Annual Report 2026

This 2026 Annual Report provides an overview of our performance, achievements and activities across the audited 2024/25 financial year, while also reflecting on our progress against our strategic priorities throughout the 2025 calendar year.

Together, these perspectives provide a comprehensive account of the foundation's performance, progress and contribution, highlighting both our financial and operational stewardship and the continued advancement of our strategic priorities.

Fiona Wood Foundation

This report reflects the Foundation's impact and activities across 2025. Financial information relates to the 2024–25 financial year, while leadership messages have been prepared in 2026 and reflect the context at the time of writing.

"We aim to be at the forefront of global research and discovery in the area of burns and scarring."

"By continually growing the body of knowledge in the field, our work will save lives and make a significant difference to the recovery of people who have sustained burn injuries, both locally and around the world."

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Fiona Wood Foundation acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we conduct our work. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge their continuing connection to Country, culture and community.

Cover: *Dr Andrew Stevenson with Jack, a burn survivor.*

Photography: *Photography throughout this Annual Report is by Marnie Richardson, our valued 'burn family' photographer.*

Founder's Message

Every year I am reminded that, while our work is driven by science, it begins and ends with people. Every research question we pursue, every innovation we develop and every partnership we build is for the patients and families who place their trust in us. They are the reason we continue to expand the body of knowledge and translate discovery into better treatment, recovery and quality of life.

Across 2025, our researchers, clinicians and students continued to advance work spanning wound healing, scarring, physical recovery, psychosocial health and the longer-term physiological effects of burn injury. I am proud of the commitment they have shown, the questions they continue to ask and the way they work across disciplines and institutions to move research forward.

As we reflect on the first anniversary of Associate Professor Mark Fear's passing, I have been reminded of the importance of the work he contributed to our research program and the many people he supported throughout his career. His influence remains present in the projects underway and in the researchers who continue to pursue the questions he helped advance. I am proud of the resilience shown by our team and their commitment to continuing this important work.

This year also brought an important opportunity for the future of childhood burn care through the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation's landmark investment in the WA Comprehensive Centre for Childhood Burns. I extend my sincere appreciation for their vision and confidence in this work. This investment will strengthen Western Australia's established clinical and research capability, bring together expertise across discovery, translation and care, and support a more integrated approach to childhood burn research.

The launch of the Horizon Campaign was another defining milestone. I acknowledge our Executive Director, Diane Lim, for driving this work forward, and the Board for its guidance and support in pursuing opportunities that strengthen the Foundation's long-term sustainability. Through the Research Innovation Fund, the campaign will provide continuity for long-term research and greater stability for the people and infrastructure needed to sustain discovery.

To our burn survivors and families who share their experiences and participate in research, and to every supporter who connects with our work through events, fundraising, partnerships and advocacy, thank you. Your involvement, trust and belief in our shared vision of scarless healing continue to give purpose to all.

Professor Fiona Wood AO

Chair's Message

The role of the Board is to ensure the Fiona Wood Foundation remains well positioned to fulfil its purpose, not only today, but for the future generations of patients who will benefit from the research we pursue.

In an environment where the health, research and philanthropic sectors continue to navigate increasing complexity and economic uncertainty, this requires more than sound governance. It calls for responsible stewardship, thoughtful investment and a clear commitment to the people and partnerships that underpin research excellence.

Medical research demands a long-term perspective. Progress depends on supporting researchers throughout every stage of their career, from developing the next generation of scientific talent to enabling established leaders to build multidisciplinary teams, mentor emerging investigators and translate discoveries into improved patient care. Creating that continuity is essential to sustaining research excellence and maintaining momentum over time.

RECELL® is a powerful example of this. It formed part of my own treatment following the Bali bombings, yet its significance extends far beyond any one patient's experience. More than two decades after its introduction, it continues to advance through the ongoing research, broader clinical applications and new scientific understanding. Its continued progress reinforces an important principle: the value of research lies not only in what it achieves, but in the knowledge, expertise and leadership it creates over time.

