

February 2005

## Fellowship win for stroke physiotherapist

Austin Health physiotherapist Tara Sharpley has received an F. J. O'Rourke Fellowship to continue progressive work in stroke rehabilitation.

Ms Sharpley was involved in Austin Health's *A Very Early Rehabilitation Trial (AVERT)* pilot study.

Ms Sharpley will gain first-hand experience of the *Very Early Mobilisation (VEM)* stroke-intervention technique at a leading stroke unit at Saint Olav's Hospital in Norway.

The VEM technique will eventually be used with AVERT which will have an Australia-wide roll-out.

The \$5,000 annual F. J. O'Rourke Fellowship was established in 1989 to recognise the contribution of Dr Frank J. O'Rourke, Director of Medical Services at the Austin Hospital from 1957 to 1988.

The Fellowship enables individual staff members to develop to their full potential, promotes the objectives of Austin Health and enhance its image intrastate, interstate and/or overseas.



Tara Sharpley, who will study a stroke-intervention technique in Norway.



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