



# NZWCS AGM Report

**1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025**

**This report outlines the Society's key achievements and plans. A comprehensive Performance Report, including full financial details and meeting Charities Services requirements, is available on both the Charities Services and NZWCS websites**

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# 1. Message from the President



It has been a privilege representing the NZWCS as president for the last year. It is humbling to work with members who are enthusiastic and passionate about improving the lives of patients who are faced with wounds. Special thanks to our working groups, area coordinators and committee for attending night meetings, supporting your colleagues and providing the much-needed support and guidance for the Society. It has been a privilege to work with you all.

The Society's roles and responsibilities continue to grow, and we are well supported by Lee- Anne (administrator) and Sasha (educator), both of whom are contracted part-time and are the backbone of the society.

I attended the APAC leadership summit in Kala Lumpa in July this year to help raise the profile of the Asia Pacific area. This was an opportunity to discuss relationships with the Asia Pacific wound care societies. This is very important as Malaysia is set to host the World Union of Wound Healing in September 2026. I am also working on the bid for Perth to host this in 2030, it is very exciting to be a part of this process.

The Financial Governance Group FGG provide additional support for the National Committee. The FGG continues to improve our financial governance and create a sustainable financial future for the Society. We launched our plan last year to partner with industry to help create a sustainable income that does not rely solely on our conference. This is going well, thanks to our gold sponsors Convatec, Solventum, Essity and Smith & Nephew and our silver sponsors Lohmann & Rauscher, Intermed, Coloplast, and Toomac Solutions. Also, event sponsors Sigvaris Group, Smith+Nephew, Mölnlycke, Convatec and local study events supported by Essity Mölnlycke and Medi-Rent. This essential support enables the continuation of our educational projects and regional study days. I hope that we can encourage more industry to work with us in the future.

Regular meetings with the CEO of Wounds Australia, Jeff Antcliff, are very productive. The networking and relationships being developed and cemented are invaluable for the Society.

Developing the latest international guidelines requires immense time and dedication from our volunteers. Countless late-night and early-morning meetings reflect the extraordinary commitment of our members in bringing this work to fruition. We look forward to continuing our support as these guidelines progress.

We are now in our fourth year of the Wound Debridement Certificate at Otago Polytechnic Te Pukenga. For the Society, the financial returns are improving, which is very positive, as we look towards a sustainable future.

*Noho ora mai, **Rebecca Aburn***

## 2. Our year at a glance

The past year has been defined by significant advances in evidence-based education and international collaboration, driven entirely by the unwavering commitment of our volunteers. We have seen tangible improvements in clinical practice across Aotearoa New Zealand, demonstrating that the Society is actively meeting its aims to advance education and enhance patient outcomes.

A major highlight has been the Society's central role in the development of international best practice guidelines. We have continued to exert influence on the global stage, contributing to the International Pressure Injury Guidelines and leading the development of the international Venous Leg Ulcer Guidelines.

The impact of our educational resources is reflected in the high engagement with the NZWCS website. Notably, the home page received 19,801 views, while resources focused on clinical pressure injury management recorded 9,626 views.

Wound Awareness Week (WAW) 2024 focused on the unique challenges and considerations associated with wound care for individuals with Frail or Aged Skin (Dermatoporosis). The initiative's primary goal was to enhance awareness, knowledge, and best practices among healthcare professionals, caregivers, and the community to promote effective wound management and improve patient outcomes. The live Mobile Health event was attended by 120 participants. Reach extended significantly through the recorded session, with 90 additional individuals claiming CPD certification, demonstrating substantial uptake of the on-demand content.

The joint Mobile Health webinar focusing on Moisture Associated Skin Disorders (MASD) attracted strong engagement, with 245 live attendees. The ongoing value of the education was evident in the uptake of the recording, where 128 participants subsequently claimed CPD certification, confirming the wide educational reach beyond the initial broadcast. Note that Mobile Health does not record the number of views without CPD certification.

We have worked hard to offer Auckland as an additional face-to-face practicum venue, making it easier and more affordable for learners who would otherwise travel to Dunedin. The feedback has been very positive, and the rewards for patients and end users are invaluable.

