**Transcript: Getting to know the panel**

Cure issues discussed:

* Who are the panel
* Their names
* Background
* Work/Education background

**Paul:** Welcome to the La Trobe University panel on Rehabilitation Counselling. My name is Paul O’Halloran and the purpose of today’s session is to provide insight into Rehabilitation Counselling as a profession. We have five experts from the field today to discuss Rehabilitation Counselling. I would like to welcome our five panellists who will provide valuable insight into Rehabilitation Counselling.

From the perspective of experienced people working in different settings in the field from the leaders of professional and educational organisations and the perspective of a student. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Michael Lacovino, *President of the Australian Society of Rehabilitation Counsellors* and also he works as a Rehabilitation Counsellor in a private practice. Janette **Kinahan**, a Rehabilitation Counsellor who works in private practice as well and who is *a Director of Work Health Systems.* Regina Fitzpatrick and Allied health professional from *La Trobe University* who’s worked for many years within the federal government main rehabilitation service, *CRS Australia* as a Case Manager and Occupation Rehabilitation Consultant. Professor Greg Murphy, a leader in the profession of Rehabilitation Counselling *from La Trobe University* and Carly Harrison, a second year student from the *Post Graduate Masters Program in Rehabilitation Counselling at La Trobe University.*

I’ll be asking the panel a series of questions and there will also be the opportunity for the audience to ask some questions following this.

Michael – just some brief introductions from the panel. Can you tell us a little bit about yourself in relation to Rehabilitation Counselling?

**Michael:** Thanks Paul. I’ve been involved in the Rehabilitation industry for quite a long time. Probably around 24-25 years. I am currently the serving *President of the Australian Society of Rehabilitation Counsellors – ASORC* which is the peak professional body for *Rehabilitation Counselling in Australia* and my role in Rehabilitation has been quite diverse in the sense that I have worked as a Rehabilitation Counsellor also as a Rehabilitation Team Manager and most recently I have done a little bit of rehabilitation counselling work as well as EAP mediation work conflict resolution and I also do some work in the *Centrelink DES JSA* jurisdictions. I have been involved in the industry a very long time and find it’s a very enjoyable profession and would commend it highly to anyone who is considering undertaking it.

**Paul:** Thankyou Michael, Janette.

**Janette:** Thanks Paul. I’ve been in the industry a long time, similar to Michael and essentially I have specialised over a long period of time in the management of personal injury. Whether that’s from transport accidents or workplace injury or acquired injury and disability from other sources. I set out a long time ago to work all around the spectrum. So, I’ve worked in the regulatory role setting legislation and regulation and guidelines and developing standards for providers of services and evaluating and reviewing services for efficiency and effectiveness and I’ve also spent a long time working on conflict resolution within personal injury management. More so, I would say in recent years utilising that in a risk assessment and risk management role in disability prevention approach in the workplace. So there is a lot I have done in the field that has brought me here today. Like Michael, I love this industry and the work that we do and equally congratulation you on wonderful choices.

**Paul:** Thankyou very much Janette, Regina?

**Regina:** Thankyou Paul. Well I was a Case Manager for *CRS,* starting my career back in 1988, I think. I worked as a Case Manager for people who had a broad range of disabilities not in the compensable market. That might be people on disability, support pensions etc. Then I moved into a WorkCover area and worked as an Occupational Rehabilitation Counsellor and a Senior Advisor in *CRS* in that area and then went onto my own company which I did for 15 years as an Occupational Rehabilitation Consultant. So dealing with people that had a range of physical and stress related injuries for *WorkSafe Victoria*. But also, then finally with the *Federal ADF(Australian Defence Force)* and I finished my career there last year and have been at La Trobe University four days a week. I had some very interesting experiences as a Case Manager. It fed me very well in many ways and has certainly helped me in my academic work in the type of work that I do as a Clinical Educator. Again, I would highly commend you for taking on Rehab Counselling. It has its challenges but it also has a lot of reward, which will talk about later.

**Paul:** Thankyou Regina, Greg?

**Greg:** Yeah thanks Paul, I got involved in Rehabilitation Counselling at the start of what they call ‘No Fault’ – workers comp legislation. Victoria was the national leader and no matter whether it was your fault or not, you were guaranteed to be covered for medical expenses and you would have rehabilitation offered to you if you had a complex or chronic condition. That was in the mid – to late 80’s. I mainly was in workers comp rehab. I then did work with the *Commonwealth* in what would be called *Disability Employment Services*. These are people on a Commonwealth benefit, pensioners trying to get real work - *Welfare to Work*. They are trying to move from being a pensioner to a proper citizen. Working, getting some money, looking after themselves. Then I moved onto a lot more research and I’ve done a lot of research with vocational rehabilitation, serious injury rehabilitation and tried to turn the ship around because when your injured there are a lot of services given to you but they forget how important your family and your work is. A lot of our research is the whole person, not just the injury, the social support, all focused on the *Return to Work*. So that’s why I am here and a pleasure to talk with you all here today.

**Paul:** Thankyou Greg, Carly?

**Carly:** Thanks Paul. I completed a *Bachelor of Science at University of Melbourne*, *majoring in Psychology.* Then I saw this course on the La Trobe website and thought that it really complemented my interests and my undergrad degree. So I am now in my second year of the Master – the final year and I am doing a thesis of Professional Dancers, their attitude towards pain and injury and the implications that pain have on their transition into new employment when they can no longer be a Professional Dancer anymore. So that’s where I’m at.