



AWMA National Executive Committee and AWMA State Presidents Workshop Summary

Dear Member,

This document has been prepared to provide information and answer some common questions about the proposed Nationalisation of AWMA through the establishment of and transition to Wounds Australia. We are reaching the culmination of nearly three years of work to establish a single, national professional body to represent and develop wound management in Australia. However, this was preceded by the first Restructure work done between 2009 and 2012 to standardise many of the conditions and benefits of AWMA membership. So, it's been a long journey and the support of members during the process has been greatly appreciated. We are all passionate about wound management - Nationalisation will give us a combined, consolidated organisation that will work to improve patient outcomes and support clinicians, educators and researchers.

Background and Purpose:

An invitation to participate in an information sharing workshop hosted by AWMA (ACT) in early March 2015 was offered to the AWMA committee. The workshop was facilitated by three experienced people that were members of other boards. Their experience offered direction to assist AWMA in transitioning to Wounds Australia.

This also included a brief review of the Wounds Australia constitution and potential gaps.

Unfortunately limited members of the AWMA executive committee were able to attend the ACT meeting however the intent of the meeting was quickly recognised to be a valuable opportunity to progress our transition. Therefore all state and territory presidents and a second committee member representing their state attended a forum held in Sydney on 21 March 2015 to discuss Nationalisation and make recommendations to the AWMA committee. The following details are answers to some of the questions discussed at this successful workshop. It is hoped that this might answer some of the questions you have about Nationalisation and Wounds Australia.

Q1 Why is AWMA undergoing Nationalisation and becoming Wounds Australia?

- *One professional organisation representing wound management in Australia, rather than seven state and territory Associations and one national Association.*
- *One Constitution, rather than eight.*
- *Members will truly be members of a national Association (at present members are only a member of the state or territory in which they hold membership, except for members of AWMA(NT) who are members of AWMA national).*
- *Ability to pool and utilise accumulated funds to better achieve the organisation's objectives.*
- *Implement a broader, national Board of Directors structure that will include key wound management health professionals and persons with expertise in other areas (this might*



include: health policy; higher education curriculums; politics, business administration; and promotion, profile and marketing).

- *Ability to employ staff to support and grow the organisation (to reduce the reliance on volunteer members working in their own time and with limited skills in areas such as political lobbying).*
- *Have increased influence and respect in political, policy and jurisdictional areas.*
- *Explore new opportunities for increased revenue.*
- *Have consistent privileges and benefits for members.*
- *Have an easily recognisable name.*

Q2 How do I join Wounds Australia?

- *As the State and Territory Associations hold an AGM or Special Meeting at which members will be asked to vote on winding up their current Association. It is necessary for each Association to wind up as an independent Association if they want to join Wounds Australia. If the vote to wind up is passed, current members will automatically become members of Wounds Australia from the date of the local association wind up. This will be a seamless process that will be managed by the current AWMA Membership Secretariat. There is no additional fee.*
- *As part of the wind up process local Association funds will be donated to Wounds Australia, where local groups will be allocated a Cost Centre to allow for continued support of local events and member privileges and benefits.*
- *Membership fees, conditions, benefits and privileges will remain unchanged on joining Wounds Australia. In the future there might be different and increased benefits and privileges to members of Wounds Australia.*

Q3 What will be the membership of the Wounds Australia board?

The initial Wounds Australia board will be the current AWMA committee of 16 members. Following the inaugural Wounds Australia AGM in November 2015 the board will consist of 9 directors. Six of these will be elected and will also be our Key Result Area (KRA) leaders. Three will be invited directors recognised to have a specific skill set which will benefit the company.

Q4 Will the local wound groups in each State and Territories continue?

Yes, although each State and Territory will no longer have its own Constitution and will no longer be a separate Association. A single Wounds Australia constitution will be in place to govern the organisation throughout Australia. The constitution will be supported by an operations manual containing by-laws governing the day to day running and business rules of Wounds Australia.

All operational tasks can be completed centrally by Wounds Australia. This will include administrative functions, membership services, accounting, auditing, website management and newsletter



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production. The operational management of the company will be supported by a CEO and an administrative team.

Local wound groups will continue to function to promote education and networking opportunities for local members in the state and territories. This will require a core committee working locally to plan events, support local members and communicate the strategic direction of Wounds Australia. It is planned to continue other local benefits of membership such as scholarships and grants.

Q5 What will this mean for me as a member?

There will be little change to the benefits and privileges local members receive. With the pooling of resources it is hoped that Wounds Australia can offer members increased benefits and privileges in the future.

Q6 How will Wounds Australia afford to employ a CEO and administrative team?

Currently AWMA has contracts with staff to provide clerical support, membership services, website services, book keeping and financial auditing. Each state and territory is also paying fees for similar services. Combining the costs should produce cost savings for National operations across the board. In addition, the current State and Territory Associations have funds producing interest in long term investment accounts. Combining all funds into one account will recover valuable interest to support the operational costs.

Q7 When will a CEO be employed?

To assist in the transition and to facilitate the Wounds Australia staff contract an Expression of Interest for a part-time locum CEO is being prepared, envisaging employment in the 2nd half of 2015.

Q8 Will my membership fee increase?

It is not planned to increase membership fees for Full, Associate or Corporate Organisation membership.

Q9 How will my annual membership fee be spent in the future?

Currently the \$90 Full membership fee is divided in half with \$45 to the State and Territory Associations and \$45 to AWMA National. Once Wounds Australia commences 100% of the member's fee will remain with Wounds Australia to fund national projects and operations.

Q10 Will the States and Territories keep their current funds?



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Once Wounds Australia is established and the State and Territory Associations have agreed to wind up, all funds will be transferred to Wounds Australia by the 31st December 2015. As a safety net each State and Territory will have a safety net amount of \$30,000 quarantined for a 12 month period.

Q11 How will funds be accessed by the States and Territories to conduct education events?
Each State and Territory will be expected to prepare an annual budget. This will be reviewed by the board of directors for allocation.