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... force," wrote a male student.
 "Girls aren't welcome at the mill or in apprenticeships," another respondent wrote.

... improve their employment prospects," Professor Alloway said.
 "There has been a lot of talk about gender imbalance in terms

... cent women to 15 per cent
 At the time, it was be
 rural young men were
 out on university edu



EMPATHY: District disabilities worker Robert Pyne explains to first-year nursing students the needs of disabled patients. Picture: Tanya Dower

Disabled care plea

By Flora Sciberras

DISABLED patients suffer under the policy of normalisation in hospitals when treated in the same way as able-bodied people, JCU regional disability liaison worker Robert Pyne says.

Mr Pyne, a quadriplegic, spoke to first-year nursing students about how the policy of treating disabled people normally could lead to abuse.

"Disabled people cannot be treated like able-bodied people, as if nothing has happened to them," he said.

Nursing staff needed to understand the transformation that had occurred in a patient in a short space of time.

"In the space of a couple of days, you are transformed from a rugged, independent person who needs nobody to someone totally dependent," he said.

For young men who like to impress with their machismo and virility, finding themselves in this position was unbearable, Mr

Pyne said. One of the hardest issues quadriplegics had to deal with was bladder and bowel management during rehabilitation, he said.

"This is literally the most embarrassing thing in their lives, so the highest degree of professionalism is needed."

During his time in hospital, Mr Pyne said, he noticed a difference in care and professionalism between registered and enrolled nurses.

"I feel enrolled nurses were less professional in their dealings with disabled patients and misapplied the normalisation policy."

Nursing student Chantelle Franciskovic agreed different levels of educational training affected professional outcomes.

While registered nurses were trained extensively, enrolled nurses received shorter and simpler training, she said.

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