

Chronic Wounds: The Hidden Epidemic

What are chronic wounds?

Chronic wounds are wounds which take more than three months to heal, fail to heal by conventional medical or surgical means, or are recurring. Wounds can be accidental, surgical or occur because of underlying disease. The wounds that the CRC is focusing on include burns, diabetic foot ulcers, pressure injuries, leg ulcers, skin tears and acute/surgical wounds.

Why are chronic wounds a problem?

- Approximately 450,000 Australians currently suffer with a chronic wound
- Most wounds are not properly diagnosed
- Most wounds are not properly treated
- Wound Care is not recognised as a medical speciality
- Healthcare providers receive virtually no formal wound training
- Reimbursement is insufficient for treating chronic wounds
- Wounds affect the general population but are most prevalent in the aged and those with diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular disease the rates of which are all increasing

3%

of the population aged over 60 years are affected by Leg Ulcers

70%

of patients have recurrent leg ulcers for 15 or more years

70%

of patients with venous leg ulcers never receive best practice

80%

of patients with venous leg ulcers are healed within 24 weeks when they receive best practice

450,000

Australians suffer with a chronic wound

\$3_b

The cost of wound management in Australia per annum. However, the costs of wounds are not properly understood, and this is a conservative estimate

15 years

People can have a painful and debilitating wound that can weep and smell for 15 or more years

How is the Wound CRC addressing this challenge?



Delivering high-impact near term research to become globally recognised as the experts in wound biology and healing



Next generation wound products yielding revenues that can continue to support cutting edge research



World leading clinical and educational resources and a network of sustainable wound research clinics



Education of researchers, healthcare providers and patients. A network of connected wound specialists will continue to deliver outcomes beyond the CRC funding

For more information please visit us at www.woundcrc.com