

After an illustrious career in adult and paediatric rehabilitation medicine spanning over 40 years, Associate Professor Barry Rawicki is retiring from the Victorian Paediatric Rehabilitation Service (VPRS).

Barry obtained his medical degree in 1978 at the University of Melbourne and his specialist qualifications in 1985. He was appointed Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine, Monash University in 1999. His research interests include spasticity and pain management, and he has co-authored over 35 papers and book chapters in these areas. He was involved in much of the pioneering work in Australia in the use of both botulinum toxin and intrathecal baclofen in spasticity management.

Barry has been instrumental in bringing paediatric rehabilitation to Monash Children's Hospital and the Southeast Region of Victoria. He helped found the Monash Children's Hospital Paediatric Rehabilitation Unit in 2007 and as Medical Director of the Victorian Paediatric Rehabilitation Service at Monash Children's, he has grown it from a unit with only 4 staff to now 38 staff including medical, nursing, allied health and administration. He has developed inpatient and outpatient services that include programs and clinics to support the rehabilitation needs of children with acquired brain injury, cerebral palsy, chronic fatigue syndrome, post stroke, spinal cord injury, brain tumour excision and more. He has established and fostered a botulinum toxin and intrathecal baclofen service for children with spasticity. He has also provided outreach services to country Victoria and Tasmania to assist in the access and development of botulinum toxin services and rehabilitation care in these areas. Barry supported the VPRS team in Latrobe for many years, and the team thanks can be found at [Torch passed in paediatric rehabilitation at LRH - LRH](#)

Alongside this he has mentored and taught numerous trainees in Paediatric and Adult Rehabilitation medicine and has always been incredibly generous with his time and knowledge. His teaching and knowledge translation includes workshops and presentations in spasticity management, anatomy and gait assessment in numerous conferences and training forums both nationally and internationally. He has a constantly questioning mind and despite his great knowledge and experience has expressed "you never stop learning".

Barry has had many leadership roles within the AFRM including Chair of the Board of Continuing Education and Head of Registrar Training. He was president and board member of the Victorian Brain Injury Recovery Association for over 10 years.

Barry has also generously contributed to fostering rehabilitation services in middle income and developing countries such as India, Indonesia, Cambodia and Papua New Guinea. Barry was awarded OAM in 2021 [Monash Health recognised in Queen's Birthday 2021 Honours List | Monash Health](#). One of our favourite memories is eating deep fried spiders with Barry in Cambodia!

Barry will be missed but we know he is keeping busy with a new private clinic, bike riding in Lycra, his now 5 grandchildren and wonderful wife Tamara.

Written by

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