

which is appropriate for their client's health literacy level. A possible area of improvement in health literacy is in the tailoring of information with regards to clients' cultural diversity.

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#### P14

##### Development of a wound management pathway at a small Rural Health Service

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**Background:** Beechworth Health Service (BHS) formed a Wound Management Working Party (WMWP) in 2011 to improve wound management and client outcomes. Existing expertise and systems were utilized in conjunction with public and private agencies to ensure best practice and continuity of care for acute, aged care and community clients.

**Process:** The WMWP consisted of executive, allied health, unit managers, accounts and clinical staff to ensure the committee had organisation wide buy-in and could act on recommendations made. In 2012, BHS partnered with an industry consultative Wounds Improvement Program to review current systems and conduct a wound prevalence audit of acute, residential and community clients. A report of recommendations was produced which included: standardisation of procedures; policies; wound products; documentation; an education program for all staff involved in wound care to support change and embed new practice. The report recommendations were implemented early 2013. Additional education and resources were accessed from the Victorian Department of Health initiative, Connected Wound Care program. As the wound management pathway became formalised at BHS, it was recognised the working party's role was finished and the Wound Management Committee (WMC) took over monitoring and reviewing the wound management pathway. The organisation wide audit is now conducted annually. There have been 3 to date.

**Findings:** The partnership with industry has resulted in improved client and organisational outcomes. The results of the 2014 wound prevalence audit found that the incidence and severity of wounds had decreased since 2012.

**Conclusions:** The establishment of a partnership with BHS and industry through the Wound Improvement Program has been shown to improve wound management outcomes. Small Rural Health Services can utilise resources from public and private sectors that can facilitate the delivery of best practice wound care. The use of common resources has: facilitated a regionally consistent message and care to clients; created networks between health services in the Hume region formalised in the Wounds in Hume Improvement Committee.

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#### P15

##### Randomised double-blind crossed-over control trial to determine the therapeutic effect of Nikken® magnetic insoles (Magsteps®) in the treatment of plantar fasciitis

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**Background:** The purpose of this study was to determine the therapeutic effect of magnetic insoles in the treatment of plantar fasciitis. This investigation is warranted due to the extensive claims being made in the media regarding the effects of magnets on health and the wide availability of magnetic insoles to the general public.

**Methods:** This research was conducted using a randomised double-blind crossover design with ten patient volunteers, using ten pairs of Nikken® magnetic insoles (Magsteps®) Gauss strength 450 and ten pairs of identical sham insoles (non magnetized). Pain and disability were evaluated using the Foot Function Index.

**Results:** Magnetic insoles provided no statistically significant therapeutic effect in the treatment of plantar fasciitis,  $F(2, 16) = 0.14$ ,  $p = 0.875$ .

**Conclusions:** While statistical analysis did not show any statistical difference, all subjects in the study reported some level of relief of symptoms during the magnetic insole phase of therapy. This was further supported by anecdotal evidence of all subjects wishing to continue using the magnetic insoles after the study had finished.

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#### P16

##### Occupational Stress among Australia Podiatrist in general and geriatric practice

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**Background:** High levels of occupational stress have been reported in podiatrists practising in Australia. One possible stressor is the predominance of the treatment of aged patients with chronic disease in Podiatry practice.

**Methods:** Forty (40) Podiatrists attending a regional podiatry conference were invited to participate in the research using a convenience sampling method. Podiatrists were asked to complete a survey examining occupational stress in general and specifically in relation to practice with older adults (defined as those over the age of sixty five).

**Results:** The survey of sources of occupational stress among podiatrists has identified that patient demands and expectations are the most significant stressor both in general and in geriatric practice for the Podiatrist. The perceived limited clinical gains and chronic nature of their conditions in older patients was also ranked highly as a stressor.

**Conclusions:** Working with the elderly is a significant part of podiatry practice and as such needs to be seen with more positive attitude by many practitioners. The development of geriatric practice as a speciality within the profession may help to raise the value of working with the elderly. This has implications for preparing podiatrists for practice with the geriatric population along with the need for strategies to avoid or minimise these work stressors.

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#### P17

##### What's happening up north?

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**Background:** Research has investigated the motivators and deterrents which influence medical practitioners and nurses to consider rural placements within Australia; there is a scarcity in podiatry. The authors received funding from the North Queensland Regional Training Network (NQRTN) to investigate the views of podiatrists working in northern Australia, podiatry students and placement co-ordinators. This project, the Northern Australia Podiatry Clinical Placement Initiative (NAPCPI), was completed over 21 weeks during 2014. This project aimed to gather and analyse information on the current scope, need and factors of influence for increasing podiatry student placements to northern Australia.

**Methods:** Two on-line Survey Monkey questionnaires were developed to identify the scope and capacity of student placements in northern Western Australia, Northern Territory and north Queensland. One survey was designed to evaluate information from podiatrists working in this region. Podiatrists were identified through professional networks and searches of publically available directories. A second survey was designed for podiatry students; this was distributed by university educators. Additional opinions were obtained through semi-structured interviews with university clinical coordinators. Results were published in a NQRTN report.

**Results:** A total of 53 of the 96 identified podiatrists practising in northern Australia responded to the survey. Most participating podiatrists are based in large regional centres. 56% of respondents reported that they were working with other podiatrists. The podiatrists described their scope of practice and the models of service delivery. All except 5% of those surveyed were interested in providing supervision of students on placement; 81% were willing to undertake clinical placement training.