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Issue 2 – March 2010

Royal Rehab College Student Awarded trainee of the Year

A highlight of the recent Royal Rehabilitation College's graduation was Celeste William's confirmation that she was a finalist in the Rhino trainee of the year awards judged by the Dubbo Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Rhino Awards are regarded as one of the key Business Awards in regional NSW and culminated in a Gala Presentation Dinner at the Civic Centre on Friday 16 October. To our great delight the College was notified on 19 October that Celeste had taken out the award.

Celeste is employed as a Physiotherapy Assistant at Lourdes Hospital and has been a student of the College for the past 12 months studying the Certificate IV Allied Health Assistance. Genevieve Menzies, Workforce Development Coordinator at Lourdes Hospital said she was "thrilled" with Celeste's win.

Celeste has been an outstanding student of the College and has revealed an ambition to go on to University to study further. Sue Steele Smith, Educator, Royal Rehab College said that "Celeste definitely has the ability to tackle tertiary studies and this award confirms her abilities" It was a family affair at the graduation with Celeste's mother Katrina also graduating with a Certificate IV Allied Health Assistance.



The College Acknowledged Nationally for Excellence

On the 21st October 2009 the inaugural awards ceremony was held in Melbourne. All the finalists were present. The projects were all described and included some amazing achievements from major training organizations throughout Australia. Details of the finalists can be found on the website www.iscaccolades.com.au.

Royal Rehabilitation College was excited to be acknowledged as finalists and therefore one of the top three in Australia when it came to excellence in partnerships. This was also great as the College is such a small RTO that is passionate about partnering with other groups.

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My Graduation Day

On 30th September 2009, after almost 2 years of studying, it was time for our graduation. Not really knowing what to expect, I was open for a surprise. Arriving at the venue it was nice seeing all the people, who have made the effort to come and join in the celebration of their achievements. After a short welcoming speech from Sally King (College Manager) as well as a speech about the future of Allied health assistance in Australia from Brenda McLeod (NSW Department of Health) we were handed out our certificates. After the formal ceremony we all enjoyed afternoon tea in garden and had a chance to talk to all the other students and hear what their personal ups and downs were while completing the course. The College staff went through a lot of trouble with making us feel special on the day and I would like to thank them for it. Allied health assistance plays a big part in our community and I think it is a good thing that we were able to gain a accredited qualification for the work we are doing.



Graduation Hero

On the way to her graduation ceremony, Oana McBride performed a heroic act to save the life of her husband and avoided injury to others in an emergency situation on the Pacific Highway September 30, 2009. Oana set out with plenty of time, with her husband driving, but she did not make it the few kilometres from work to Royal Rehab that day. Her husband, while driving on the Pacific highway had a seizure and lost control of the car.

Oana managed to stop the car, throw her phone to a passer by and instruct them to ring 000, and rush to her husband and perform CPR. Oana's quick thinking and brave actions not only saved her husband's life but averted injury and damage to her car and other people driving on the Pacific Highway that afternoon. The ambulance officer congratulated Oana on her heroic actions.



Oana is a very competent physiotherapy assistant who managed to complete the requirements to obtain her Certificate IV in allied health assistance despite complex and challenging personal circumstances. As a result graduation day was a significant day that she was keen to celebrate.

"The course was the one thing that I had some control over and allowed me to feel a real sense of achievement once finished. I am now looking forward to future courses to help enhance the assistant's role in physiotherapy." (Oana)

Her husband is now stable and Oana's workplace held a special ceremony and morning tea to mark Oana's completion of her qualification and her heroic actions.

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SA Health Graduation

On the in September 2009 the assistants from SA health who had finished their Certificate IV in Allied health Assistance were acknowledged by the executive of SA Health. Part of this group had commenced training in December 2008 and the remainder had only started in February 2009. This was a very short timeframe to complete the 22 competencies needed for this qualification. Both groups worked very hard to achieve this goal. These were the first assistants in South Australia to gain the Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance.

A formal graduation event was held in November by the Industry Skills Council who had funded the SA health project along with a non government group of assistants. The minister for Health presented all the assistants with their formal qualification. This was a positive experience for the assistants and their families. It was a formal acknowledgement of the extensive skills and knowledge of this essential group within the health and community sector. It was a special day!

Right: Some of the graduating students from Mount Gambier



What people are saying about us

"Word has it that the students are really enjoying the whole UOS - two students repeating from last year indicated that this year is heaps better." **Chris Chapparo**, PhD,MA,DipOT(NSW).

*"My name is **Joanne Joseph** from the university of sydney. Yesterday we completed our 6 week training with you from (1pm-4pm). I just wanted to thank you for such a lovely experience at Ryde!"*

"Your course has been one of the most enjoyable parts of study so far, it has given me a glimpse of what I'm working towards". **Sarah Earp**

"Have had good feedback from students" **Lindy Clemson** Associate Professor in Ageing & Thompson Fellow Head of Discipline (Occupational Therapy) Faculty of Health Sciences.

I would also like to pass on that I have really enjoyed the time spent at the Royal Rehab Centre. It has been great to get a first hand look at the role of an OT." **Sally Ahearn**

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Catholic Health Care Student Feedback

"I am very grateful for all that you have done for me and what a wonderful job you have done in this course. You haven't been just a teacher, you have been a true support person that has been there for me not only for the course but every way. You have always been approachable and supportive, even in understanding how this relates to my role in CHCS and beyond. You haven't just been a teacher, you have also been a friend, when I really needed one. On several occasions I have asked your advice, not because you are my teacher, but because I respect you." **Yvonne Nolan**

"Just like to say thank you for your support and encouragement over the last year - has been tough going but have gained a lot of benefit from the course." **Graeme Doherty**

OT Students get down and Dirty

In 2008 the Royal Rehabilitation College were contracted by Sydney University to deliver training to Year 1 occupational therapy students. The program was so successful that the College was again asked to deliver this program in semester two, 2009.

Students from both the Bachelor and Masters degrees in Occupational Therapy attended the Royal Rehabilitation Centre for six tutorials. The aim of the program was to teach the students about Occupational Therapy assessment and intervention in the areas of self-care and mobility. Students learnt about manual handling, minimal lift, hoists, seating, manual and electric wheelchairs, ambulant mobility, washing, dressing, hygiene, toileting, feeding and food preparation.

The tutorials were to give the students a practical experience of their future roles as Occupational Therapists with clients in these areas. A 'hands on' approach was facilitated by the use of case studies, client audiovisuals, client handouts, equipment, simulated assessment and intervention.

Students were encouraged to 'get down and dirty' in tutorials, to use the equipment, to begin to feel the way a client feels. Analysis of weekly feedback shows that the students generally found the course to be very good to excellent. They particularly enjoyed the practical nature of the course.

The Allied health Forum date has now been set for 23rd September 2010. It will be held at Royal Rehab and will be coordinated by one of the allied health assistant graduates of the College. It will be a forum for assistants, so any suggestions as to topics that would be of interest, please let us know.

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 - The Copyright Kitchen is a useful copyright advisory site.
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Graduation Day for Catholic Health Care

