



Monash Matters

Occupational Therapy – Volume 1, Issue 11 – November/December 2006

First birthday function

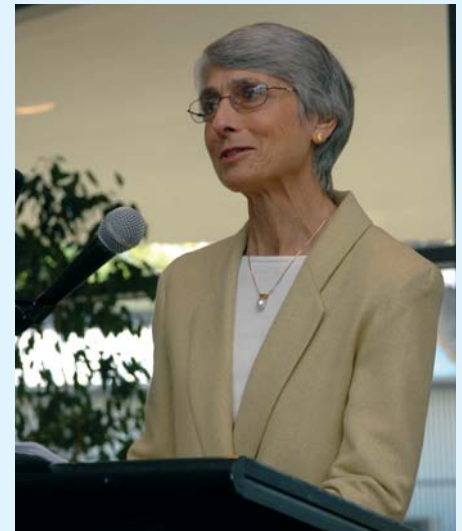
More than 80 guests were able to attend the first birthday function of the Monash University Bachelor of Occupational Therapy program on 22 November at our Peninsula campus. Some travelled long distances and others battled peak-hour traffic but all was worthwhile when Mrs Jan de Kretser spoke to us in respect to her use of OT skills as wife of the Governor of Victoria.

Jan explained in a light-hearted manner the benefits to be derived from OT skills. She explained that by using activity analysis she was able to identify her new role. Jan spoke about the value of her counselling skills and relaxation techniques. As a patron to many charities and foundations, Jan's OT skills have provided her with the ability to feel comfortable and to be alert but not alarmed in some very different situations. Jan explained that her medical knowledge has been of great advantage with many of her community responsibilities. Reflection and journal writing have been important tools. We laughed with her entertaining stories but also acknowledged what a wonderful ambassador we have for occupational therapy in the wife of the Governor of Victoria.

Another highlight of the night was our soloist Bridget a'Beckett. Bridget performed a musical bracket which included a song she wrote called *Thank You* as a tribute to our fieldwork educators. The intent of the evening was to acknowledge our fieldwork educators and their agencies that supported the Monash University occupational therapy program. In 2006, when most agencies had committed to other university programs, we did not have a timetable. We required 75 student placements in a very short period of time and knew agreements with the larger networks would take some time. Our success in providing every student with a quality fieldwork placement was only possible through the generosity of our fieldwork educators.



Audience engaged with the challenges of Jan's vice regal role



Mrs Jan de Kretser addressing the audience



Students Navsheil Singh and Shivneel Chand speak with fieldwork educators Cath O'Brien and Libby Strahan



Bridget a'Beckett in song

In 2007 we have forwarded our requirements in tandem with other university programs and we now have a timetable. We sincerely appreciate the offers we are receiving and look forward to working with the field next year.

Unfortunately, because we are a new program, we are still facing timetable challenges. Although protesting we have been unable to avoid a late change. Thus we need to inform you that our first-year fieldwork day in 2007 is Friday not Monday. Same weeks apply, only the day in the week has changed. We do apologize.

SPEF workshop update

On Friday, 13 October the Monash University occupational therapy program hosted a workshop to explore, for Victoria, the issues we have identified when trialling the SPEF in 2006.

In attendance were Dawn Best and Professor Brian Jolly who a number of you met at our educator workshop earlier this year. Also in attendance was Associate Professor Marilyn Baird (Head of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences, Monash University), Katie Ward (University of Queensland) representatives from La Trobe University, Monash University and Deakin University OT programs and two practising occupational therapists from the field nominated through the Victorian Fieldwork Forum. Charles Sturt University were an apology.

Associate Professor Marilyn Baird and her staff explained how the medical imaging and radiation sciences evaluation tool was developed and how it addressed learning across the novice to expert continuum using the Dreyfus model of skill acquisition. Professor Brian Jolly spoke about the critical elements in assessment and the need for universities to ensure the tools used were quality instruments.

Issue

There was much discussion regarding the use of the SPEF for the first two years of undergraduate training as the University of Queensland use the SPEF primarily in third- and fourth-year under a different fieldwork schedule to that of Victoria. Katie Ward gave permission for the development of an abridged SPEF for first- and second-year undergraduate students.

Action

- **First- and second-year SPEF evaluation:** university programs to meet on 21 November to develop an abridged SPEF for first- and second-year student evaluation in Victoria. Items used will be selected from the SPEF and mapped to first- and second-year objectives. New examples will replace those currently listed to assist educators with rating SPEF items for first- and second-year students.
- **Inadequate observations:** university programs will monitor these and address through learning contracts.

Outcome

An abridged SPEF tool is being developed for Victoria for first- and second-year student evaluation. It will be available for use in 2007 and introduced at our educator workshop.

Feedback on fieldwork continued

Last month we reported on our feedback from fieldwork educators. As promised this month we are providing you with some student feedback in respect to their fieldwork experiences. Data refers to the first- and second-year May placements in 2006. We collect from the students their SPEF review of placement form (part A) and also an estimate of time (as a percentage of placement hours) spent with a practising OT and with clients.

Feedback from students:

- All first-year students spent 70 per cent or more placement time with a qualified occupational therapist.
- 75 per cent of first-year students were able to spend more than 50 per cent of their placement time with clients.
- All second-year students spent 80 per cent or more placement time with a qualified occupational therapist.
- 100 per cent of second-year students were able to spend more than 50 per cent of their placement time with clients. (An enviable set of numbers!)
- All first-year students bar one rated their orientation as a 3 or higher out of a possible score of 4.
- All first-year students rated their comfort and welcome as a 3 or higher out of a possible score of 4.
- All second-year students rated their orientation as a 3 or higher out of a possible score of 4.
- All second-year students bar one rated their satisfaction with supervisor time allocated to them as a 3 or higher out of a possible score of 4.
- All second-year students bar one rated their satisfaction with supervisor feedback as a 3 or higher out of a possible score of 4.
- Many first- and second-year students reported the opportunity of 'hands-on' experience with clients as the best part of the placement. Second-year examples included: initial assessments; shower assessments; functional assessments; administering the OSA, COPM, MMSE, LOTCA, Sensory Profile; using the Bobath technique with a client; working with a child's handwriting; group work; cooking group; educating clients with equipment use eg bed pole; home visits.

Overall we are delighted with the student feedback and thank all those agencies who provided fieldwork for the Monash University occupational therapy program. We gratefully acknowledge the contribution you have made to the clinical education of our students this year. Any agencies requiring further feedback in respect to the student evaluations are welcome to contact me and I can make this available.

Pamela Kirke (on behalf of the Monash University OT team).

First-year fieldwork dates for 2007 are now: Fridays, 20 and 27 April; 4 and 11 May.

Monash University OT/PT programs forge links with Tasmania

It was a great pleasure to visit Tasmania early in November and meet so many occupational therapists. The Monash University occupational therapy and physiotherapy programs are both looking forward to linking up with Tasmania. From visiting both Launceston and Hobart occupational therapy services and joining the OT managers meeting at Ross it was clear OT is growing in Tasmania and we hope to contribute further to this growth.



This will be our last newsletter for 2006. May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a fulfilling and healthy year in 2007.

Kind regards, Pamela Kirke on behalf of Associate Professor Louise Farnworth and our OT team.