



Fiona Wood  
Foundation



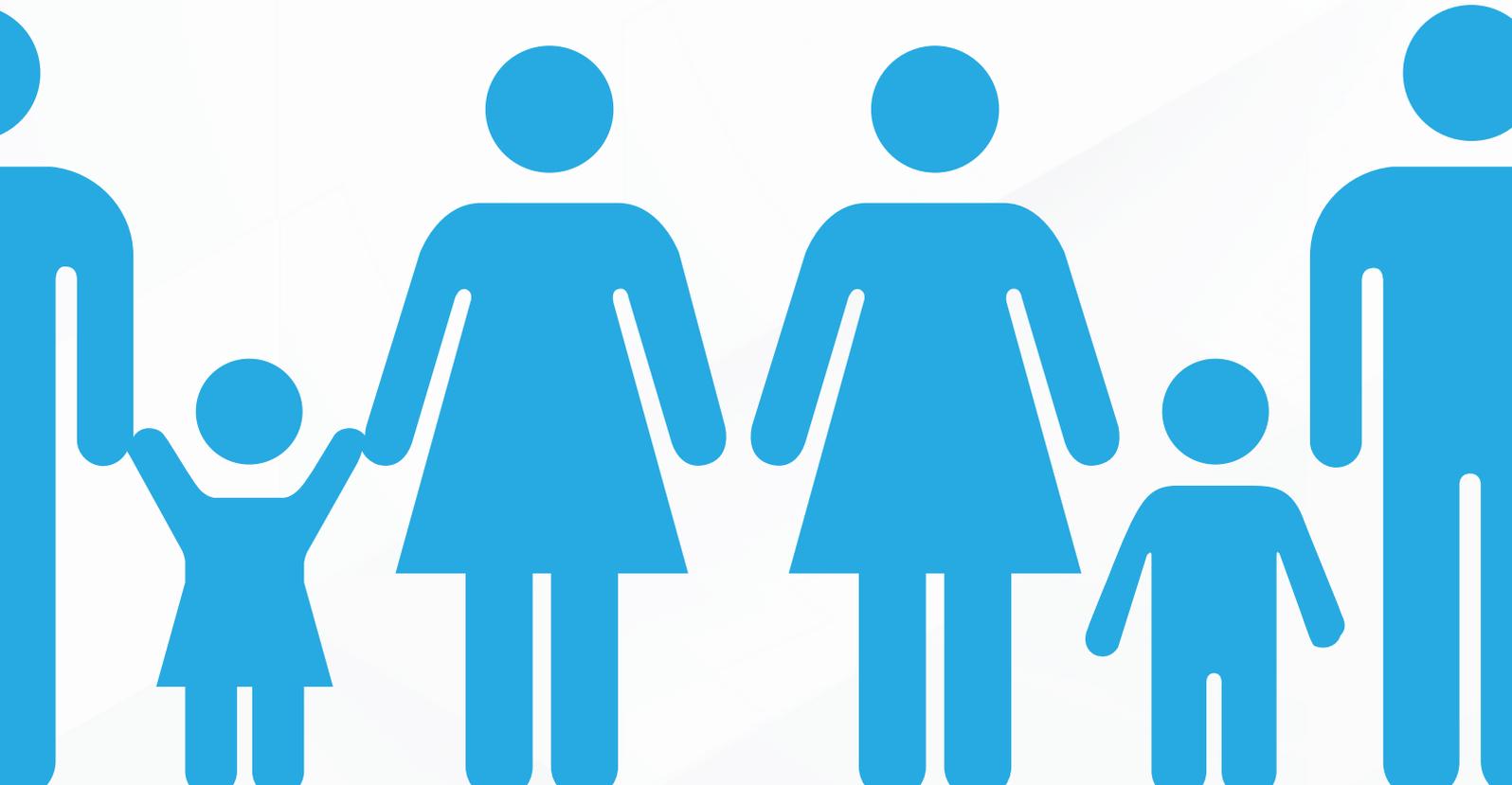
WAHTN  
Western Australian Health Translation Network



Consumer and Community  
Involvement Program

# Burn Patient & Carers Advisory Breakfast

Summary Report | 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025



# Acknowledgments

## Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gathered, and pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging. We extend our recognition to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their continuing connection to Country, culture, and community.