This year also brings a significant moment of international recognition for Professor Fiona Wood, with her being awarded the prestigious Royal Medal (Applied Science). The Royal Medal is one of the world's most distinguished honours for scientific achievement, and this recognition reflects the global significance of Fiona's contribution to burns care, medical innovation and patient outcomes. It is a fitting acknowledgement of a career defined by determination, collaboration and a commitment to changing what is possible for people who suffer a burn injury.

This perspective continues to guide the Board's governance of the Foundation. Our focus remains on ensuring FWF can continue to bring together the expertise, ideas and collaboration required to advance burns research and improve care for those whose lives have been impacted by burn injury.

David Fyfe
Chair

Executive Director's Message

The passing of Associate Professor Mark Fear was a significant loss for our organisation and for the wider scientific community. Throughout this time, I have been incredibly grateful for the kindness and understanding shown to our team by colleagues, collaborators and supporters. The care extended to us was a powerful reminder of the relationships that sustain FWF and the shared commitment that brings us together.

Through a period of change, our focus has remained clear: to ensure FWF continues to move forward with purpose, optimism and a strong sense of possibility.

The Stan Perron Charitable Foundation's landmark investment in the WA Comprehensive Centre for Childhood Burns represents an important commitment to the future of childhood burns care in Western Australia. This partnership will build on our state's existing strengths, bringing together expertise across clinical care, research and education to create new opportunities for children and their families.

The launch of the Horizon Campaign was another defining moment for FWF. It represents a bold vision for the future and a commitment to creating a more sustainable foundation for burns research. Through the Horizon Research Innovation Fund, we are giving researchers greater opportunity to pursue ambitious ideas, build on their discoveries and ultimately improve care for people affected by burn injury. I am incredibly proud to have led this work alongside our Board, Campaign Cabinet, supporters and partners. Their confidence in our vision has helped turn an ambition into something tangible and lasting.

Amid everything we have achieved, I am always brought back to why this work matters. The burn survivors, families and loved ones who continue to walk alongside us are at the heart of everything we do. Their willingness to share their experiences, participate in research and support others is both inspiring and humbling. They remind us of every day of the trust placed in our Foundation and the responsibility that comes with it.

There is so much to be hopeful about. We have talented researchers asking important questions, committed clinicians translating discoveries into care, generous supporters investing in what is possible, and a community united by the belief that we can do better for people affected by burn injury.

To everyone who has supported FWF this year, thank you. Your generosity, encouragement and belief in our people and our work make progress possible. Together, we can continue to bring science closer to the patient, turn possibility into progress and help shape a future where better outcomes are within reach for every person and their families affected by burn injury.

Diane Lim
Executive Director

About Us

Our logo is representative of the 'ripple effect' a burn has on a patient and the wider community. For the Foundation, the intertwined lines symbolise our vision of working together to make a difference by improving outcomes and quality of life for those affected by burn injury.

We recognise that every intervention from the point of injury influences the scars in both mind and body. Led by plastic and reconstructive surgeon and burns specialist Professor Fiona Wood, our not-for-profit Foundation facilitates the translation of knowledge from ground-breaking scientific and clinical research into pioneering new treatments for healing burns and minimising scarring.

Our impact is the translation of research across the patient journey to improve lives.

With the support of our partners, donors and community, we bring together researchers, clinicians and people with lived experience to:

- Conduct world-leading research that expands knowledge of burn injury, wound healing and scarring.
- Advance clinical care by translating research into improved treatments, technologies and recovery outcomes.
- Deliver impactful education that strengthens burn prevention, first aid and clinical practice.
- Sustain this work through strong partnerships, diverse funding and responsible stewardship.

Together, we bring world-leading burns research from discovery into care.

Our Vision

To be at the forefront of global research and discovery in burns and scarring. By continually expanding the body of knowledge, our work will save lives and make a significant difference in the recovery of people who have sustained burn injuries, both locally and globally.

Our Purpose

To deliver scarless healing, in both mind and body, to those who suffer from burn injury.

Our People 2025

At the Foundation, we believe in investing in people to drive innovation. We provide funding to researchers and students to ensure continuity, build capacity, and sustain momentum throughout the research pipeline. Our operational team supports these efforts through fundraising, communications, stakeholder management and outreach to patients, families, community and industry.

