**Title**

An Innovative Solution for Chronic Wounds in General Practice

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**Background**

Chronic wounds are an under-recognised problem in Australian healthcare. They receive little attention and investment compared to other chronic conditions.

Managing chronic wounds is a significant part of general practice .Unfortunately, due to numerous barriers, Australians suffering from chronic wounds do not receive best evidenced care.

**Aims**

Explore the barriers to the implementation of evidenced based practice, the broad solutions which clearly involve general practice and governing medical bodies and examine the results of an innovative specialised wound clinic in primary care.

**Method**

In 2012 a company, WoundBusters, was formed by a GP and a wound nurse to improve education and skills of practice nurses, GPs, medical students and GP registrars. For 4 years they also ran an award winning secondary level specialised wound clinic for the community until lack of funding resulted in the clinic closing.

The wound clinic established a unique model of integrated care with the Gold Coast Hospital, local private hospitals, GPs and specialists. This successful model that allowed public hospital patients to be treated in the community is now being reviewed for wider implementation in the Gold Coast public health region.

**Results**

Evaluation of the Wound Busters clinic and education program showed high satisfaction with improved knowledge and skills especially with diagnosis, compression and debridement.

The Gold Coast Hospital reported a reduction in wound out-patients, reduction in hospital length of stay and an overall saving of $880,000 on diabetic feet alone over a 2 year period.

**Conclusion**

Chronic wounds in Australia can no longer be ignored. Evidenced based management from new research and guidelines are not filtering through to general practice which is the coal face of managing wounds. Governing bodies need to take a stronger role to make change.

The Wound Busters model has proven results deserving support and replication around Australia.