

Published : Connections November 2008

Oncology Massage Training Modules

As the Quest for Life Foundation takes to the road with its programs and services so too does Eleanor Oyston with the Oncology Massage training program, and the program is blooming!

Eleanor has been training massage and Bowen therapists to work safely and effectively with people with cancer since 2003, with the programs being held at the Quest for Life Centre since 2006.

The training program has developed out of the Australian visit by Gayle MacDonald which highlighted the need for specialist training in this field along with the Cancer Council's 'Massage and Cancer' booklet advising of the benefits of massage for people with cancer. It is a four module program that will lead to well trained professional therapists who can be employed in hospitals and outpatient treatment centres for people with cancer. Oncology Massage is the only nationally accredited training package in this massage specialty and is recognized by AAMT, ATMS and BTFA.

OMM1 is designed for all soft tissue therapists with a focus on 'breaking old habits'. Over the two and a half days of the course we discuss the science of health, healing and cancer as well as the benefits of mindful massage.

OMM2 is an advanced module over three full days highlighting experience and knowledge gained from clinical practice combined with a deeper understanding of the biological process of cancer and cancer treatment.

OMM3 is designed to prepare therapists to work as part of the medical team in a hospital setting. A 3000-word research paper is required for this module.

OMM4 is a practical week in an oncology ward with supervision. In-patients and outpatients will be treated and this experience is invaluable for the professional development standards expected of therapists completing Oncology Massage training.

Eleanor has already begun the transition of taking this program to communities around Australia and has presented OMM1 in Ballina, Maroochydore, Hobart, and the Blue Mountains. By the end of 2008 she will also have presented in Sydney and Adelaide with dates already scheduled for 2009 in other locations around Australia. Please see 'Diary Dates' on page XXX for all dates and locations.