Director of Research

Fiona

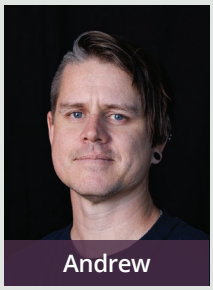
Senior Research Fellow

Lisa

Senior Research Fellow

Dale

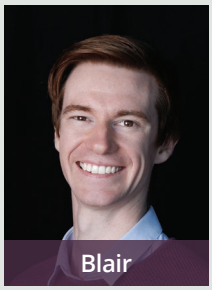
Research Fellows

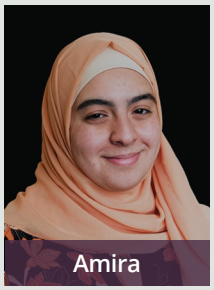

Andrew

Lucy

Natalie

Postdoctoral Researchers


Blair

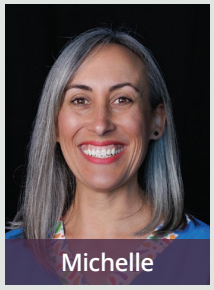

Amira

Data Innovation Lead

Graeme

Research Assistants

Dinithi


Michelle

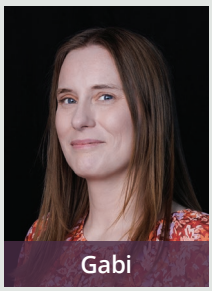
Victoria

Nicole

FWF Team

Diane

Clare


Gabi

Our Structure

The Foundation is the intersection between the community, universities and the health system. We facilitate the translation of burns research into burns treatment – from bench to bedside. By continuing to expand the body of knowledge in burns, we save lives and improve the quality-of-life outcomes of people who sustain burn Injuries now and in the future.

Governance

Board of Directors

Winthrop Professor Fiona Wood FRACS AO

Director of the Burns Service of Western Australia

Fiona is a world-renowned burns surgeon and researcher with over 30 years of experience. She is the Director of the Burns Service of Western Australia, a Consultant Plastic Surgeon at Fiona Stanley Hospital and Perth Children's Hospital, and a Winthrop Professor in the School of Surgery at the University of Western Australia. Professor Wood co-founded both the Fiona Wood Foundation and Western Australia's first skin cell laboratory, playing a pivotal role in pioneering burn treatments that continue to improve patient outcomes globally.

David Fyfe

Chief Executive Officer, Genus Plus Group Limited

David was appointed Chairman of the Fiona Wood Foundation in 2023, having served on the Board since 2013. He holds an Honours Degree in Engineering and postgraduate qualifications in business and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a Member of Engineers Australia. A burns survivor of the 2002 Bali bombings, David was treated under the care of Fiona Wood and is a direct recipient of the Foundation's "spray-on skin" innovation. As CEO of Genus Plus Group and a Board Member of Ability WA and Football West, he brings personal insight and strategic leadership to the Foundation's mission to improve outcomes for burns patients.

Geraldine Erridge

Director, Candid Business & Tax Advisors Pty Ltd

Geraldine is a Chartered Accountant with a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) and has been a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants since 1999. She is a Director at Candid Business & Tax Advisors Pty Ltd. She has extensive experience in general taxation, self-managed superannuation funds, and advisory services for high-net-worth individuals. Geraldine joined the Fiona Wood Foundation Board in January 2014, contributing deep financial and governance expertise.

Dr Suzanne Rea

Consultant Plastic Surgeon & co-founder of The Scar Clinic Perth

Suzanne is a Consultant Plastic Surgeon at Fiona Stanley Hospital and Perth Children's Hospital, specialising in burns surgery. She is also the co-founder of The Scar Clinic Perth, a multidisciplinary service dedicated to advanced scar management. A long-standing advocate for burns research, Suzanne has led the development of laser treatment for burn scars across adult and paediatric services. She plays a key role in the Fiona Wood Foundation's scientific programs and is actively involved in research exploring the use of laser technology in scar modulation. Her vision is to see the Foundation evolve as a global leader in holistic burn care, improving both survival and quality of life after injury. Suzanne was appointed to the Board in 2013.

