

E-HEALTH THE AUSTRALIAN WAY

Bill McGuiness, School of nursing and Midwifery, La Trobe University, (Melbourne Australia); **Donna Angel** Royal Perth Hospital (Perth, Western Australia)

The population of Australia is only 25 million people but they are dispersed over 7.6 million square kilometres. Whilst the majority of people live along the east coast of Australia between Brisbane and Melbourne there are still several millions that live in the regional and remote areas. This tyranny of distance makes the equitable provision of health care services a challenge. To help address the inequitable distribution of services the governments of Australia have begun implementing e-health alternatives. This presentation details some of the e-health initiatives within Australia. Examples of video consultation, email consultation, remote patient assessment and the use of robotics will be explored. Standards and protocol to facilitate this form of health care delivery will be discussed. The presentation also provides a firsthand account of a nurse practitioner who provides a weekly e-health service.