

Question 4

Can the MAA provide further detail as to the specific allocation of the rehabilitation grants for brain injury?

Response 4

The funding allocation of \$354,677 for the Program Area for Rehabilitation Grants – Brain Injury 2001-2002 was the cashflow for approved projects within the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program for that financial year. This program is the network within NSW Health that provides acute brain injury rehabilitation services. Details of the individual projects and total funding approved follow.

Paediatric Case Manager New England region

Organisation - Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program, Tamworth Base Hospital

This project aims to improve the brain injury services offered to children and adolescents who live in the New England Region.

A full time case manager is employed to provide case management services to children and adolescents in all stages of their recovery and provide education and training to local service providers on traumatic brain injury

Total Funding Approved

February 2000 - \$122,000

Budget

2001/2002 - \$44,084

Paediatric Case Manager North Coast NSW

Organisation - North Coast Head Injury Service, Lismore NSW

This project aims to improve the brain injury services offered to children and adolescents who live on the North coast of NSW

A full time case manager is employed to provide case management services to children and adolescents in all stages of their recovery and provide education and training to local service providers on traumatic brain injury.

Total Funding Approved

February 2000 - \$100,000

Budget

2001/2002-\$25,000

Brain Injury Outreach Worker, Illawarra Region

Organisation - Illawarra Brain Injury Service, Warrawong

A full time outreach worker is employed to improve the provision of case management services for people who have sustained a brain injury and live between Gerringong and Milton/Ulladulla on the NSW South Coast.

Total Funding Approved

February 2000 - \$120,000

Budget

2001/2002 - \$43,500

Information booklets for families and carers of children with acquired brain injury

Organisation - Sydney Children's Hospital and New Children's Hospital

There is currently very little information for families about brain injury apart from a mixed array of photocopied sheets from hospital services or other copied material. This information can be misleading or based on interstate or international information.

The development of booklets will provide information about brain injury for families and carers.

Total Funding Approved

February 2001 - \$13,750

Budget

2001/2002 - \$13,750

Clinical trial of stretching after traumatic brain injury

Organisation - Rehabilitation Studies Unit, Department of Medicine, Sydney University

This project involves comparing the effectiveness of two types of treatment of elbow flexion contracture in people with traumatic brain injury.

Total Funding Approved

February 2001 \$29,600

Budget

2001 - 2002 - \$8295

Efficacy of stimulant medication in paediatric acquired brain injury

Organisation - Department and Developmental Cognitive Neuropsychology Research Unit New Children's Hospital

This study aims to investigate the potential efficacy of central nervous [CNS] stimulants in the treatment of chronic attentional problems in children with an acquired brain injury [ABI] through a double blind placebo controlled trial using methylphenidate [Ritalin] and dexamphetamine. Changes in attention functioning will be measured on a range of behavioural and neuropsychological measures of attention.

Total Funding Approved

February 2001 \$102,246

Budget

2001 - 2002 - \$45,048

The time frame of recovery after traumatic brain injury: an evidence based approach

Organisation - Rehabilitation Studies Unit, University of Sydney

The study aims to determine the time frame of recovery by following up a cohort of patients 20-25 years following severe traumatic brain injury. Data were previously collected on this cohort approximately 15 years ago, between 3-9 years posttrauma, examining neurophysical and neuropsychological impairments, along with physical and psychosocial disabilities and handicaps. Contrary to consensus opinion that patients stop improving well before two years posttrauma, it found that outcome was better in individuals who were much longer posttrauma. Ongoing clinical contact with other patients supports this observation, but empirical evidence is required for confirmation.

Total Funding Approved

February 2001 \$200,000

Budget

2001 – 2002 - \$75,000

Traineeships for people with a disability

Organisation - *The NSW Office of the Director of Equal Opportunity in Public Employment [ODEOPE] and the Department of Education and Training [DET]*

The proposed program involves the establishment of a traineeship program targeted at placing people with a disability in the NSW Public Sector. The traineeships are jobs that combine work and structured training and which generally last from one to two years. Trainees are paid a training wage and enter into a training agreement or “indenture” with the employer. Trainees undertake a training program that is delivered by a registered training organisation and leads to a nationally accredited qualification and are released from work one or two days per week to complete formal off the job training.

Total Funding Approved

February 2001 \$400,000

Budget

2001 – 2002 - \$100,000

In addition to these projects the MAA also approved funding in February 2002 of **\$698,193** for projects relating to brain injury as part of the 2001-2002 Injury Management Project Funding Round

Details of these projects follow

Evaluation of the Wisconsin Card Sorting Test and Category Test

Organisation - *Westmead Brain Injury Rehabilitation Service, Westmead Hospital*

The aim of this project is to investigate the validity of the computer versions of the Category (CT) and Wisconsin Card Sorting Test (WCST). These are two of the most popular instruments used to detect frontal lobe impairment following traumatic brain injury.

