

The success of the integrated adult burn survivor education & support forum.

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Each year there are in excess of 2,700 burn patients admitted to an ANZBA burn service. This is estimated at 10% of the number of people suffering a burn injury every year.

Common issues faced by burn survivors can be complex and can include traumatic stress, depression, body image disturbance, substance abuse, social anxiety, grief, pain, itching sleep disturbance and adapting to physical limitations.

Research has shown that at one year post-burn, 1 in 5 burn patients continue to have sexual relationship dysfunction and 30-45% have body image disturbances, irrespective of burn size.

There is also evidence to demonstrate that approximately 30% of adult burn survivors experience moderate to severe long term psychosocial difficulties. This continues to be an issue once a patient has been discharged from a hospital service and can dramatically affect their re-integration back to community, home and work life.

The Adult Burn Survivor Education & Support Forum aims to address some of these challenges and gives burns survivors practical strategies for facing social, psychological and educational challenges. The forum gives information on the latest in physiotherapy and exercise, psychological & emotional healing, resources for burns survivors and the opportunity to connect and share with other burns survivors.

In collaboration with senior Allied Health burn clinicians and burn survivors from around Australia and with support from corporate funding partners the second Adult Burn Survivor Education & Support Forum is being run in July 2015 on the back of a very successful forum in 2014.

This presentation will provide evidence of the value for burn survivors of attending the Adult Burn Survivor Education & Support Forum which is a collaborative effort with hospitals and health professionals across ANZBA.

Key Words

Support, Burn Survivors, Education

Nominated Stream for Oral Presentations

- Medical
- Nursing
- Allied Health
- Scientific

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- Prevention
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