

CONTEXT

The Department of Health and Aged Care (the Department) engaged Healthcare Management Advisors (HMA) to

undertake an independent evaluation of the Chronic Wound Consumables Scheme (CWCS).

The Commonwealth's 2023–24 Budget measure included \$47.8 million over five years commencing in 2022–23 (and \$12.3 million per year ongoing) to establish a CWCS for people with diabetes aged 65 years and over (50 years and over for First Nations people) that provides fully subsidised wound consumables.

The CWCS has four overarching objectives, as follows:

- improve consumer awareness about the factors that cause chronic wounds to support improved outcomes in self-directed care and prevention
- improve patient access to appropriate and affordable wound consumables in the primary care setting
- increase equity of access to suitable patient-centric wound consumables regardless of where a person lives
- improve health professionals' capability in contemporary wound management, assessment and treatment.

These objectives will be achieved through the following four activities:

1. **Development of the CWCS, including a product ordering portal** – the CWCS will enable approved health professionals to order wound consumable products for eligible participants via an online portal or over the phone at no cost to the participant. An Expert Advisory Group will recommend the range of wound consumables to be included in the CWCS.
2. **Health professionals learning modules** – training modules will be developed to credential health professionals allowing them to enrol participants into the CWCS. As part of this activity, training support will be provided to health professionals to improve their wound management capability.
3. **Public awareness campaign** – to improve wider community awareness and understanding of best-practice wound care and prevention strategies.
4. **Wound care scholarships for nurses, Aboriginal Health Workers and Aboriginal Health Practitioners** – will be provided for formal education and short courses in wound management with a focus on primary care settings.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the evaluation are to:

- assess the extent to which the program objectives were achieved over its duration
- identify the extent to which each of the elements of the CWCS are contributing to the objectives and their relative cost-effectiveness, particularly with respect to the:
 - provision of free/subsidised chronic wound consumables
 - delivery of wound care by upskilled health professionals
 - public awareness campaign
- identify barriers and enablers to achieving the program objectives
- provide advice on the key challenges and opportunities for improvement to the CWCS, including potential cost-benefit implications

- provide advice on the efficacy of the program and the value of continued government funding for the CWCS. This should include consideration of an expanded roll out of the CWCS, including the potential benefits and cost impact on individuals, health professionals and the system
- provide advice regarding the efficacy of establishing a streamlined approach/process for providing access to health consumables across other wound management and consumables schemes.

PROJECT METHOD AND TIMING

The CWCS evaluation commenced in January 2024 and is scheduled to be completed by September 2026. HMA will take a staged approach to the evaluation, including developing a detailed Evaluation Plan underpinned by a program logic, an economic analysis of the scheme, and data collection from a range of sources, including extensive stakeholder consultation to inform two reports.

The table below presents the project methodology and timing.

DATE*		STAGE	METHOD
2024	January	1	Project set-up
	Feb–Jun	2	Develop Evaluation Plan
	Jun–Jul	3	Develop program data specification
	Jul–Aug	4	Prepare ethics application
2025	Jun–Nov	5	Interim data collection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder consultations with government entities, peak and professional bodies, and consumer advocacy groups • Surveys of CWCS participants, health professionals, and wound care scholarship recipients • Case studies with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) • Follow-up interviews with selected survey participants
	Nov–Jan 2026	6	Interim report
2026	Jan–Jul	7	Final data collection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder consultations with government entities, peak and professional bodies, and consumer advocacy groups • Surveys of CWCS participants, health professionals, wound care scholarship recipients, public awareness campaign target audience, and consumable suppliers/distributors • Case studies with ACCHOs • Follow-up interviews with selected survey participants
	May–Jul	8	Economic analysis
	Jul–Aug	9	Draft evaluation report
	September	10	Final evaluation report

*These dates are indicative only and may be subject to change.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact HMA or the Department if you would like further information.

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