

Keynote Address at Closing Ceremony  
Saturday, 13 November 2010

Louise Farnworth

### **Who's looking after the unmet occupational needs of people living in the community? Is OT losing its focus?**

Rates of occupational therapy utilization differ between countries. Data from Scandinavia and Iceland report the highest ratios between the number of occupational therapists and the population. In Australia, occupational therapy utilization, while better than some countries, falls far short of potential employment opportunities for occupational therapists. This presentation will overview current occupational therapy employment and fieldwork learning issues in Victoria, focussing on groups of people living in the community without access to occupational therapy who may well have unmet occupational needs. Using case illustrations, the paper will outline the enormous opportunities for occupational therapy, but also the threats to the profession, and potential losses to the community, if we as a profession fail to be proactive in our response to these opportunities.