



Board Communiqué

June 2017

The Wounds Australia Board met by teleconference on Wednesday 21 June 2017. A number of important matters were considered by the Board:

Venous Leg Ulcer Guidelines

The Board received feedback from the NHMRC on the Venous Leg Ulcer Guidelines developed by Wounds Australia as part of the Pan Pacific Alliance. The NHMRC's clinical expert and methodological reviews have highlighted some areas of evidence interpretation and recommendation development which require further work. While this was disappointing news, the Board is committed to developing world leading guidelines. The Board has asked the Guideline Development Group to undertake further work based on these reviews. Unfortunately, the launch of the Guidelines will be deferred until further notice.

Wounds Australia National Conference 2018

The Wounds Australia National Conference 2018 is a major activity for Wounds Australia. While the Conference Committee is managing the delivery of the conference, the Board is responsible for ensuring good corporate governance is in place to support the conference. The conference budget and reporting arrangements were discussed by the Board and key decisions on the budget were taken. Once the final budget is approved, the Conference Committee will be able to work within the budget to develop an exciting and stimulating conference for Wounds Australia.

Recent media on wound management

Members may have read the recent article in the Fairfax press in which claims were made about a lack of education in wound management for medical professionals. [Wounds left to fester for years because of poor treatment, research centre says](#), and the subsequent media statement by the [Wound Management and Innovation CRC](#).

The Wounds Australia Board is very concerned that the article suggested that the reason people suffer from wounds for a long period of time is due to the lack of training for medical professionals. Wounds Australia was approached by the journalist for comment on the claims made by the CRC but our comment was not included in the article. The Board would like to make sure members are aware of Wounds Australia's position on this matter.

Wounds Australia recognises that there are many reasons people are not able to access best practice wound care including the cost of treatment, dressings and access to specialist wound services. General practitioners play an important role in diagnosing and treating wounds, and helping their patients access specialist treatment. Wounds Australia is committed to working with our members, other health professional organisations, health services, consumers and carers to improve access to best practice wound care.

Wound Awareness Week

Wound Awareness Week will be held from Monday 16 October to Friday 20 October 2017. Planning for Wounds Awareness Week has commenced and information will be released shortly through member e-blasts.

Helen McGregor
Chair – Wounds Australia Board