## Acknowledgment of Lived Experience

We acknowledge the indispensable role of individuals with lived experience of burn injury and their caregivers in advancing the research process. Their partnership enhances ethical integrity, strengthens community engagement, and ensures that research remains grounded in the lived realities of injury, recovery, and care. As co-researchers, they contribute to the refinement of research questions, guide methodological decisions, and support the meaningful application of findings. This collaborative approach reflects our commitment to inclusive research practice, recognising experiential insight as essential to achieving outcomes that are both relevant and enduring.

## Other Acknowledgments

We extend our sincere thanks to the patients, carers, and community members who attended the Burn Patient & Carers Advisory Breakfast and contributed their perspectives. We also acknowledge the valued support of our research partners, including the Western Australian Health Translation Network's Consumer and Community Involvement Program, whose collaboration made this event possible.

## Event Details

Burn Patient & Carers Advisory Breakfast

Date: Wednesday, 31 July 2025

Time: 7:00 am – 09:15 am

Location: Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research, Perth, WA

Hosted by: Fiona Wood Foundation, in collaboration with the Western Australian Health Translation Network's Consumer and Community Involvement Program





## Event Summary

The Burn Patient & Carers Advisory Breakfast was hosted in collaboration with the Western Australian Health Translation Network's Consumer and Community Involvement Program, as part of our ongoing commitment to patient-centred care and collaborative research.

The event brought together individuals with lived experience of burn injury, their carers, and researchers to ensure that the perspectives of those most directly affected by burn injury continue to inform our research priorities, methodological approaches, and engagement activities.

Participants were invited to respond to a series of reflective questions, captured via word cloud, including:

- What do you think are the most important priorities for burns research right now?
- What has helped you most in your recovery journey, and where do you feel there are still gaps in support or services?
- How connected do you feel to the Fiona Wood Foundation and do you feel seen and heard as a survivor?
- What would make it meaningful or worthwhile for you to stay involved with the Foundation and its research work in the future?

Following the discussion, attendees heard from Dr Andrew Stevenson, Dr Lucy Barrett, Dr Ann-Maree Vallance, and Dr Blair Johnson, who shared insights into their current research projects. The session also introduced the Research Buddy Program and provided an opportunity to explore how people with lived experience can contribute to future research.



# Key Insights: Responses by Question

## Question 1: Research Priorities

"From your experience, what do you think are the most important priorities for burns research right now?"

Top Themes:



### Mental Health/Mindset

Mindset, positive psychology, mental health impacts, emotional intelligence



### Long-term Impacts

quality of life, physical complications, ongoing effects



### Scar Management

Scar reduction, scar healing regeneration, trying to reduce scarring, how to regenerate skin



### Pain Management

Pain management, reduction of pain, management of pain, side effects of pain drugs

## Question 2: Recovery Support

"What has helped you most in your recovery journey and where do you feel there are still gaps in support or services?"

Top themes for what helped most



### Family Support

Family support, support from family, family support network



### Connecting with other patients

Meeting other patients, talking to other burn patients



### Clinical Care Support

Amazing standout staff, burns home care team



Top themes for what were the biggest service gaps



### Rural/Regional Access

Support in Perth gap rural, gap living regional



### Mental Health Support

No carer counselling, gap in mental health support



### Information & Follow-up

Recovery pathway info, accessing information, gaps in follow-up



# Key Insights: Responses by Question

## Question 3: Connection to Foundation

"How connected do you feel to the Fiona Wood Foundation, and do you feel seen and heard as a survivor?"

Top Themes:



### Family-like Connection

Feels like a family, feel safe with FWF



### Trust and Authenticity

Total trust, faith in foundation, authentic connection



### Feel seen and heard

Feel heard, always seen and heard



### Would like more opportunities

One participant did not feel very connected, others would like more opportunities to connect and provide feedback

## Question 4: Future Involvement

"What would make it meaningful or worthwhile for you to stay involved with the Foundation and its research work in the future?"

