

ABI SCI Connect Update

The ABI SCI Connect Steering Committee met at the end of March. Initial six month priority actions have been endorsed and will inform the project implementation strategy. Priority actions were assessed based on criteria which included:

- short term achievability
- alignment with statewide adult ABI and SCI rehabilitation health service plan service direction objectives
- positive impact on people with ABI or SCI
- implementation readiness
- prerequisite for other actions
- level of urgency

Areas of focus for ABI SCI Connect include the review and development of models of care, referral pathways and guidelines with the relevant services across Queensland. The project team has a key role in fostering communication and collaboration between stakeholders.

The Acquired Brain Injury, Clinical Advisory Network (ABI-CAN) and the Spinal Cord Injury Clinical Advisory Network (SCI-CAN) have met in April and May. Terms of reference have been endorsed and the groups have explored focus topics to inform project implementation including:

- developing definitions of tertiary and hub brain injury services
- defining complexity in brain injury
- the use of telehealth in both brain and spinal cord injury services
- development of a communication package articulating the role of Queensland Spinal Cord Injury Services
- SCI consultation and education services
- identifying areas of focus for forums and symposia

Statewide Rehabilitation Clinical Network Forum

Adult Brain Injury Rehabilitation – Innovative models of care

The Statewide Rehabilitation Clinical Network (SRbCN) is holding a forum on Adult Brain Injury Rehabilitation in collaboration with ABI SCI Connect.

The forum will be held on Thursday 21 June 2018 at the State Library of Queensland in Brisbane. Registration form and draft program are attached. Registration is essential as seats are limited. Please email completed registration forms to Statewide_Rehab_Network@health.qld.gov.au by COB Monday 18 June 2018.

The forum will include presentations and workshops on innovative models of care related to adult brain injury (ABI) rehabilitation across Queensland to inform the development of hub and tertiary ABI Queensland Health services as part of the *Statewide Adult Brain Injury Rehabilitation Health Service Plan 2016-2026*. The forum will be a great opportunity to network and workshop ideas that will strengthen and enhance service models and care delivery. We are hoping there will be representation from key services / HHSs.

As places are limited we request that you seek approval from your line manager to ensure you can attend in person on Thursday 21 June 2018 prior to submitting your registration form.

Introducing clinical advisory network consumer representatives

Consumer representatives have an important role on both the Acquired Brain Injury, Clinical Advisory Network (ABI-CAN) and the Spinal Cord Injury Clinical Advisory Network (SCI-CAN). Consumer representatives contribute through providing expertise, advocacy and perspectives based on their lived experience. Samantha Nutley and Gyl Stacey are the consumer representatives for the ABI-CAN and the SCI-CAN respectively.

**Gyl Stacey, SCI-CAN consumer representative**

I am a non-Executive Director of Spinal Life Australia. As someone who has an acquired spinal cord injury, I am personally interested in rehabilitation and support services for people with mobility and related issues.

I became paraplegic following a childhood illness and was treated in the UK health and care systems. Having moved to Australia 14 years ago, I worked as a senior executive in Queensland government for many years and so I have experience of how government and related organisations operate and also of the kind of supports that are available to allow people with spinal cord injury integrate into the workforce

and lead productive lives. For the last year, I have been a community member of the Parole Board Queensland and have a focus on the needs of prisoners with disability for rehabilitation and ongoing support.

My firm belief is that it is only by taking a holistic approach that people with spinal cord injury will achieve the best quality of life. As someone with lived experience of spinal cord injury, my role as the community member of the SCI-CAN is to represent the spinal cord injury community and ensure that the needs of people are properly taken into account.

Samantha Nutley, ABI-CAN consumer representative

I have a lived experience of traumatic brain injury and the rehabilitation process through the tertiary service of the PAH. As the consumer representative for the ABI-CAN I am able to draw upon my own rehabilitation experience since 2000, as well as recognise recent consumer rehabilitation processes from my involvement as a STEPS peer leader, ABI-TRS consumer representative as well as involvement in services such as Synapse and BIRU peer support.

I am wanting to draw together my knowledge to provide representation for those primarily disadvantaged by brain injury, including family and carers, in the context of the development of the services available.



For more information on ABI SCI Connect visit:

<https://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/metrosouth/abi-sci-connect>

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