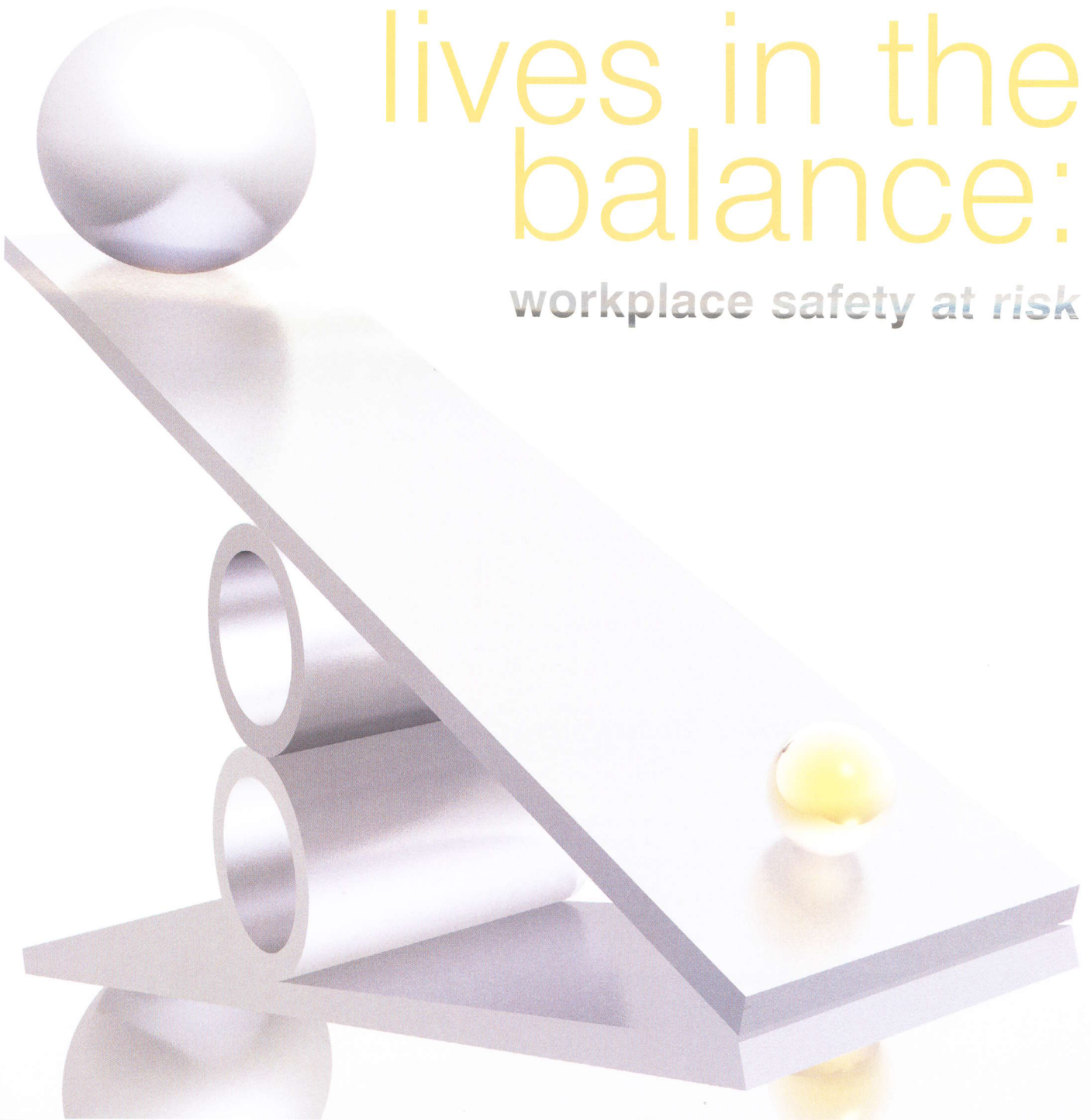


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AUSTRALIAN NURSING JOURNAL

lives in the
balance:
workplace safety *at risk*



'perioperative education' highlighted the innovative work that the La Trobe

three week clinical placement in an acute health facility with objectives to relate the learned knowledge to practice and to

- pain management,
- nausea and vomiting,
- airway management, and
- medications.

References

Sigsby, L.M. 2004. Perioperative Clinical Learning Experiences. *AORN Journal*, 80(3):476,479,481-484, 486, 489-490.

Smart new surgical device for nurses

Nurses working in operating theatres around the country are expected to benefit from the availability of a new invention designed to protect them from scalpel injuries.

The Qlicksmart Cassette 3in 1 is the worlds' first single handed scalpel blade remover. It requires only one hand to activate and the blades are safely removed and contained in a transparent casing.

Qlicksmart managing director, Brisbane based Dr Michael Sinnott said the device represents a "revolution" in surgical safety.

"The Cassette 3in 1 will help end scalpel injuries. It was invented to protect nurses in particular because they are at highest risk for sustaining

sharps injuries (43.5%) in operating theatres where there is also a high risk of bloodborne infection," Dr Sinnott said.

The invention was developed by Dr Neville Henry AM, a retired emergency physician, in conjunction with Prodesign, one of Australia's leading design companies.

Dr Sinnott said a nurse inspired Dr Neville to invent the device after lamenting on the use of an old pair of artery forceps hanging from a string to remove a scalpel blade. "Around 14 years ago a nurse called Anne Todkill who was working with Neville Henry in theatre remarked to him that there must be a better way of removing blades.

"Neville went home that weekend and invented a single handed scalpel blade remover. Over the last six to eight years and with lots of blood, sweat and tears we managed to raise \$3 million to perfect the design. It has since been short-listed for an international design award by INDEX for designs that make a difference to the world."

Clinical nurse Jeanne Fremont from the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane was involved in trials for the Cassette 3in 1 over several years and believes the final design is 'hard to beat'.

"Coming from an operating theatre background I have seen some really innovative ways to remove scalpel blades.

I have held concerns and fears for my own safety and my colleagues also. I have watched the evolution of each prototype of the device and I believe what we have now is a safer way for nurses to remove scalpel blades and that can only be a good thing."

The Qlicksmart design company hopes to launch an extended range of safety devices into the future. "We are starting to get some people with great inventions and we hope over the next year or two to help others get their products out to the international market," Dr Sinnott said.

www.qlicksmart.com