Arthur Psaltis

State Director – Western Australia & Northern Territory, Colliers

Arthur Psaltis is the State Director for Western Australia and Northern Territory at Colliers. He began his career with Pritchard Francis, where he rose from graduate engineer to Associate Director, Director, Managing Director, and eventually CEO. Under his leadership, the firm achieved national recognition and, in 2024, joined Colliers to strengthen its engineering and design presence. Arthur has held numerous board and committee roles and continues to mentor senior professionals across industry sectors.

Jessica Ilich

Legal Counsel, Telstra Corporation

Jessica Ilich is Legal Counsel (Dispute Resolution) at Telstra, with prior experience in top-tier commercial litigation firms. She holds a Bachelor of Laws, a Bachelor of Science (Anatomy and Human Biology), and a Graduate Certificate in Business. Jessica has a broad legal practice with expertise in contract law, privacy, regulatory compliance, intellectual property, and consumer law. She joined the Fiona Wood Foundation Board in December 2022, bringing a strategic legal perspective to governance and operations.

Todd Mairs

Partner, Sia Partners

Todd Mairs is a Partner at Sia Partners, an international management consultancy, with over 25 years' experience across Europe, Asia, and North America. He specialises in strategic planning and customer transformation, particularly in health, aged care, and not-for-profit sectors. Todd previously served as Group Executive at St John of God Health Care and worked with Accenture in the UK. A CPA Australia Fellow and recipient of a WA Business News "40 Under 40" award, Todd also chairs an aged care technology start-up and serves as a non-executive director for a housing charity in Cambodia. He joined the Board in September 2023.

Finance Sub-Committee

The Finance Sub-Committee, established by the Board, ensures the Foundation's financial integrity and accountability. Its key functions include:

- Reviewing and recommending financial policies
- Overseeing the preparation and endorsement of the annual budget
- Monitoring financial performance and reporting outcomes to the Board
- Liaising with external auditors and reviewing audit findings

Governance and Compliance

The Fiona Wood Foundation operates in full compliance with all applicable financial and regulatory requirements, including those set by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). The Foundation undergoes an annual independent external audit with HLB Mann Judd, and financial reports are submitted to the relevant authorities per statutory requirements. We adhere strictly to the Privacy Act and the Fundraising Institute of Australia's Code of Conduct. The Foundation is committed to the highest standards of governance, transparency, and ethical practice in all aspects of its operations.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The Foundation strategically aligns our vision with several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in order to be at the forefront of global research and discovery in burns and scarring.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	**Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages.**	The Foundation's dedication to advancing burn care and improving the lives of burn victims intersects notably with targets 3.4, 3.7, 3.8, 3b, 3c, and 3d. Our commitment to improving the lives of burn survivors demonstrates a multifaceted contribution towards enhancing global health outcomes.
4 QUALITY EDUCATION	**Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.**	Through our collaborative partnerships with universities, commitment to gender equality, and emphasis on sustainable healthcare education, we contribute to the achievement of targets 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, and 4.7. This commitment underlines our role in fostering an educated and informed global community prepared to address challenges in burn care and prevention.
5 GENDER EQUALITY	**Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.**	Through championing equal opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) research, promoting women's leadership, ensuring equitable access to resources, and leveraging technology for empowerment, we directly contribute to targets 5.1, 5.5, and 5a, 5b, and 5c.
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	**Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and foster innovation.**	Through developing and translating groundbreaking research into medical technologies and services that reinforce SDG 9, we foster a sustainable, innovative infrastructure within healthcare, through scientific research.
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	**Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.**	We are committed to advancing sustainable development through open and accessible scientific research, fostering global collaboration and knowledge-sharing. Additionally, we advocate for the ethical use of medical technologies to prevent their exploitation for consumerism, ensuring that healthcare advancements serve societal needs.

As we continue expanding the body of knowledge in burns research, we affirm our commitment to contributing to these critical goals, thereby deepening our dedication to sustainable development and equitable healthcare practices.

Research Governance

The FWF is committed to world-leading research and discovery in burns and scarring, underpinned by the highest standards of ethical and responsible conduct. All research funded by the Foundation complies with relevant federal and state legislative requirements and is subject to review by institutional ethics and governance committees. Projects adhere to the *Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes and/or the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2023),* ensuring integrity across all aspects of our work.

