

The Australian Amputee Prospective in Treatment Options and Information

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Limbs 4 Life

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Empowering Amputees



Organisation Overview

- Provide access to information, knowledge and support
 - Founded in 2004
 - Peak body for amputees

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Organisation Overview

- Governed by a voluntary board of management
- Supported by 85 trained volunteers
- 1 : 1 peer support is physically provided in three states of Australia
- Telephone and virtual support is offered nationally and internationally



Provision of Information

- Peer support is widely accepted as a complimentary addition to existing clinical services internationally
- In Australia there is less than 5 percent referral rate to peer based health services

Provision of Information

- Peer support is intrinsic to mental health outcomes and total wellbeing
- It promotes wellness and recovery and brings a deeper understanding of knowledge
- Accessing information enables patients to make informed choices regarding their health care

Peer Support for Amputees

- Reduce feelings of isolation
- Alleviate feelings of anxiety and depression often associated with limb loss
- Promotes positive mental health outcomes
 - Promotes social inclusion and access to information



Scanning the Environment

Recent survey results showed that;

- 67 percent reported that peer visitation was helpful dealing with limb loss
- 73 percent felt better informed about limb loss as a result of a peer visit.
- 90 percent wanted more information relating to their condition, about their care and products

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Access to Information

Strategies for promoting an active role for patients should pay attention to health literacy, shared decision-making and self-management.

European Ministerial Conference on Health Systems, 25–27 June 2008,



Patient Active Care Role

Empowerment and making informed choices
Information sharing, for clinicians as well as for individual health care users, is made difficult by the diversity of information management systems between the state, Commonwealth and private health sectors.

***Victorian Health Framework 2012 - 2022**

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Patient Active Care Role

- Systems to improve peoples health knowledge
 - Support patient based choices
- Adopt peer based support and enable access to the provision of health literacy as a part of long term care

THANK YOU

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