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## **MESSAGE CANCER AND MORE**

Only six therapists attended the last Massage Cancer and More (MC&M) course at QFL, too few to make the program financially viable. As one therapist was traveling from WA, her travel and course costs were paid by Challenger TAFE and another therapist was financing her own way from SA, Brian (our new GM) gave us the go ahead.

The continuing generosity and support that Petrea and Brian are giving the massage therapists of Australia is changing the face of tactile services offered to the wider community of people with cancer. Thank you.

Outside of Quest there is also much happening in the world of massage and cancer. MC&M continues to be the only registered course in Australia designed to equip massage and Bowen therapists to work with folk experiencing cancer and there is a growing international body of expertise that is gaining prominence.

In mid May 2007 there is a two day international conference in Toledo, USA, on medical massage bringing together massage therapists, oncologists and nurses who are experts and supporters in this field.

Also around Australia there is a growing number of massage therapists working in hospitals and hospices. These compassionate folk are often working as 'volunteers' and while they are greatly valued by medical staff, they are not as yet, included in the medical team or their skills considered in the treatment plan.

In major cancer hospitals like the Memorial-Sloan Kettering Center in New York, massage is so highly regarded that oncologists announce that they will return later to see the patient if a massage is in progress.

This attitude has lead to a skilled team of salaried massage professionals, a teaching service for massage therapists employed in other hospitals and a highly regarded body of professional massage therapists working in oncology services throughout the country. Gayle MacDonald, the keynote speaker at the Toledo 'Medical Massage in Oncology' conference is coming to Quest for Life in March 2008 and will be offering two three day workshops. Gayle is more widely known for 'Medicine Hands' written in 1999. A second, updated edition has been recently released.

During her visit Gayle and I will be presenting one day programs in several capital cities as well as speaking to the NSW Cancer Council, Cancer Institute, hospitals and massage industry associations, and any other interested groups.



Quest for Life has generously made some funds available for advertising and is providing expertise in the preparation of grant applications to fund this exciting visit. I have spoken with the administrators of ATMS and AAMT and they have offered advertising and publicity support as well as opportunities for me to speak at their conferences later in the year.

In 2008 Quest for Life will review MC&M with the view to developing a medical massage course, based on the one Gayle MacDonald will teach during her stay at Quest. Most folk diagnosed with cancer don't come to Quest for a whole range of reasons AND massage therapists are working throughout the Australian community caring for an ever increasing number of clients with a diagnosis of cancer. By supporting the further development of medical massage the Quest for Life foundation is ensuring compassionate and skilled massage and Bowen therapy is available to many more folk challenged by cancer irrespective of the institution they chose.