



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Revised health care standards retreat from action on preventable pressure injuries.**

Wounds Australia is concerned that the new edition of the National Safety and Quality Health Care Standards will lead to more pressure injuries in Australian health services.

Pressure injuries are a common and costly health care complication. Recent surveys have found around 1 in 10 patients in hospital had a pressure injury.

The estimated cost to the Australian health care sector of pressure injuries is almost \$1billion annually.

“Wounds Australia is extremely disappointed that the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) has downgraded the focus on pressure injury and we are worried that more patients will develop pressure injury as a result” said Ms Buck, CEO of Wounds Australia.

“Reducing pressure injury requires a leadership, a sustained focus on quality improvement and investment in systems and education to enable clinicians to provide best practice in injury prevention for individual patients.” Ms Buck said.

“In a busy clinical unit, preventative pressure injury strategies often compete with other patient needs. A concerted effort backed by strong standards is needed to ensure all patients get best practice care.”

Wounds Australia is urging the ACSQHC to reconsider the emphasis given to pressure injury, to ensure pressure injury prevention is front of mind for patients, family and health care professionals.

[Wounds Australia](#) is the peak body for wounds care and management in Australia through advocacy, education and research. Wounds Australia develops and publishes guidelines on the prevention and management of pressure injury.

Pressure injury is a localised injury to the skin and/or underlying tissue usually over a bony prominence, as a result of pressure, shear and/or friction, or a combination of these factors.

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**For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Alys Francis on 0476 287 787 or [alys@fiftyacres.com](mailto:alys@fiftyacres.com)**