

Strengthening Wound Management Practice: Information sheet for Rural Region Wound Management Training Grants

1. Background

In May 2008, the Minister for Senior Victorians announced a range of initiatives to strengthen wound management practice in Victoria, with a particular focus on district nursing and public sector residential aged care services (PSRACS). The establishment of the Rural Region Wound Management Training Grants is one of these initiatives.

2. Aim of Regional Wound Management Training Grant

To improve outcomes for clients of Home and Community Care (HACC) funded district nursing services and high care residents of PSRACS by strengthening wound management practice of staff providing these services. This aim would be achieved through enabling a targeted education and training strategy to be developed and implemented across all district nursing and PSRACS with high care beds in Victoria's rural regions.

3. Target group:

Within the 5 rural regions:

- All HACC funded district nursing services. Each district nursing service would be required to target appropriate staff to attend the sessions based on training already received and role within the agency.
- All PSRACS with high care beds in the rural regions. Each PSRACS would be required to allocate appropriate direct care Registered Nurses (division one or two) to attend this education.
- The engagement and involvement of some general practice nurses in this process can also be explored.

4. Development and Management of initiative

Department of Human Services regional offices will work with local stakeholders to determine an agency to act as regional funds holder and coordinator for the grants.

It is expected that a consultation process will occur with district nursing and PSRACS agencies to determine how the grant will be expended in each region, and that a clear and collaborative training plan will be developed.

5. Training Structure and Content

While flexibility with training delivery is important, and regions will have ultimate discretion in this aspect, the following considerations should be taken into account:

- The intent of the training funds is to give the opportunity for staff to undergo a foundation course on wound management. The estimated course time would be between three to four days. It is envisaged that 30 participants would be able to attend each course. An example of a foundation wound management program developed by Nursing and Midwifery Education, Southern Health is provided as an attachment to illustrate this type of approach.

- If in parts of some regions agencies have already provided staff with access to this training and there is a preference that a proportion of the funds is used to provide more specific training (for example, diabetic foot ulcer management), this can occur, but the rationale for this approach would need to be clearly articulated.
- It is envisaged that courses will be attended jointly by both district nursing staff and PSRACS agencies staff. While this is the preferred course, if strong reasons exist as to why training needs to be delivered separately this is permissible.
- A range of qualified providers are available to deliver wound management training in Victoria. For example, training providers used to implement the wound dressing subsidy pilot projects training with district nursing included: Woundscope, Royal District Nursing Service and Jan Rice (formerly of Wound Foundation of Australia, now of W.O.W., LaTrobe University). The training purchased through the Rural Region Wound Management Training Grants is to be provided by independent providers such as the examples above rather than wound management product companies.
- Wound management clinical nurse consultant positions have been funded and are in development in each region. These positions are designed to provide an additional resource for staff in district nursing and PSRACS by offering mentoring and support when managing chronic and complex wounds. Following recruitment to these positions, the clinical nurse consultant should be involved in the development and implementation of the training program.

6. Evaluation

Evaluation of each course should be incorporated into its structure.

Broader evaluation of the impact of the range of strategies included within the Strengthening Wound Management Practice initiative will be undertaken at a statewide level.

7. Funding Amount

Each rural region has been funded a grant of \$60,000 of one off funds. A component of these funds can be used by the funds holding agency to organise and coordinate the training, including consulting with relevant stakeholders.

8. Further Information

For further information please contact your relevant Regional Aged Care or HACC contact or from Aged Care Branch Kriss McKie on (03) 9096 7988 or kris.mckie@dhs.vic.gov.au or Lisa Jarvie on (03) 9096 6963 or lisa.jarvie@dhs.vic.gov.au.

Attachment 1: Example of a foundation wound management course

Course title- Foundation Wound Management Program

Course duration

3 days (18 hours)	Off-the-job (Classroom based learning activities)
4 hours	On-the-job (Clinical activity, resident/client assessment and preparation of a written wound management plan)

Course aim

This course is designed to assist registered nurses develop foundational level knowledge and skills to provide contemporary wound management practises for the care of residents/clients with acute, complex and chronic wounds.

Course participants

The program is designed to meet the learning needs of Registered nurses Division 1 & 2 currently employed in high level Residential Aged Care Services (RACS). Potential participants must be dealing with clients with chronic and or complex wound care needs.

Course learning objectives

At completion of the course the participants will be expected to be able to:

1. Describe the gross anatomy and physiology of the skin.
2. Briefly describe the physiological stages of wound healing.
3. Differentiate between methods of wound closure.
4. Describe factors which will adversely impact wound healing
5. Identify the typical diagnostic features of chronic/complex wounds commonly seen in residential health care settings (emphasis on pressure ulcers, skin tears, possibly malignant lesions for example, SCC & BCC, lacerations).
6. Discuss the characteristics of modern wound dressings and related wound therapeutics.
7. Perform a systematic health assessment of a resident requiring complex/chronic wound management. & prepare a written case study/report.
8. Develop a wound management care plan for a client that reflects analysis of the assessment information and includes an appropriate wound dressing regime, including specific reference to time frame/s for evaluation of healing progress.

Teaching strategy

Course facilitators will use a variety of interactive teaching strategies including, lecture, discussion, peer presentations & demonstration.

Course assessment

All participants will be expected to present their clinical case study's/reports to a small group of their peers. The course facilitator will monitor & modulate critical feedback from within each of the small groups.

Course evaluation strategies

Each participant will be invited to complete a reactive level course evaluation tool at completion of the program.

It is expected that each facility will evaluate the impact of learning upon course participant's clinical practice, using internal Quality monitoring tools and processes.