

**WELCOME TO THE ABI SCI CONNECT TEAM**

The ABI SCI Connect team has welcomed Glenn Verner-Wren and Karen Lucas to the team in January.

Glenn has commenced in the role of Principal Project Officer. He is a physiotherapist who has spent his career working at the Princess Alexandra Hospital with experience in both Spinal and Brain Injury rehabilitation. See the [February communique of the Statewide Rehabilitation Clinical Network](#) for a full profile.

Karen Lucas has joined the team to manage a seed funded telehealth project to enhance telehealth within brain and spinal cord injury services. Karen is also the Telehealth Coordinator for Metro South Health and has extensive experience developing telehealth systems, processes and services.

CALL FOR  
CLINICIANS

**SURVEY****SCI Educational Resources:**

The ABI SCI Connect team and the SCI Clinical Advisory Network have created a short survey looking at the online resources of the Queensland Spinal Cord Injury Service (QSCIS). The survey is designed for Queensland clinicians who have any clinical contact with people with SCI, even if this does not occur very often. It is **not** intended for staff currently working as part of the QSCIS team.

If you have previously not used the QSCIS website please spend at least 10 minutes becoming familiar with the website and the resources available on the website.

The website can be found at <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/qscis>

A survey of consumers will be distributed shortly. The survey is estimated to take **9 minutes** to complete

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCIresourcesclinicians>

The survey will be closed at close of business on 15/3/19.

**ABI SCI CONNECT AND QSCIS VISIT TOWNSVILLE**

In November 2018 representatives from ABI SCI Connect and Queensland Spinal Cord Injury Service (QSCIS) visited Townsville Hospital and Health Service over two days. The first day included discussions with Townsville executive and clinical leaders. Some of the key areas of discussion included:

- Challenges of and strategies for providing specialised rehabilitation across North Queensland including to rural and remote areas.
- Planning for implementation of actions of the statewide plans in Townsville.
- Funding options for service development and delivery.

The second day had a focus on spinal cord injury services in Townsville and across North Queensland. Members of the QSCIS and North Queensland Spinal Service (NQSS) discussed strategies for collaboration and partnership. Discussions focused on current challenges and potential service models to benefit people with spinal cord injury in North Queensland into the future. The ABI SCI Connect and QSCIS team had the opportunity to visit rehabilitation facilities including the community rehabilitation provider for THHS, Alliance Rehabilitation.



L to R: Greg Ungerer, Sridhar Atresh, Kiley Pershouse, Alli McClean, Leona Boyle, Karleigh Kwapil, Jessica Dawber

**SPOTLIGHT ON – KERRIE GARRAD**

This edition we shine the spotlight on Kerrie Garrad who is a vital link between the ABI SCI Connect team and Metro North Hospital and Health Service in working towards development and enhancement of brain injury rehabilitation services.

**What is your role?**

NUM Redcliffe Hospital Rehabilitation & GEM Unit – also currently Clinical Project Officer (32 hours / fortnight) for the implementation of the MNHHS Rehabilitation Clinical Services Plan (2017-2022)

**Where was your first nursing job?** Student Registered Nurse Tamworth Base Hospital NSW

**What do you see as the benefits of ABI SCI Connect?** ABI SCI Connect will provide a platform for administrators and clinicians to be coordinated to plan, implement and evaluate excellent care for acquired brain injury and spinal cord injury patients in Qld.

**How do you feel ABI SCI Connect will help consumers?** Improve the accessibility for services closer to home.

**What is your vision for brain and spinal cord injury services in Queensland?** The availability of expert care in regional areas, with particular emphasis on ambulatory and community care.

**What are you hopeful for in 2019?** Collaboration between project teams and stakeholders to ensure that common goals and priorities are identified to enable resources to be allocated with clinical excellence being the driver and the major beneficiary.

## EOI SMARTr – COMPLEX PRESSURE INJURY IN SCI STATEWIDE WORKING GROUP

SEEKING  
EOI

As part of the *ABI SCI Connect* program of work, the Skin Management and Rehabilitation Team – revised (SMARTr) is seeking expressions of interest from medical, nursing and allied health professionals across the Queensland Hospital and Health Services (HHS) to contribute to development of resources for the management of complex pressures injuries (PI) for people with Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) with a focus on pre and post surgical management. SMARTr sits with the Queensland Spinal Cord Injury Service (QSCIS) and is looking for clinicians working in other QLD HHS across acute, rehabilitation and primary care settings that have a role in providing services for people with SCI and PI or risk of PI to contribute to this work. EOIs Close COB Tuesday 12th March 2019. For more information or to obtain a copy of the EOI form please contact Jess Dawber via [abi.sci.connect@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:abi.sci.connect@health.qld.gov.au) or 3176-7876

**ABI SCI CONNECT TELEHEALTH**

Telehealth can offer great opportunities for statewide services trying to span the vast distances within Queensland. A telehealth project was funded by the Telehealth Support Unit for the 2018/2019 financial year to establish a range of telehealth services that support the broader statewide ABI SCI Connect program.

A number of service models have been identified for development:

- redesigning and expanding on current spinal cord injury outpatient telehealth services
- designing and implementing telerehabilitation with the ABI Transition Rehabilitation (ABI-TRS) service
- implementing a tele-handover (multidisciplinary, case conferenced, team-to-team handover via video conference) for people transferred in or out of the Spinal Injuries Unit (SIU)

Training has been developed and is being delivered across brain and spinal cord injury services. A number of new videoconferencing accounts have been purchased to give each service group increased capacity to deliver services via telehealth. Clinical service models and suitability criteria are also in development. With outpatient related service development well underway there is now a focus on the Tele-handover models and resources. There is a focus on streamlining and enhancing existing processes to be more efficient and structured (aligned with Statewide Tele-handover guidelines).

For more information about this project please contact Karen Lucas via [ABISCIConnectTelehealth@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:ABISCIConnectTelehealth@health.qld.gov.au)

**For more information on ABI SCI visit:**

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