



Figure 1 - Sample statistics from ALSA website

Artificial Limb Services within Australia – ALSA

Issue 62 of the *TechLINK* contained a brief introduction to the ALS Managers' Forum. A number of very important issues are being tackled by this group and feedback is constantly being sought. A prime mechanism for this is the establishment of a website. This site includes the aims of the group, and discussion papers on relevant issues but most importantly there are examples of national statistics and a national independent unit cost indicator.

The site address—<http://www.alsa.org.au>.

TELEMEDICINE/ TELEHEALTH

by Prem Anandam (P & O) OPST Launceston

A successful teleconference link with Dr Andrew Nunn was held between the Launceston General Hospital and the RGH Hobart on 23 July 1999. Dr Nunn, in Hobart, assessed three prosthetic patients in Launceston, with input from health professionals in both cities. The images on the TV screen were of good quality and enabled an examination of gait and morphological characteristics of the residual limb in detail. The session took an hour and a half compared to the many hours it would have taken for patients and staff to travel to Hobart. We are looking forward to greater use of Telehealth in the future.

Congratulations to OPST, St John's and the Tasmanian Department of Health & Human Services on what was an excellent initiative into Telemedicine!

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ARATA 1999

The Fourth Australian Biennial Conference on Technology for People with Disabilities is being held in Sydney at the Masonic Centre from Tuesday, 28 September to Thursday, 30 September.

A program giving details of the wide range of workshops available over the three days is obtainable from Raelene Smith, Conference Convenor, tele: 02 9890 0100, fax: 02 9683 2827 and email cats@northcott.org.au.

IN PRINT...

New Scientist (<http://www.newscientist.com/ns/19990731/newsstory2.html>) writes about an evolvable hardware chip used as a control device for individuals learning how to use an electronic artificial limb which adapts and redesigns itself to handle signals from the amputee's remaining limb muscles. The hand they are using is multifunctional, enabling the patient to move it in a number of different ways. "But we are now working on a hand with five fingers that can be moved independently," said Isamu Kajitan from the University of Tsukuba, Japan. "This should be strong enough and dextrous enough to open a can of soda," he said.

A tech tip in the July issue of *O&P Almanac* (p.28-30) entitled 'Working with a modular shuttle lock system' describes the steps in the manufacture of a new Fillauer system. The design is for a modular insert with three interchangeable attachment options which all use the modular shuttle lock body; the Delrin housing, titanium pyramid or a 4-hole housing.

J ob Watch

Orthotist/Technician—Brisbane

The successful applicant will work with adults and children with the disability of cerebral palsy. They will also work in close contact with therapists and equipment technicians. Qualifications and experience in this specialist field will determine salary.

For further information contact Lyn Wallis on (07) 3874 2053 or email: ets@iname.com.

Written applications by 6 September to:
Human Resources Officer
Cerebral Palsy League of Qld,
PO Box 386
Fortitude Valley Qld 4006.
Fax: (07) 3358 8013

Coming Events

28 –30 September	ARATA Conference on Technology for People with Disabilities, Sydney. Contact Raelene Smith on 02 9890 0100 for information.
21–23 October	ACCESS Expo, Disability & Aged Care Solutions, Melbourne. Contact Julie Stein on 03 9415 1200 for information.

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