

Dr Gregory Murphy

Seminar title: Social support in rehabilitation: theory, measures and contribution to outcomes

Abstract:

Effective social support is potentially one of the most important processes for rehabilitation professionals to understand. Yet research into the nature and extent of effective social support within various key rehabilitation populations is relatively rare. This paper introduces some relevant theory from social psychology, and then reports on the results of a systematic review of the relationship between social support and rehabilitation outcome in two populations – those with workers compensation claims, and those recovering from traumatic spinal cord injury.

Biographical note:

Dr Greg Murphy is an Associate-Professor within the School of Public Health, La Trobe University and one of Australia's most active rehabilitation psychologists. His main research interests are in vocational rehabilitation, particularly return to work following serious injury. He is particularly interested in two key constructs central to the successful adjustment to major life crises – effective social support, and personal control beliefs of those facing major adjustments.

Greg has held visiting staff member appointments at such prestigious academic and hospital settings as Johns Hopkins University, Georgia Institute of Technology, the Duke of Cornwall Spinal Unit and the Swiss Paraplegic Centre. He is currently a member of the Department of Veterans' Affairs Technical Advisory Committee (Rehabilitation) where he contributes to policy and service development in the area of rehabilitation and return-to-work for both veterans as well as injured members of the Defence forces.