

Royal Commission into Aged Care



The Royal Commission into Aged Care inquiry for Australian residential and home care services began in January 2019 and will continue until April 2020 when the elected commissioners will have their final report for submission with an interim report due by 31st October 2019. Since the commencement of the hearings it has been heard that wound management within aged care is an area that requires action to improve current practices.

The Royal Commission has provided an opportunity to get to the real heart of the issues facing those living with a wound in aged care services by hearing from those who live with a wound and their families as well as health care providers. Wounds Australia was invited to share their thoughts on the issue with both A/Professor Geoff Sussman and Mrs. Hayley Ryan being summons to appear at the Northern Territory hearings on the 11th July 2019.

Initially a working party headed by board members Dr Katy Melrose, Mrs Hayley Ryan and A/Professor Geoff Sussman was established to provide comment of issues to be discussed with an EOI sent to all members. We would like to thank Andrea Minnis, Jan Rice, Jonnine Boreham, Lusi Jiang, Monika Samolyk and Rebecca Iseli who contributed to the application in the short time frame we were given. Both A/Professor Geoff Sussman and Mrs. Hayley Ryan gave evidence to the commissioners on several topics including; wound care statistics, the causes of wounds, prevention of wounds, the use of appropriate wound dressings, substandard wound care and recommendations to improve wound management within aged care.

Both A/Professor Geoff Sussman and Mrs. Hayley Ryan felt the commissioners were most engaged with their responses and felt that the Wounds Australia message was clear and succinct.

After the hearing (broadcast live) many responses of gratitude were received;

“Love your passion, love your work, WELL DONE and thank you to you both for your testimony and for caring” M.Carale Aged Care Specialists

“what a wonderful cause and great to see you both so passionate you clearly complimented each other, and this is excellent for the future of wounds in aged care” Professor Richardson

“This was not only giving evidence for the aged industry but knowledge sharing, great to see” Dr. Stephenson, GP

If you wish to watch the hearing you can visit the below link (Wounds Australia feature at the end of the clip) <https://webstreaming.lawinorder.com.au/acrc>