
Plenary: Skin and Shoulder Care – Lived, Observed and Applied Principles

Malcolm Turnbull

Session description:

In 1980 Mal's life changed for ever as a result of a motor vehicle accident. At the age of 19 the reality of pressure injury as a spinal cord injured person came into sharp focus. 37 years later skin integrity is even more of a priority as the wear and tear on shoulders impacts on functional ability. This talk is about how the research and science that continues to evolve regards pressure and shoulder injuries has been applied for the long haul of life with a spinal cord injury. It will draw on lived experiences, observed experiences and the vital link between research, best practise and the application in real life.

Speaker biography:

In January 1980, at age 19, Mal Turnbull was a passenger in a motor vehicle accident which resulted in a complete spinal cord injury at T5 level. The experience of the acute post injury care, the subsequent rehab period and exposure to the real-life impact of pressure injury left a deep and abiding impact which resulted in some habits that are still a part of his daily routine. Since 1992 Mal has been involved in the Assistive Technology industry with a focus on equipment supply that deals with prevention of pressure injury and shoulder preservation. Having access to a worldwide network of therapists, clinicians, researchers, manufacturers and end-users, Mal has an exceptional understanding of evidence based best practice. Coupled with 36 years of lived experience of managing pressure injury risk and shoulder injury prevention, Mal has an all rounded approach to maintaining an active lifestyle.