

Tara's fellowship is no stroke of luck

Austin Health physiotherapist, Tara Sharpley, has been awarded the FJ O'Rourke Fellowship and will use it to continue her work in stroke rehabilitation by travelling to Norway.

Ms Sharpley has been involved with a successful "stroke" pilot study developed at Austin Health called "A very early rehabilitation trial" (AVERT).

The award will enable Ms Sharpley to gain first-hand experience of a stroke-intervention technique called Very Early Mobilisation (VEM) in Norway.

Austin Health says the VEM technique will be used in conjunction with AVERT, prior to the roll-out of AVERT to multiple centres around Australia.

The F.J. O'Rourke Fellowship was established in 1989 to recognise the contribution of Dr

Frank O'Rourke, who was director of medical services at the Austin hospital for more than 30 years to 1988.

It is valued at up to \$5000. Clinical and non-clinical staff are invited to apply from across the health service.

In 2004 applications were sought from staff with an interest in one or more of the following areas: (1) patient flow and demand management strategies, (2) workforce planning and staff retention redevelopment, (3) improved work practices and quality improvement, and (4) leadership and innovation

The objectives of the fellowship are to enable individual staff members to develop to their full potential; and to promote and enhance the objectives and image of Austin Health.



Above: Tara Sharpley: to study in Norway.