Strategic Plan 2030

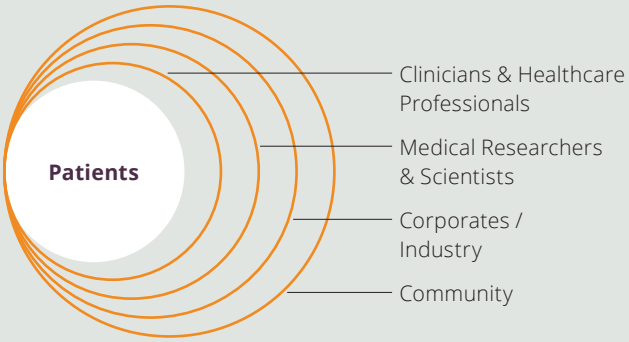
Our Vision

To be at the forefront of global research and discovery in burns and scarring.
By continually growing the body of knowledge, our work will save lives and make a significant difference to the recovery of people who have sustained burn injuries both locally, and around the world.

Our Strategic Intent

To deliver scarless healing in both mind and body, to those who suffer from burn injury.

Our Beneficiaries



Our Strategic Pillars

Scarless Healing

	World Leading Research	Impactful Education	Advancing Care	Financial Sustainability
	Building the body of knowledge Conducting research Research partnerships	Corporate Community Medical Prevention	Clinical services Data innovation Products/ technologies	Sponsorships Grants Revenue Philanthropy
Our Objectives	We are the most cited burns unit in the world	We are Australia's leading burns educator	We translate research into life changing products and techniques	We have the financial resources to achieve and sustain our goals

World Leading Research: At the heart of our Foundation lies the relentless pursuit of innovation and excellence in burn research. Our commitment to pushing the boundaries of medical science keeps us at the forefront of groundbreaking treatments and therapies, offering renewed hope to those affected by burns.

Impactful Education: Through our education initiatives, we strive to empower healthcare professionals, patients, the industry workforce and the broader community with the knowledge and skills necessary to prevent burns, understand first aid, and manage and treat burns - ensuring improved recovery outcomes for anyone who may suffer a burn injury.

Advancing Care: Providing exceptional care to burn survivors is our highest priority. We strive for excellence in burn care by translating our research into improved clinical care for our patients. We continue to refine and enhance our clinical practices, ensuring that every patient and their carers receive the best possible treatment and support throughout their recovery journey.

Financial Sustainability: To sustain and expand our vital work, we are committed to securing the resources needed to drive our research, education, and care initiatives, ensuring long-term impact and success. The financial support we receive from our donors, partners and supporters is critical, and we value their ongoing commitment.

2025 Impact Highlights

World-Leading Research

24 **peer-reviewed articles** were published online.

44 **research projects** progressed across the research pipeline, from laboratory discovery and clinical research through to analysis, manuscript preparation and submission.

17 **FTE Research team members**.

12 **research students** mentored and supported from the UWA Burn Injury Research Unit who contributed across FWF active research studies: **9 PhD, 2 Masters, 1 Honours student**.

2 **funded research scholarships** supported research capability in 2025: the FPA Australia Scholarship and the Jo Wheatley PhD Scholarship.

4,425 **cumulative research participants** were recorded across FWF studies in 2025.

20+ **research oral presentations** and poster presentations were delivered at local, national and international scientific and professional forums, excluding Professor Fiona Wood AO's invited presentations and speaking engagements.

Awards & Recognition

- Dr Andrew Stevenson received a 2024–25 WA Near-Miss Award (WANMA) following his highly ranked 2024 NHMRC Ideas Grant application, supporting his research into next-generation cell therapies for skin regeneration following injury.
- Heather Russell and Michelle Adamson received awards for their research presentations at the 2025 Child Health Research Symposium.
- Dr Tyler Osborne was conferred his Doctor of Philosophy for understanding metabolic function after non-severe burn injuries in adults.

