approaches

Sue Sloan, *Director & Principal Neuropsychologist & Occupational Therapist, Osborn Sloan & Associates*

Jan Mackey, *Director & Principal Speech Pathologist, Applied Communication Skills*

Libby Callaway, *Director & Principal Occupational Therapist, Neuroskills Pty Ltd*

10:30 **Networking and refreshment break**

11:00 **NDIS: What do the courts say is 'reasonable & necessary'?**

This presentation will look at the decisions to date that have examined the NDIA's interpretation of the legislation and the proposed plans for individuals with an aim of ascertaining whether there are broad principles that can be derived for the decisions and applied in other cases or whether the decisions are so fact dependant they are of little use as precedent.

Janine McIlwraith, *Principal Lawyer, Slater & Gordon*

11:40 **Understanding and Treating Behaviours of Concern after Acquired Brain Injury**

- Understanding behaviour from questionnaires with people with brain injury and family members/carers
- The lived experience of behaviour change from in-depth interviews with people with the injury, family members/carers and clinicians
- An overview of a trial of Positive Behaviour Supports for people with behaviour change after brain injury

Dr Kate Gould, *Clinical Neuropsychologist and Research Fellow, Monash Epworth Rehabilitation Research Centre*

Amelia Hicks, *Research Fellow, Monash Epworth Rehabilitation Research Centre*

12:20 **Lunch and networking break**

13:20 **Alcohol and other drug-related brain injury**

John Eyre, *CEO, arbias*

Michael Takagi, *Neuropsychologist, arbias*

14:00 Conversations with consumers and carers to inform a guideline on pharmacotherapy for neurobehavioural difficulties following traumatic brain injury

- The consumer-carer perspective is often sought from few individuals
- Many individuals who sustain a traumatic brain injury (TBI), will experience neurobehavioural difficulties. Pharmacological management is frequently inadequate. We are developing a clinical guideline to guide the pharmacological management of neurobehavioral symptoms in adult's post-TBI
- In 2016, a half-day meeting was held with twelve (consumers-carers) to discuss their lived experience of TBI. The diversity of experiences raised helped inform the questions for the clinical guideline. Attendees described the meeting as therapeutic

Dr Fiona Clay, *Research Project Manager*, **University of Melbourne**

14:40 Networking and refreshment break

15:10 Beyond Rehab: Support workers (SW) shared experience with clients following brain injury

- 57 SWs shared their perception of their role in home and community rehabilitation.
- Factors impacting decision-making include the client, context, knowledge (theoretical/practical) and personal experience.
- Nurturing the untapped potential of SW capacity will be presented.

Dr Belinda Shepherd, *Occupational Therapist*, **Cognoscere Therapy Pty Ltd**

Judith Courts, *Registered Nurse*, **Judith Courts Consulting**

15:50 PANEL | Sexual expression and ABI

Narelle Higson, *Occupational Therapist*, **Outside the Square OT Solutions**

Sandra Lever, *Clinical Nurse Consultant - Rehabilitation*, **Ryde Hospital & Sydney Sexuality Group**

Dr Rene Stolwyk, *Lecturer and Clinical Neuropsychologist*, **Monash University**

16:30 DEMONSTRATION | Regaining independence after ABI-related vision loss: a demonstration by Guide Dogs Victoria

This demonstration will show the specific issues/techniques that Guide Dogs are trained for to assist people with ABI-related vision loss

Shelley Pannier, *Client Services Manager*, **Guide Dogs Victoria**

Aaron Horsington, *Team Leader – Guide Dog Mobility Instructor*, **Guide Dogs Victoria**

Ross de Vent, *Independent Guide Dog Traveller*

16:40 CLOSING | Closing remarks from the Chair

16:50 NETWORKING FUNCTION | Networking Drinks

18:00 FILM | States of Grace

A private screening of the multiple audience award winning States of Grace will be held after networking drinks on Tuesday in the conference room from 6:00pm - 8:00pm.

