

Return to School Post Burn Injury: What are the Barriers and Enablers?

Loren West¹, Fiona Wood², Jeannine Millstead³, Tania McWilliams⁴, Sarah McGarry⁵

1 Edith Cowen University Occupational Therapy, 270 Joondalup Drive Joondalup WA 6027, lcwest@our.ecu.edu.au

2 Fiona Stanley Hospital Burns Unit, Level 4 102-118 Murdoch Dr Murdoch WA 6050, Fiona.wood@health.wa.gov.au

3 Edith Cowen University Occupational Therapy, 270 Joondalup Drive Joondalup WA 6027, j.millstead@ecu.edu.au

4 Princess Margaret Hospital Tocal Care Burns Ward, 1 Roberts Rd Subiaco WA 6008, Tania.McWilliams@health.wa.gov.au

5 Fiona Stanley Hospital Burns Unit, Level 4 102-118 Murdoch Dr Murdoch WA 6050, sarah.mcgarry@health.wa.gov.au

Background: Burn injury in children is a traumatic event that disrupts normal life and participation in daily activities including school. Attending school is a significant occupation for children and the role of being a student and friend is important for development. Studies have reported that children have difficulty in social functioning and experience bullying following a burn injury, however no research has investigated the barriers and enablers to school attendance for children with burns.

Aims: The aim of this study is to explore the barriers and enablers to returning to school for children and adolescents who have burn injuries.

Methods: This study utilises a qualitative research design whereby semi-structured interviews will be used to collect data and explore the research topic. Thirteen children with burn injuries requiring hospitalisation for 24 hours or more will be recruited in this study. Interviews will be transcribed and analysed using thematic analysis.

Conclusion: Findings from this study will inform future interventions and return to school policies. This will lead to improved awareness, creating opportunities to apply early interventions and determine appropriate treatment strategies for high-risk patients including investigating strategies that target the identified occupational performance needs associated with return to school.

Key Words

Paediatrics, Burns, Return to School

Nominated Stream for Oral Presentations

- Medical
- Nursing
- Allied Health
- Scientific

Nominated Stream for Poster Presentations

- Care
- Prevention
- Research