Advancing Clinical Care

WA Burns Service Patient Statistics

Fiona Stanley Hospital (in 2025)

496 patients
577 admissions
468 operations
13,965 outpatient occasions of service

Perth Children's Hospital (July 2024 to June 2025)

331 patients
538 admissions
399 operations
9,007 attended outpatient appointments

Burn Injury Biobanks (As of December 2025)

350 participants at Fiona Stanley Hospital
492 participants at Perth Children's Hospital

Digital Innovation: MICE and eConsent

400+ clinicians use the platforms across multiple specialties
58,000+ clinical photographs securely captured through MICE
30,000+ digital consent records published through eConsent

2025 Impact Highlights

Impactful Education & Community Outreach

161 **healthcare professionals** attended regional and remote burns education workshops across four regional communities: Bunbury, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton and Albany.

Community education and engagement

- FWF participated in National Family Day Care Week, attending the Koolanga Family Day Care community picnic.

Our Stories video time capsules

- Launched in 2025 and filmed by Sunburnt Films to capture lived-experience stories from burn survivors, families and members of our team.

Burns nursing recognition

- Niamh Goldstraw was the inaugural recipient of the Melissa Murdoch Burns Nursing Award, recognising the values of kindness, teamwork, clinical excellence and compassionate care.

Volunteers

Volunteers are essential to progress research, from the patients and carers who bravely take part in our research, to the control group participants who give their time for the greater good. Their willingness to participate in our studies enables us to generate the evidence needed to translate discoveries from the lab to the clinic. Without their volunteer contribution, progress would stall. We cannot thank them enough; their involvement is critical and valuable.

Financial Sustainability

Central Park Plunge

66 participants generated 1,156 gifts and $137,030 for FWF in 2025.

- A $10,000 pledge through MCCA Islamic Home Finance and the Bendigo Charitable Trust supporting the Bendigo Bank Central Park Plunge team.

Earl Street Physio 6-Week Challenge

- raised $11,363.49 for FWF.

South32 Rottnest Channel Swim

- Team Swimm'd Alive raised $4,003.95 for FWF.

HBF Run for a Reason

- 6 participants represented FWF.

NFIA WA Fire Ball

- $13,600 was raised through the live auction and charity raffle.

79% of income was invested directly into burn research and related consumables.

21 people were employed across research, research assistance, data innovation and operations, representing # full-time equivalent (FTE) positions.

Megan Basioli & Fiona

Year in Review

World Leading Research

Building the body of knowledge

In 2025, FWF strengthened the research capability needed to advance discovery into clinical impact.

Across the year, **44 research projects** progressed through the research pipeline, spanning laboratory discovery, clinical research, data analysis, manuscript preparation and submission.

FWF continued to lead and support research undertaken in partnership through the **Burn Injury Research Unit**, providing supervision, mentorship and research infrastructure for **12 research students**, including **9 PhD candidates, 2 Master's students and 1 Honours student**.

Dr Emily Zhen, Jo Wheatley PhD Scholarship recipient

In addition, research training was supported through **two funded scholarships**: the Jo Wheatley PhD Scholarship, supported by the Wheatley Family Foundation, and the **FPA Australia Scholarship**, supported by Fire Protection Association Australia and its members.

Dr Tyler Osborne was conferred his Doctor of Philosophy for his thesis, Understanding metabolic function after non-severe burn injuries in adults, with support from FWF Senior Research Fellow **Associate Professor Dale Edgar**.

Research leadership was also recognised through competitive funding. **Dr Andrew Stevenson** received a 2024–25 WA Near-Miss Award (WANMA) following his highly ranked 2024 NHMRC Ideas Grant application, supporting research into next-generation cell therapies for skin regeneration following injury.

Dr Amira Allahham presenting at EBA 2025

FWF researchers maintained a strong presence across the scientific community, delivering more than **20 research presentations** at local, national and international forums in 2025. Research was presented at leading meetings including the European Burns Association Conference in Berlin, the Asia Pacific Burns Conference in Goa, an EMBO scientific meeting in Edinburgh, the ANZBA Annual Scientific Meeting in Adelaide and the International Nanomedicine Conference in Sydney.

Research excellence was also recognised at the 2025 Child Health Research Symposium, where PhD student **Heather Russell** and clinical research assistant **Michelle Adamson** received awards for their research presentations.