**Membership Figures** Full Membership: 279; Corporate Accounts: 40; Corporate Members registered online: 226; Student Membership: 19

## 3. Key financial figures

Treasurer: Kate O'Dwyer

Bank accounts held by the Society, as at 30 June 2025 \$182,579

Profit from Conservative Sharp Wound Debridement course \$19,467

Income from Society Industry Sponsors \$29,000

Income from Sponsorship of events (not including conference) \$15,000

Scholarship payments \$3,000

We are delighted to note that the financial position of the Society has been strengthened this year through the generous sponsorship of our industry partners.

## 4. Advisory group highlights

The dedication of our Advisory Groups highlights the volunteer commitment required to maintain the Society's leading role in wound care. These groups operate at both national and international levels, ensuring that NZ clinicians are contributing to and accessing the most current, evidence-based knowledge.

**Pressure Injury Advisory Group (PIAG)** consisted of Anj Dickson, Emil Schmidt, Jan Johntone, Paula McKinnel, Sharryn Cook, Althea Page-Carruth and Shannon Miller. Althea has been our representative contributing to the International Pressure Injury Guidelines development. This collaboration ensures that NZ perspectives are heard alongside members from the USA, Europe (including Germany, UK, Ireland), and four representatives from the Pan Pacific Pressure Injury Alliance (PPPIA) which includes New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, and Hong Kong.

Highlights include the STOP Pressure Injury Symposium held in Christchurch, November 2024. The theme for this symposium was "Every Contact Counts" used with permission from the Tissue Viability Service, using the Acronym: C O N T A C T. The day featured industry with their pressure injury-related trade displays, lived experiences and expert speakers from around Aotearoa New Zealand.

**Leg Ulcer Advisory Group (LUAG)** NZWCS members with specialist expertise in preventing and treating lower extremity wounds make up the LUAG. The current members are Maria Schollum: Nurse Practitioner Waikato, Becky Dawson: CNS Wound Taranaki, Alice Cowie: Nurse Practitioner Candidate Hutt Valley, Rebecca Aburn: Nurse Practitioner Vascular Otago, and Mandy Pagan: CNS Wound Southern. The team are actively involved with the Venous Leg Ulcer Advisory Group (VLUAG) in the update of the international venous leg ulcer guideline.

The guideline update is a significant project led by the Venous Leg Ulcer Advisory Group (VLUAG), chaired by Mandy Pagan. Project partners collaborating under the auspices of the Venous Leg Ulcer Guideline Development Committee include Wounds Australia, the Hong Kong Enterostomal Therapist Association, and the Wound Healing Society of Singapore. The group have published the assessment section of the guideline and encourages you to review this excellent resource that includes pictorials; this can be accessed via the NZWCS website: "Venous Leg Ulcer Guideline Committee, Clinical Practice Guideline for Venous Leg Ulcers: Assessment. Emily Haesler (Ed.). Hong Kong Enterostomal Therapists Association, New Zealand Wound Care Society, Wounds Australia, and the Wound Healing Society of Singapore. 2024"

The group are now developing the prevention and treatment section of the guideline. It is a privilege to work with dedicated international experts to advance leg ulcer knowledge and develop best practice guidelines.

## 5. Stories from the regions and representatives

Our regional activities exemplify how dedicated volunteers are translating global best practice into local, impactful care improvements, directly fulfilling the aim of enhancing education and patient outcomes.

### **Waikato (Area 3) National Committee Rep: Maria Schollum. Area Coordinator: Ruth White**

Education in the Waikato area has resulted in increased confidence in using compression therapy, particularly in people with heart failure. Positive changes have been observed in embedding effective wound hygiene into practice, moving away from simple saline application towards intentional wound cleansing and greater attention to periwound skin health. Volunteer District Nurse participants of the wound debridement course are actively mentoring colleagues in the practice of cleanse, debride, refashion, and dress.

### **Hauora a Toi Bay of Plenty (area 5) National Committee Rep: Kate O'Dwyer. Area Coordinator: Dawn French**

Here in Hauora a Toi Bay of Plenty, we are finding ward area snippets of education by rolling in services have been the most successful this year.

### **Greater Wellington Region (Area 8) National Committee Rep: Liz Frost, Area Coordinator: Liz Frost, Vanessa Pickens, Lesley Pulson-How, Alice Cowie.**

A successful half study day was held, focusing on infection and featuring a session by a microbiology physician. Attendees praised the content for being relevant, engaging, and offering the opportunity to mix and network with other healthcare professionals. The region continues to engage with the Certificate in Wound Debridement (CSWD) course, with staff completing or enrolling. Wellington has also initiated Pressure Injury resource nurses in clinical areas within the inpatient service, as well as in Aged Residential Care (ARC) facilities.

