



Australian Wound Management Association Inc

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Highlights: AWMA Committee Meeting, 16 and 17 May 2009 held in Brisbane Queensland

Wound Awareness Campaign:

Wound Awareness Week 30 March -6 April 2009 saw all States and Territories organising activities which emphasised wounds and their impact on clients, carers, health professionals and the community. Some states were able to achieve media coverage, including TV and radio in Tasmania and this undoubtedly increased community and governmental awareness of wounds and their impact on the lives of those living with a wound. I was able to attend the well organised and well attended events in NSW and Tasmania this year.

Collaborative Research Centre (CRC) for Wound Solutions

Unfortunately the CRC for Wounds Solutions proposal was not accepted this round. There is an opportunity to submit another proposal in July 2009. Allison Cowin and the QUT leaders in the proposal will review the current document and revise it for resubmission in July 2009.

Joanna Briggs Institute Wound Management Node (JBI node)

The Joanna Briggs Institute Wound Management node will be known as JBI/AWMA node. Curtin University will remain the senior partner and has graciously agreed to the recognition of AWMA in the name of the node. A Chair will be appointed; Assoc Prof Keryln Carville and Assoc Prof Michael Woodward have agreed to co-chair the JBI/AWMA node. The 100 evidence summaries which are to be developed will be available through JBI. The first evidence summaries will be in the field of venous leg ulcers to assist the sub-committee developing the venous leg ulcer guidelines. State and Territory committees are encouraged to submit requests for evidence summaries which would inform the clinical practice of their members. These requests are to be submitted to Juliet Scot.

Wound therapies (products) access scheme.

Jill Storch, Tasmania, has kindly agreed to dilute her retirement and is leading the preparation of a proposal to be presented to the Federal Government. We will also submit to the Health Technology Assessment Review in May 2009 and the results may affect AWMA's proposal for an access scheme. The media coverage in a number of states and territories during WAW should have a positive affect on the impact of our proposal.

AWMA structure

The Committee spent considerable time discussing this and felt that to achieve the goals of the Wound Awareness Campaign, including a wound therapies access scheme, we need a more visible presence, including a shopfront, secretariat and CEO, as do most other similar professional organisations (podiatrists, pharmacists, dietitians, Diabetes

Australia, GPs, nursing bodies etc). This requires our current structure, a federation of state and territory wound management associations, to be reviewed. A proposal has gone out to the states and ACT to consider.

Venous Leg Ulcer Guidelines (VLUG)

The NHMRC GAR (Guidelines Assessment Registry) officer has been appointed and several meetings have already been held. We have employed a research assistance to locate and collate all relevant articles/studies, for the VLUG Sub-Committee and others to grade. This will feed into the Guidelines. It is still intended to produce a first draft, for consultation, by the AWMA Perth conference in March 2010.

Infection position document

Sue Templeton has completed this document with input from states and territories; the final version will be launched in the near future and will be published on AWMA website.

Skin tear position document

Edel Murray has been appointed as chairperson of this working group and it is anticipated the document will be released at the AWMA conference in Perth.

International Lymphoedema Initiatives

Jan Rice has agreed to represent AWMA at the GIWLC conference in Geneva in October 2009. Jan has also agreed to liaise with the president of the Australian Lymphoedema Association to consider development of education to support health care professionals when caring for clients with lymphoedema associated with leg ulcers.

AWMA 2009 Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held in Brisbane on Friday 15 May 2009 at 6.00pm at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane. There were 45 members and other interested persons presented. The education session which followed was an exciting presentation of a case study with various health care professionals providing their perspectives from a medical, nursing, podiatrist and dietician management.

AMWA Conference in 2010 in Perth

Plans are progressing for the conference to be held in Perth on 24-27 March 2010. As details become available you will be informed via the News Release, journal and your state or territory association.

With regards

Michael Woodward

**Associate Professor Michael Woodward.
AWMA President**