Top themes



### Helping Future Patients

Knowing it helps future, improve future outcomes, helping future burns patients



### Giving Back

Give back, being able to help



### Making a Difference

Seeing the difference made, ability to contribute, give confidence to survivors



### Continued Engagement

Keep doing what you're doing, continued gratitude



Following the priority-setting discussions, participants heard directly from Fiona Wood Foundation researchers Dr Andrew Stevenson, Dr Lucy Barrett, Dr Ann-Maree Vallence, and Dr Blair Johnson, who each gave a snapshot of their current research projects.

This provided an opportunity for participants to speak directly with researchers, ask questions about their work, and understand how current studies align with the community's identified priorities.

## Dr Andrew Stevenson

### Developing next generation "spray-on skin" technology

Andy is a postdoctoral researcher in scar biology and regenerative medicine, investigating how to enhance healing outcomes and reduce scarring following burn injuries. His work focuses on developing next-generation ReCell ("spray-on skin") technology by combining it with specially designed healing molecules and regenerative cells from fat tissue.

As a research buddy, you will contribute to research that expands the body of knowledge on the cellular and molecular mechanisms of scar formation, which will help us develop innovative therapies that support skin regeneration and minimise long-term scarring for burn survivors.



## Dr Blair Johnson

### Investigating the link between burns and heart disease

Blair is an early-career medical researcher specialising in the long-term physiological effects of burn injuries. His work investigates the links between burns and chronic diseases, with a particular focus on cardiovascular disease.

As a Research Buddy, you will contribute to research aiming to identify early interventions that may help prevent long-term secondary health conditions. Help us understand the impact of burn injury beyond the physical scar!



## Dr Lucy Barrett

### Investigating the impact of burn injury on the immune system

Lucy is a postdoctoral researcher in immunology and molecular biology, investigating how burn injuries lead to long-term changes in the immune system. Her work focuses on understanding why people who have sustained a burn injury show increased susceptibility to illness and identifying the changes to immune function following a burn injury.

As a research buddy, you will contribute to research that expands the body of knowledge on the physiological impacts of burns, helping us develop better interventions and support strategies for burn survivors' recovery and long-term health.



## Dr Ann-Maree Vallence

### Understanding the links between burn injury and the brain

Ann-Maree is a senior researcher in human neuroscience, investigating brain changes following burn injury and their impact on sensory and motor recovery. Her work focuses on developing non-invasive brain stimulation techniques to promote positive changes in the central nervous system that may improve patient outcomes following burn injury.

As a research buddy, you will contribute to research that expands the body of knowledge on how brain changes affect recovery, which will help us develop targeted treatments that could transform clinical practice and improve quality of life.



## What is a research buddy?

As a research buddy, you bring your lived experience and perspectives to support research that matters to the people it's designed to benefit. By working together, we enhance the relevance and reach of our research, share knowledge, and strengthen our capacity to translate groundbreaking scientific and clinical discoveries into innovative treatments that may help people not only survive their injury but also recover and thrive.

If you would like to get involved: Scan or click on the QR code and complete the short expression of interest form.









## Final Thanks

At the heart of the Fiona Wood Foundation is our burn family, the patients, carers, and loved ones who continue to guide and inspire our work.

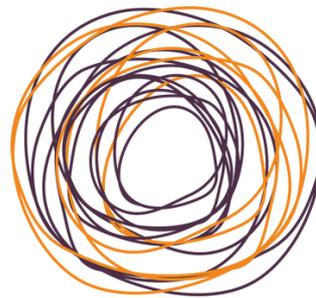
The success of the Burn Patient & Carers Advisory Breakfast is a reflection of your participation, your experiences, and the trust you place in us by sharing them.

Your insights will inform our research priorities, refine our clinical direction, and highlight where support is most needed.

Most importantly, your continued involvement ensures that future patients and families benefit from care that is shaped by those who understand the journey first-hand.

We are grateful for this partnership and look forward to continuing this work together as we strive toward our shared vision: scarless healing in both mind and body.

Thank you.



Fiona Wood  
Foundation

## Contact

Fiona Wood Foundation

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