MOVING TO THE OT BEAT

A dancing flash mob is set to surprise shoppers at Radda cliff Place (outside Brisbane city library, across from the Casino) on Sunday 7th October from 11am - to raise awareness around occupational injustice/human rights issues in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) communities.

The flash mob, organised by Frances Worster, a final year masters in occupational therapy student from The University of Queensland, aims to raise awareness of the impact of occupational inequality in the LGBTI community and the role occupational therapists play to engage people so that they may fully participate in occupations, is a lead in to OT Awareness Week held on October 21 -27.

*Occupational injustice* is a concept that has arisen in the field of occupational therapy in recent years and refers to the humanistic principle that all members of a society have a right to equally participate in in their occupations. Injustice occurs …when participation in occupations is barred, confined, restricted, segregated, prohibited, underdeveloped, disrupted, alienated, marginalized, exploited, excluded, or otherwise restricted," (Kronenberg & Pollard, 2005, p. 66). Typically, the people most at risk for occupational injustice are those who lack resources, are refugees, imprisoned, or politically marginalised.

Other events to take place in Queensland include an OT Week Breakfast event featuring guest speaker Sgt Michael Lyddiard.

In 2007 Sgt Michael Lyddiard was working with the Australian Defence Force in Afghanistan, specialising in explosive ordnance disposal. When trying to render safe an improvised explosive devise, he was wounded, losing his right arm below the elbow, his thumb and index finger on his left hand, and his right eye. He is visually impaired in his left eye and endures some hearing loss. Since then, Michael has undertaken a remarkable journey.

As a result of collaboration between himself and his occupational therapist, he has gone on to achieve many of his aspirations and continues to challenge himself and others in society. Today, he is enrolled as an occupational therapy student at James Cook University.

Full details of this event can be found at www.otaus.com.au

About Occupational Therapy Australia

*Occupational Therapy Australia is the professional association for occupational therapists. Our members are qualified occupational therapists employed throughout the public and private sectors. They provide health care, vocational rehabilitation, and consultancy to clients.*

*Our mission is to provide member benefits through access to local professional support and resources and through opportunities to contribute to, and shape, professional excellence.*

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