Total Funding Approved

February 2002 \$2,571

Fitness training after traumatic brain injury

Organisation - *Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit, Liverpool Hospital*

The aim of this project is to evaluate the efficacy of a supervised fitness centre-based exercise program in improving fitness and psychosocial functioning in a traumatic brain injured population.

Total Funding Approved

February 2002 \$98,000

The evidence base of psychological therapies for traumatic brain injury

Organisation - Rehabilitation Studies Unit, Department of Medicine, University of Sydney

The aim of this study is to develop a database of published papers about psychological therapies for TBI and knowledge of the role of evidence-based practice in the work of allied health professionals.

Total Funding Approved

February 2002 \$81,000

Carer Respite Partnership for ABI carer skills training

Organisation - Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit (BIRU) and the Carer Respite Centre. South Western Sydney Area Health Service.

The aim of this project is to enhance support skills for carers families and others who work with people who have a brain injury by developing 5 training kits, participant resources and VETAB accreditation.

VETAB accreditation is part of a nationally recognised framework that provides agreed standards to ensure quality of vocational education and training based on recognised competencies.

Total Funding Approved

February 2002 \$67,000

Traumatic Brain Injury [TBI] Information Kit and Vocational Accreditation

Organisation - The Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit, Liverpool Hospital

The aim of this project is to print and distribute to key TBI service providers the revised Brain Injury Information Kit including adjustments that include vocational competencies and VETAB accreditation.

Total Funding Approved

February 2002 \$67,810

Development of Attendant Carer Support and Training Network

Organisation - Brain Injury Rehabilitation Service - Outreach Team, Brain Injury Unit, Westmead Hospital

The aim of this project is to improve the skill and flexibility of care through the development of a network / cooperative / industry reference group. At the initial phase two main activities would be focused on;

- Information and data development
- Professional information and training

Total Funding Approved

February 2002 \$50,000

Information Technology

Organisation - HeadEast Eastern Sydney Acquired Brain Injury Community Access Service

The aim of this project is to establish training in computer literacy/word processing skills for clients with a brain injury.

Total Funding Approved

February 2002 \$18,880

Improving community support for Aboriginal people with head injuries.

Organisation - North Coast Head Injury Service (NCHIS), Coffs Harbour

The aim of this project is to employ an Aboriginal support worker with the North Coast Head Injury Service in partnership with the Galambila Aboriginal Health Clinic in Coffs Harbour and the Bulgar Ngaru Aboriginal Medical Service in Grafton.

The Aboriginal worker would assist NCHIS staff to access Aboriginal people who have had a head injury and would assist the workers to identify needs and plan appropriate rehabilitation. The project would also enable the development of culturally appropriate promotional material.

Total Funding Approved

February 2002 \$87,270

You and Me sexuality resources

Organisation - Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit, Liverpool Hospital

The aim of this project is to evaluate the– You and Me sexuality resource, rewrite and update relevant parts of the manual and publish a second edition that will become sustainable and self-funding.

Total Funding Approved

February 2002 \$9,250

Management of TBI clients in the community with associated substance abuse.

Organisation - Hunter Brain Injury Service

The aim of this project is to develop a best practice approach to managing Hunter Brain Injury Service clients in the community who have substance abuse problems who are referred to the BIS following a TBI.

Total Funding Approved

February 2002 \$26,665

InterActive – recreation, leisure & ABI working together

Organisation - South West Brain Injury Rehabilitation Service, Albury

The aim of this project is to improve access and participation in recreation and leisure activities for people with brain injury in the South Western region of NSW. This will be done by enhancing the support skills of workers in the recreation and leisure industry and providing guidelines for workers in brain injury rehabilitation.

Total Funding Approved

February 2002 \$124,689

Social skills intervention groups for children with traumatic brain injury

Organisation - Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program, Sydney Children's Hospital

The aims of this project are to trial and evaluate group programs to improve social skills functioning for children with brain injury in schools.

Total Funding Approved

MAA 2002- 2003 grant funding round

Funding priorities related to brain injury in this round of funding include

Projects to improve retrieval services and acute care of people injured in motor vehicle accidents-

Initiatives to improve professional knowledge and practice among medical and health practitioners in-the retrieval and acute care of people sustaining serious injuries such as brain injury, spinal cord injury or orthopaedic trauma and the management of motor vehicle trauma generally.

Projects to investigate innovative methods to support evidence based practice by health professionals in managing motor accident trauma

The use of evidence based practice, ie using treatments that have been tested, validated and are regarded to be effective is critical in improving outcomes for injured people. The MAA has previously supported a number of projects, in particular the establishment of data bases for use by health professionals such as physiotherapists, occupational therapists and psychologists. Initiatives aimed at health professionals using evidence based practices are now encouraged. These could include educational programs aimed at assisting practitioners to use an evidence based approach to solving real life problems.

Improving general practitioner involvement and collaboration in injury management of people with severe trauma related disability-

Applications closed in mid September 2002. These applications are currently being assessed.