Speaker Profile: Eleanor Oyston

Eleanor Oyston established Massage Cancer and More (MC&M) in 2002 when she was facilitating cancer programs at the Quest for Life (QFL) Foundation with Petrea King. With the support of the QFL team, Eleanor identified the need to train remedial massage therapists in the unique skills needed to safely massage people with complex health issues, especially cancer. Based on Eleanor's experience of over 30 years in medical science and research, and enriched by the wise and generous sharing of the initial student groups, MC&M grew into Oncology Massage, a national trailblazer. The four-module program is now delivered around Australia and in New Zealand by 14 teachers, is internationally recognised for its excellence, sets new levels of professional standards in the massage community and is accepted into a number of major hospitals. Insightful business management created a not-for-profit charity training organisation, Oncology Massage Limited, that also strives to educate rural massage therapists and increase services across Australia. Eleanor has taught her program and presented at massage conferences in Germany, the USA, Hong Kong and in Australia. As recently as June/July 2016, Eleanor met with doctors in Spain and taught a pilot program in The Netherlands. This work was well received and the future of Oncology Massage Limited is assured.

Lifting the bar: Research into the role of Oncology Massage in Australia

The benefits of oncology massage were established by groundbreaking research published by Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre, NY, in 2004. In Australia only a handful of major cancer centres have embraced the service, many in a volunteer or non-professional way. What are the obstacles that withhold medically proven, quality of life services, from patients suffering the most? Can Australian research highlight the change needed?