Dr. Grace Dammann was a prominent HIV/AIDS physician who was honored by the Dalai Lama for her extraordinary work during the height of the epidemic. In 2008, a routine commute across the Golden Gate Bridge turned tragic for Grace when another driver crashed head on into her car. Though she miraculously survived, she spent more than a year in rehabilitation hospitals. States of Grace follows her return home to the Buddhist community where she lives with her partner Nancy "Fu" Schroeder and their daughter Sabrina. With humor and candor, the film intimately captures their story as Grace struggles to discover new purpose in her radically altered life.

This screening will include a pre-recorded address from Dr. Grace Dammann.



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CONFERENCE DAY TWO Wednesday 25th October 2017

09:00 **OPENING | Opening remarks from the Chair**

Nick Rushworth, *Executive Officer, Brain Injury Australia*

09:10 **Advances in Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Clinic – Concussion, Spasticity & Anosmia**

Professor John Olver, *Director of Rehabilitation, Epworth Healthcare*

09:50 **CASE STUDY | Living with brain injury: A veteran's journey on the road to recovery after ABI - The struggles and the triumphs**

- A case study will be presented to demonstrate the complexity of recovery of brain injury for a serving member of the armed forces, the journey of recovery from injury and transition into civilian life.
- Presentation of veteran's injury and presenting problems
- The rehabilitation and recovery journey
- The struggles and the triumphs

Brooke Kooymans, *Director/Social Worker, Reability Australia*

10:30 **Networking and refreshment break**

11:00 **Sensory modulation interventions: consider me for ABI!**

- This presentation will define sensory modulation for the audience and explain its evolutionary history.
- SMI can be used as a novel behavioural intervention in ABI and can be an effective treatment when mental health interplay is involved.
- The assessment process will be explained. Standardised Vs non-standardised assessments will be demonstrated and their appropriateness depending on the persons cognitive capacity.

Anahita (Ana) Brown, *Occupational Therapist - Community Brain Disorders Assessment and Treatment Service (CBDATS), Austin Health*

11:40 **Out of hospital at last- Now what? A pilot project to evaluate specialist brain injury transitional rehabilitation**

Areti Kennedy, *Service Manager, Acquired Brain Injury Transitional Rehabilitation Service*

12:20 **Lunch and networking break**

13:20 **HOPES – A cooperative living model for people with an ABI**

- The seemingly paradoxical notion of cooperative living for people with an ABI.
- Brief history of how and why HOPES came about
- How can a cooperative living model work to increase the skills, independence and inclusiveness of people with an ABI?

Chris Oriel, *Coordinator, HOPEs Inc.*

14:00 **Accommodation services for Indigenous Australians with ABI**

Thomas Jia, *Manager - Community Living-CAIRNS Based, Synapse*
Adam Schickerling, *National Disability Reform Manager, Synapse*

14:40 **Networking and refreshment break**

15:20 Building collaborative relationships between Health-based rehabilitation teams and DES Providers: the VIP experience

- Return to work post ABI is a complex intervention, requiring specific expertise and close working relationships between all parties
- There is an under-representation of people with ABI in the DES system reflective of a degeneration of specialist skill base and multiple barriers to program entry.
- In NSW, a pilot program (“The VIP”) has partnered rehabilitation teams with employment service providers to provide an integrated model of service delivery to 75 individuals with positive results.

Philippa McRae, *Project Manager*, **The Agency for Clinical Innovation (NSW Health)**

16:00 PANEL | Return to Work

Professor Jacinta Douglas, *Research Chair (Living Well with Brain Injury)*, **Summer Foundation**

Philippa McRae, *Project Manager*, **The Agency for Clinical Innovation (NSW Health)**

Jason Lardelli, *Senior Manager, Return to Work*, **Transport Accident Commission**

16:40 CLOSING | Closing remarks from the Chair & END OF CONFERENCE