Here we are with 2006 almost over, (and Christmas sneaking up on us)! I can’t believe I’ve been at AROC almost a year, it only seems like yesterday that I arrived ... but Tara says she sees me as part of the furniture now ... which means I must have settled in OK!!

Given this is our last edition for the year I thought I’d take the opportunity to briefly review what AROC has achieved during 2006 – it certainly feels like we have been super busy:

- Published four issues of DataMatters
- Published two AROC Reports, the second in the new format, the development of which was a substantive undertaking
- Presented, or contributed to presentations at six conferences
- Drafted the inaugural State of the Nation Report with 2005 data (for publication shortly)
- Revised the AROC Strategic Plan, the AROC Funding Model and developed the AROC Operational Plan for 2005
- Won and commenced a research project for DVA – Alternate Models of Rehabilitation Care – a pilot study
- In conjunction with AFRM, reviewed the ACHS Rehabilitation Indicators
- Progressed the inclusion of the AROC dataset into the National Health Data Dictionary
- Reviewed the AROC Inpatient Dataset – version 3 will be implemented on 1 July 2007, in line with implementation of recommendations from the AN-SNAP classification revision
- Developed a draft AROC Ambulatory Dataset – implementation plan still being developed
- Commenced a review of the AROC Impairment Codes (a big thank you to all who contributed to our Orthopaedic 8.9 review)
- Extended our FIM licence to include the WeeFIM and held the inaugural WeeFIM training workshop in Australia. For more news regarding FIM please see the FIM News section on page 3
- Recruited 10 new members to AROC, which means 130 of the approx 140 rehabilitation units in Australia now belong to AROC
- Started recruiting in New Zealand – with the first facility to come on board in the new year

And all this whilst also doing the normal day to day running of AROC!! Yep, I was right, we have been busy!!

Frances Simmonds, AROC Manager
AROC Scientific and Clinical Advisory Committee – seeking interested rehabilitation physicians to join the committee

The AROC SCAC has increased the number of rehabilitation physician positions on the committee and is now seeking interest from clinicians interested in making a contribution to the ongoing development of AROC. The SCAC is a sub-committee of the AROC Management Advisory Board and is responsible for providing advice to AROC on matters relating to data and reporting policy, education and training issues and research priorities. Examples of issues SCAC has dealt with over the year are the review of the AROC Inpatient Dataset, the development of an ambulatory dataset, the review of the ACHS rehabilitation medicine clinical indicators, and so on. The SCAC meets 4 times a year, twice via teleconference and twice face to face. If you are interested or would like further information please contact Frances Simmonds, AROC Manager, on (02) 4221 4411.

AROC out and about

AROC has been represented at a number of conferences over the last few months. The conferences and the titles of the papers are listed below. Copies of each of these presentations are accessible through the AROC website: www.uow.edu.au/commerce/aroc

Australian Private Hospitals Association 26th National Congress (Gold Coast, 8-10 October, 2006)
The State of Orthopaedic Rehabilitation in Australia, 2005; Frances Simmonds

The 2006 Biennial Health Conference (Sydney, 14-16 November)
Rehabilitation in Australia, 2005; Frances Simmonds

Australian and New Zealand Spinal Cord Society 2006 Annual Scientific Meeting (Melbourne, 15-18 November)
Comparison of Traumatic SCI and Non-traumatic SCI Rehabilitation Outcomes using a Health-administration Database; Dr Peter New

The last presentation was the result of collaboration between AROC and Dr Peter New, a rehabilitation physician with an interest in research. The AROC database provides a rich source of information, and AROC encourages researchers to apply to access the database to support their research in the field of rehabilitation.

AROC Online Services

It's been a long time coming, but finally we can announce that AROC Online Services have gone live!!

From Monday 11 December 2006, facilities that have applied for and received a login and password (see application form on page 4) will be able to access AROC Online Services. That means they will be able to securely upload their data directly into the AROC database and immediately receive their data acknowledgement audit report. In addition, all AROC members will be able to download copies of their current or earlier AROC reports.

The FIM Exam is also going online. Also from 11 December, people wishing to become credentialed in the FIM tool will be able to sit the exam online, have it marked and receive their results immediately. To gain access to this service please contact AROC on (02) 4221 4411 or email fim@uow.edu.au. For further information on the online exam please visit www.uow.edu.au/commerce/aroc

AROC Impairment Code Review

One of the precursors to the above review was a review of the Orthopaedic 8.9 impairment code. Many facilities were kind enough to respond to our plea for help and contributed to our knowledge of what was actually being allocated to this code. The results from this review will be provided to the AROC SCAC sub-committee that has been convened to undertake a review of all of the AROC Impairment Codes. As part of the review, the sub-committee is also being asked to prepare a user guide to the AROC Impairment Codes, providing guidance on which impairments/conditions/diagnoses are appropriately allocated to which codes. We expect to be able to implement the reviewed AROC Impairment Codes in line with version 3 of the AROC Inpatient dataset, and the recommendations from the recent review of the AN-SNAP classification, namely 1 July 2007.

