

Tunstall Healthcare
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press release



For Immediate Release

Title: Smarter Living Launch for Smart State

On 28 May 2010, Deputy Premier and Minister for Health, the Hon. Paul Lucas MP launched the Queensland Smart Home Initiative 'QSHI', a demonstrator facility that showcases the latest assistive technology.

Located at LifeTec's premises at Reading Newmarket, the facility allows industry professionals, carers and the general public to touch and feel the technology and actually witness many of the devices in action.

When installed in the home, these devices assist older people and people with special and ongoing needs to carry out everyday activities and maintain their safety and independence in the home.

The technology can provide quick access to emergency assistance, monitor a residents' condition to ensure they are carrying out healthy activity in the home, such as regularly using the kitchen and bathroom, and alerting of potentially dangerous situations such as falling over, not getting out of bed in the morning, or leaving gas on or taps running.

The technology can also alert resident and carers of activity being carried out in their home, such as the phone ringing, doorbell chiming, or other assistive devices being activated.

Set up by a team of corporate and community organisations, universities and government bodies, the QSHI aims to educate the community and encourage the adoption of assistive technology for older people, people with special or ongoing needs, and people managing chronic conditions.



Professor Jeffrey Soar, the convenor of the QSHI and associate professor at the University of Southern Queensland is a big supporter of assistive technology, regularly researching, writing and presenting on the issue.

“The launch of the Queensland Smart Home Initiative is a major step forward in generating awareness for the use of assistive technology for supporting independent living, providing access to care, improving outcomes and reducing costs”, Professor Soar said.

“The QSHI gives people the opportunity to experience the technology for themselves and see just how simply and effectively it works”.

As well as having the latest assistive technology, the QSHI is fitted with appropriate fixtures and fittings, tiles and flooring, taps and toilets, and furnishings to assist older people and people with special needs.

Managing Director of LifeTec Queensland, James Barrientos is proud to be hosting the QSHI demonstrator.

“Traditionally LifeTec have assessed and referred people with various challenges and difficulties to assist them to live life to the full”, Mr Barrientos said.

“The QSHI adds a new dimension to our services, allowing people to fully see and understand the benefits of incorporating assistive technology into their care”.

The Queensland Smart Home Initiative is funded by LifeTec, Tunstall Healthcare, Queensland Health and the Home and Community Care program in Queensland, which is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments.



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In addition, the generous support from the University of Southern Queensland, the University of Queensland, U3A Online, and Council of the Ageing, ACU, HACC, COTA, ACQ, Bellman & Symfon, Active Medical, Beaumont Tiles and RAM Tapware is acknowledged.

From 29 May 2010 the QSHI demonstrator is open for viewing from the general public at Level 1, Reading Newmarket, Cnr Newmarket and Enoggera Rd, Newmarket.

To book a guided tour of the QSHI please call LifeTec on (07) 3552 9000.

Ends

If you require any additional information or images please contact Lauren Tucker, Marketing Coordinator 07 3637 2200, lauren.tucker@tunstallap.com
For more product information, case studies and latest news visit tunstallhealthcare.com

About Tunstall

With over 2.5 million users globally, Tunstall is the market leading provider of telecare and telehealth solutions. Tunstall's solutions support older people and those with long term needs, to live independently, by effectively managing their health and wellbeing. Tunstall provides technology, expertise and advice to millions of people enabling them to lead independent more fulfilling lives. For more information on how telecare and telehealth can improve quality of life, visit www.tunstallhealthcare.com.au



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