

September 9, 2009

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## ABI Awareness Week

Sandra O'Toole knows only too well the importance of rehabilitation following an acquired brain injury (ABI).

Sandra, a 54-year-old registered specialist nurse, experienced an ABI in November last year following major surgery to remove a brain tumour and is now preparing to return to work.

This is all thanks to the ongoing support of staff at the Memorial Hospital and Guide Dogs SA.NT ABI Vision Services.

People like Sandra will be encouraged to share their stories at the **ABI Awareness Week celebrations at Guide Dogs SA.NT on September 15.**

"Stories of recovery and hope will certainly encourage others," says Mark Battista, of Guide Dogs SA.NT.

"We assist people who have experienced vision loss following an ABI to enable them to learn new ways to use their residual vision.

"In cases like Sandra, she is not only looking at returning to work, but is also about to undertaking driver rehabilitation and assessment.

"Sandra is living proof that there is light at the end of the tunnel following an ABI.

"Many people find life really difficult following an ABI as they try to rebuild their lives. Help and encouragement, along with professional support like we provide at Guide Dogs SA.NT ABI Vision Services is very important."

About 500,000 Australians experience an ABI each year and many experience long-term vision problems. Many ABIs are caused by road accidents and strokes.

Ends

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Guide Dogs Association of SA and NT Inc | Full member of the International Guide Dog Federation

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