

## **VISIBILITY - TESTIMONIAL**

Visibility made contact with the lead researcher in this field, Dr. Greg Goodrich at the Department of Veteran Affairs, Palo Alto, California. Recent work by Goodrich's team has used Neuro Vision Technology (NVT) as a vision rehabilitation tool for traumatic brain injury and polytrauma (patients with multiple, severe injuries.) The information gathered in the initial stages of the project shows that NVT provides a unique and valuable tool in the rehabilitation of visual function in patients with visual field loss and/or neglect. Fife Society for the Blind has pioneered use of this equipment in Scotland with stroke patients. Using this emerging evidence Visibility applied to the Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded (now Scottish War Blinded, SWB) to fund a two year rehabilitation project. The project was called Sealladh which is Scottish Gaelic for 'sight'.

In the Sealladh Evaluation professionals were asked about the outcomes for their clients, they identified the following, rank ordered by frequency.

- Improved ability to use compensatory scanning
- Increased confidence
- Increased independence
- Improved performance on everyday tasks
- Increased outdoor mobility
- Less reliance on others
- Registration as blind or partial sight
- Additional aids and equipments
- Improved financial situation
- Improved housing
- Return to work

Professionals were also asked to describe benefits to patients and again improved confidence, independence, outdoor mobility were frequently quoted.

Professionals saw the outcomes for families in terms of increased mobility and independence of their family member but also identified how much the families welcomed the support and help.

One professional identified the importance of the support being available from the hospital setting to the community setting and being available in the person's home. This was a factor mentioned by two of the participants and their families who felt that the continuity of support was a valuable part of the program.