AROC Report — New Format

Thank you to all those who took the time to give us feedback about the new format of the AROC Report. I’m pleased to say that the feedback has been universally positive to date – it’s nice to know that the enormous effort (especially by Tara) that went into the re-design and re-programming of the reports has been appreciated. The next new thing will be the addition of some time-series data in the 2006 calendar year reports ... but first Christmas!!
Data Quality Score

As many of you would have seen we added a Data Quality Score to the AROC Report. Each of the items in the AROC data set is there for a reason, and missing data elements mean that the reporting AROC can do is not as complete as it could be. So we thought we’d indicate to you which items your facility was collecting and which it wasn’t … and hope that highlighting the missing data might encourage facilities to be even more vigilant about collecting all appropriate items for each episode!! As you can see from the table below, there is a range in scores …

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Min Data Quality Score</th>
<th>Max Data Quality Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>47.9</td>
<td>99.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vic</td>
<td>69.6</td>
<td>99.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qld</td>
<td>68.3</td>
<td>99.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>67.2</td>
<td>99.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>47.9</td>
<td>99.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FIM News

2006 can best be described as a period of consolidation following a year of growth in 2005. In all there were 21 workshops conducted throughout the country. This number was down on last year’s 26. Following a considerable delay in the launch of Version 01 of the exam there was a significant influx of exams received in the second half of the year. In all 2006 saw 771 clinicians credential for the first time and 167 renew their credentialling status for another two years (the overall pass rate for 2006 was 87.7%).

One of the highlights of the year was the Master Trainer's meeting that took place on July 25th at Darling Harbour. This meeting saw all Master Trainers come together either by phone or in person to discuss a range of issues relating to the exam, developing consistency in training and the overall direction of FIM in the coming year.

It is anticipated that 2007 will be a year of strengthening the quality of the FIM training procedure and protocol as well as introducing the exciting new Online FIM Exam. For more information regarding this please see page two. There are plans to roll out the WeeFIM tool and to conduct the training early in 2007.

Upcoming Workshops

AROC is currently in the process of confirming the dates for next year’s AROC run workshops. At the moment AROC is looking at running the following workshops in 2007:

- **NSW**—4 FIM Workshops, planned for February, May, August and November, with 1 Facility Trainer workshop in July.
- **VIC**—2 FIM Workshops, planned for March and September, with 1 Facility Trainer Workshop in June.
- **QLD**—2 FIM Workshops, planned for April and October, with 1 Facility Trainer Workshop in June.

If you, or you have staff who, would be interested in attending one of these workshops **PLEASE LET US KNOW** as soon as possible so we can confirm numbers and organise appropriate dates. Please call (02) 4221 4411.

SNAPSHOT UPDATE

A new version of SNAPSHOT is expected to be available from 1 July 2007. Please forward any suggestions for revisions to Frances Simmonds, AROC Manager, as soon as possible, so they can be assessed and included in the new version workplan if appropriate.

SNAPSHOT UPDATE

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AROC Online Services application form

AROC Online Services (AOS) is a secure web-based system that will provide automated online data audit and submission, data extraction and reporting to members of AROC. The Phase 1 release will provide an immediate email acknowledgement and data audit when your facility’s data are submitted online. You will also be able to view or download all your AROC reports. The Phase 2 release will enable you to easily extract and download your facility’s data directly from the AROC database. You will also be able to ensure your facility’s contact details are up to date.

NOTE: AROC Member facilities will be issued with one username and password for use by all staff at that facility.

AROC Member details

Facility name: __________________________________________________________
Ward name: __________________________________________________________

Details of staff member applying for AOS login

Name: ________________________________________________________________
Position: _____________________________________________________________
Email: ________________________________________________________________
Phone: _______________________________________________________________
Fax: _________________________________________________________________

Authorisation for AOS login (to be completed by CEO, Hospital Director, Director of Rehab as appropriate)

As a member facility we agree to access AROC Online Services in accordance with procedures to be notified to us by AROC from time to time, for the sole purposes of:

- Uploading AROC data
- Accessing AROC Reports
- Accessing hospital-specific AROC data (Phase 2)
- Updating hospital-specific details (Phase 2)

We, the member facility, agree to safeguard access to AROC Online Services by limiting the number of employees who have access to AOS to those who have a reasonable requirement for access and for whom we have authorised this access. We agree to ensure that no unauthorised persons have access to AROC Online Services.

We agree to immediately notify AROC if there has been any failure to observe these terms and conditions regarding AROC Online Services.

We agree to indemnify and to keep AROC indemnified in respect of any claim for damages or otherwise arising out of the failure by us, the member facility, to observe these terms and conditions regarding AROC Online Services.

Name: ________________________________________________________________
Position: ______________________________________________________________
Signature: ___________________________ Date: __/__/____

To be completed by AROC staff

Date received: __/__/____
Date processed: __/__/____