

Priority Needs for the St Vincent's **REHABILITATION UNIT**

The St Vincent's Hospital Rehabilitation Unit, based in the Sacred Heart building on Darlinghurst Road, cares for patients who have suffered stroke, cancer and neurological trauma or are recovering from major surgery or an accident.

The journey for patients in the Rehabilitation Unit is often long and slow as they re-learn motor skills that we mostly take for granted – walking, chewing, holding a cup of tea. For some patients, rehabilitation may extend over many years.

Dr Steven Faux, Director of the St Vincent's Hospital Rehabilitation Unit, has asked the Curran Foundation for funding support with equipment that will improve rehabilitation programmes for his patients who have suffered stroke.

As a generous and loyal donor to past Curran Foundation appeals for St Vincent's, we hope you may be able to assist us in purchasing the following equipment for items:

Electrical Splint for Arm Movement

This splint device is for patients who have lost movement of the arms and hands following a stroke.

At the touch of a switch, the splint produces a small electrical charge which helps the muscle in the affected arm to make a fist and open the fist. It essentially enables a person who has lost movement in their arm to carry things, while at the same time helping the muscles to strengthen.

Dr Steven Faux wishes to introduce this technology in a new specialised clinic at St Vincent's which will assist his stroke patients regain function and mobility.

The Paul & Elizabeth Curran Foundation
Locked Bag 395, St Vincent's Hospital
Darlinghurst NSW 1300

Phone: (02) 8382 9350 | Fax: (02) 8382 9351
Email: enquiries@curran-foundation.org.au
Web: www.curran-foundation.org.au

Walking Rehabilitation Platform

This computerised platform is for patients who are re-learning to walk. The device greatly enhances the accuracy of muscle testing in the legs and determines what treatment should be applied.

The platform measures the pressure of a patient's foot as it touches the ground and from this data the rehabilitation team can determine what therapy should be used and pinpoint exactly where it should be applied.

For example the platform can tell doctors where and when to use splints in order to strengthen weakened leg muscles and conversely, where and when to use botox which will relax overactive muscles. Currently these assessments are performed manually (that is the doctors and physiotherapists watch and video the patient's movement to make assessments).

With an electronic walking platform, the inaccuracies of observation will be greatly minimised and clinicians will be able to better determine the most appropriate course of therapy.

The Curran Foundation hopes to purchase a five metre walking platform at a cost of \$30,000 and one left arm and one right arm splint at a cost of \$22,000.

To support our appeal please complete the donation form enclosed and return in the reply-paid envelope provided.

[Thank you.](#)

