

## Alicia O'Brien, Occupational Therapist

Alicia O'Brien, Dip COT, SROT, MBA, qualified as an Occupational Therapist in 1982 at St. Loe's School in Exeter and gained extensive experience working with adults with physical disabilities in hospitals, in the community and in disabled individuals' homes.

Her first post, at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in Stanmore, Middlesex, gave her valuable experience in the treatment of complex orthopaedic conditions and in advanced rehabilitation of spinal injured adults.

In 1987, she joined the Social Services Department in Birmingham as the Head Occupational Therapist in a rehabilitation centre for people with a wide range of disabilities including head injuries, amputations, spinal injuries, progressive neurological conditions and congenital disabilities. She subsequently took up the post of Community Occupational Therapy Manager and was involved in structural adaptations of properties for disabled clients.

Since 1994, she has worked as a private practitioner providing assessment and rehabilitation services to health and local authorities, charities and private clients.

From 1995-1998 she was contracted to Birmingham Heartlands and Solihull NHS Trust, specialising in geriatric medicine, where she gained extensive experience in the assessment and rehabilitation of older patients who present with multiple and complex medical and social problems. During this time, she had the opportunity to set up a community rehabilitation project with nursing and physiotherapy staff aimed at preventing unnecessary hospital admissions.

Alicia also undertook research into cognitive assessments with a Consultant Geriatrician, which has subsequently been published.

She acts as formal independent investigator for Sandwell Social Services Department, investigating complaints against the lack of provision of adaptations to private residencies, having undertaken over 50 investigations.

In February 1998, she joined Swiss Re Life and Health Ltd. on a consultancy basis. Her work involves assessing claims for Long Term Care and Total and Permanent Disability, preparing reports and making recommendations for rehabilitation, care, equipment and alterations to the home, as well as addressing the eligibility of the claim.

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In 1998, Alicia joined Bush & Company Rehabilitation LLP as a Rehabilitation Cost Consultant and has prepared over 200 rehabilitation cost reports for clients who have sustained severe injuries as a result of an accident or medical negligence and given evidence in Court.

She has a longstanding interest in wheelchairs and tissue viability and more recently in the ageing process and cognitive impairment. She was involved in professional groups as Treasurer of a Birmingham Occupational Therapy sub-group and as Regional Representative for Occupational Therapists in Private Practice.

Throughout her career, she has always had an interest in management. In 1996 she gained a Masters in Business Administration at Birmingham University and has lectured on a variety of professional and management issues.

Alicia is registered with the Health Professions Council.



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Registered Office  
March House, Long March, Daventry, Northants NN11 4NR  
Tel 01327 876210 | Fax 01327 872559 | DX 155100 DAVENTRY 4

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