

Media Release

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Warragul Physiotherapist an Advocate for Seriously Injured Rural Victorians

Appointed as an advocate by The Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) for rural Victorians who suffer serious injury on Victorian roads or at work, Warragul based physiotherapist and director of Through Life Physiotherapy Helen Lowe is involved in lobbying the TAC and WorkSafe to improve the therapeutic outcomes of these patients.

Recognized as a leading provider of neurological physiotherapy and complex rehabilitation in regional Victoria, and with a passion and ability to clearly articulate the needs of these patients, Mrs. Lowe's activism was recently sought by the APA to address the senior management of WorkSafe and the body that oversees the TAC and WorkSafe, Service Development and Performance (SDP).

"The opportunity to tackle critical issues directly with the people empowered to create change was absolutely fantastic," said Mrs. Lowe. "To their credit, the TAC does an excellent job funding the broad care needs of seriously injured Victorians and SDP has shown admirable interest in the details of what rehabilitation and life with a serious injury is like. Fundamentally however, there are significant problems relating to inequities in the funding systems which support injured rural Victorians."

Mrs. Lowe explains, "There are three main sources of inequity which really need to be rectified. The first is the fact that a patient is far better covered for physiotherapy if they suffer a brain injury on the road than at work.

Secondly, the TAC and WorkSafe pay physiotherapists significantly less than market rates not only for treatment, but also for the travel required in providing complex rehabilitation at the patient's home or workplace.

And finally, there is currently funding for one physiotherapist only, when rehabilitation often involves physiotherapists with expertise in different areas. A neurological physiotherapist is required for a patient retraining to walk for example, but a musculoskeletal physiotherapist is also required to treat the shoulder pain following fractures."

"I made some inroads," said Mrs. Lowe. "It is the APA's belief that all Australians should have access to quality physiotherapy, when and where required, to optimise health and wellbeing, and it is my objective to help achieve this for rural Victorians.

Both WorkSafe and TAC are open to reform and are now considering funding more than one physiotherapist."

Mrs. Lowe's clinic Through Life Physiotherapy is currently recruiting like-minded physiotherapists with a passion for the care and empowerment of their patients and a

commitment to achieving results. For more information, contact Through Life Physiotherapy on 03 5623 3306 or visit www.throughlifephysio.com.au

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