### **Nelson/Marlborough (Area 9) National Committee Rep: Sharryn Cook Area Coordinators: Sharryn Cook and Nikki Millar**

Feedback from study days and in-services has been overwhelmingly positive. Participants report feeling "finally equipped to manage these cases effectively". The education provided, with its practical, evidence-based approach, has resulted in tangible results: a notable shift towards consistent adherence to best-practice guidelines, a reduction in wound-related complications, and a more collaborative, patient-centred approach to care. Area 9 has also been instrumental in the development of the Healthcare Assistance Toolkit on Pressure Injury (PI) care developed by the Te Waipounamu ARC PI Project Working Group.

### **Canterbury (Area 10) National Committee Rep: Area Coordinators:**

Canterbury successfully ran two education evenings this year, drawing high attendance of between 70–90 participants, reflecting strong engagement from a diverse group including rest home staff, podiatrists, hospital and community nurses, and dietitians. The region assisted with the STOP Pressure Injury Symposium, boosting local participation. Following these events, observable improvements have been noted in clinical practice, including the more consistent application of moist wound healing principles, advanced skin tear management resulting in significantly reduced use of steri-strips, and timelier referrals to appropriate health professionals.

## **Southland (Area 12) National Committee Rep: Mandy Pagan Area Coordinator: Shannan Miller**

Southland is focused on mentoring learners through the Certificate in Wound Debridement Course (CSWD), expanding the pool of qualified mentors and improving wound care practices across community and hospital settings. The availability of Intermittent Pneumatic Compression (IPC) therapy has been described as a "game changer," leading to increased prescriptions across community and aged care facilities, yielding excellent healing and quality of life outcomes. Furthermore, the team has been participating in the Te Waipounamu (South Island) Aged Residential Care Pressure Injury Working Group, developing healthcare assistant educational resources that have shown excellent outcomes in a pilot programme.

### **Podiatry report** Claire O'Shea – Podiatrist

Since this representative role on the National Committee started in February 2020, five years on, it is great to be involved in this collaboration and see all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes in Wound care for Aotearoa New Zealand.

This year, from a Podiatry perspective:

- The Podiatrists Board of New Zealand is currently working hard on developing our Competency framework – Principles and Standards for Podiatrist prescribers. This will be a significant achievement for Podiatrists to be able to prescribe in New Zealand.
- Continue to work with Podiatry NZ and see if we can get more joint participation at conferences and workshops

Thank you to Rebecca and Lee-Anne for all their support in this role.

## **6. Thank you and acknowledgements**

We extend our sincere gratitude to our **super volunteers**. Your dedication is the backbone of the Society!

This includes all those involved in Advisory Groups, on committees, volunteering time for webinars or local study days, representing the Society, attending early morning or late-night meetings, organising the pressure injury symposium and the wound care conference. All these efforts are undertaken to meet the Society's aims. Your dedication is noted and profoundly appreciated, making a huge contribution to education in the wound care space and, critically, to patient outcomes.

We express our appreciation for the ongoing support received from our valued industry partners. This vital collaboration provides the necessary resources, enabling the delivery of essential education, such as webinars and study days, to assist us in meeting our aim to improve patient outcomes.

## **7. Looking ahead**

The Society is committed to building upon this successful year by strategically focusing on accessibility and collegiate support.

Sasha looks forward to a stronger partnership with Mobile Health to expand our online learning offerings. This will be particularly beneficial for health professionals operating in rural or isolated areas, ensuring equitable access to high-quality education.

We plan to increase our online presence and online learning resources across a variety of areas, including the development of research tutorials.

Planning education events for next year is well underway, thanks to Sasha and her enthusiasm to deliver a variety of education events. Wound Awareness Week 2026 aims to focus on the unique challenges and considerations associated with wound care for individuals in New Zealand. The primary goal is to enhance awareness, knowledge, and best practices among healthcare professionals, caregivers, and the community to promote effective wound management and improve patient outcomes.

In the future, we aim to strengthen partnerships with international organisations, boost industry involvement, raise NZWCS's international profile, collaborate with the government to improve patient outcomes, and pursue more joint ventures, including supporting international organisations with webinars. A central part of this vision is increasing engagement from wound care professionals, as we firmly believe that collegial support not only enriches our members but also has a meaningful impact on the delivery of care.