PhD student Heather (L) and Clinical Research Assistant Michelle (R)

World Leading Research

Building the body of knowledge

International Recognition of a Translational Legacy

Professor Fiona Wood AO received the American Burn Association Lifetime Achievement Award, one of the highest honours in the international burns' community. Presented at the Association's Annual Meeting in Orlando, the award recognises more than three decades of leadership across burn surgery, regenerative medicine, translational research and clinical care.

Professor Wood's contribution has been distinguished by a sustained focus on the full continuum of burn injury, from acute treatment and wound closure to scar formation, function, psychological wellbeing and long-term quality of life. Her work has advanced the clinical translation of regenerative technologies, including spray-on skin, while also broadening the research agenda beyond survival to consider how people recover and live after burn injury.

Central to this work is a clinician-scientist approach in which observations made in practice generate research questions, and research findings are tested against their capacity to improve care. This integration of surgery, laboratory science, clinical investigation and long-term outcomes research has contributed to a more complete understanding of burn injury as a complex, systemic and enduring condition.

Fiona receiving the ABA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Reflecting on the award, Professor Wood said:

"I am honoured to be recognised by the American Burn Association. This reflects a lifetime of work, and with it comes a responsibility to continue advancing care and to support the next generation of clinicians and researchers who will lead the field's future.

"The privilege to have treated thousands of patients suffering burn injury is at the core of the work. In addition, I have had the privilege to work with many amazing clinicians and scientists over the years, most notably Mark Fear, who is truly missed."

The award recognises not only a substantial body of clinical and scientific work, but also an approach to research that has consistently connected biological discovery with patient outcomes. It affirms the importance of sustained translational inquiry and of continuing to develop the people, partnerships and evidence needed to address the unanswered questions that remain in burn care.

World Leading Research

Conducting Research

Basic & Physical Science

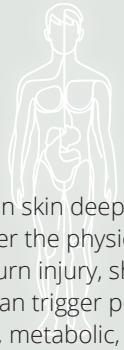
Our research in this area spans the cellular and molecular basis of wound healing, scar formation and fibrosis, through to translating these discoveries into next-generation therapies and surgical techniques. By combining laboratory science with applied clinical research, we aim to reduce physical scarring, optimise wound healing, and improve functional recovery after burn injury.

2025 published research topics

- A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Phase 1 Trial of the Topical Pan-Lysyl Oxidase Inhibitor PXS-6302 in Mature Scar
- Early Ambulation Following Lower Limb Burn and Surgery Is Associated with Improved Long-Term Functional Outcome
- Rapid Evaporative Ionisation Mass Spectrometry in Surgery: A Systematic Review
- Session Rating of Perceived Exertion Is a Valid Method to Monitor Intensity of Exercise in Adults with Acute Burn Injuries
- Unveiling the Link: The Potential Roles of Vitamin D in Keloid Pathophysiology

2025 Active projects

- Collection of discarded skin tissue from elective surgery for scar research
- Real-time mass spectrometry-assisted burn debridement (REASSESS)
- Driving chronic wound repair using CANN001 hydrogel patch safety trial
- Phase 1c study of lysyl oxidase inhibitor (PXS-6302) for keloids
- Topical coconut oil vs standard care for paediatric burns and graft donor sites



Physiological

Burns are more than skin deep. Our research continues to uncover the physiological consequences of burn injury, showing that even non-severe burns can trigger persistent changes across the immune, metabolic, cardiovascular and nervous systems, as well as during the physiological demands of surgery itself.

2025 published research areas

- Effect of Cold and Warm Water Ingestion on Physiological and Performance Parameters During Simulated Hot Burn Surgeries
- Sex-Based Differences in Long-Term Lipid Metabolism, Inflammation and Stress Regulation After Paediatric Burns
- The Implications of Bariatric Surgery in the Burns Patient
- The Separate and Combined Effect of Intraoperative Stressors on the Surgical Team During Burn Surgery

2025 key projects

- Understanding the physiological and long-term health impacts of burn injury in children (LIBI)
- Understanding the lifelong impact of a burn injury in adults (LIBA)
- Lifelong impact of paediatric burns on the immune system and vaccination response
- Platelet dysfunction and cardiovascular disease following paediatric burns

World Leading Research

Conducting Research

Psychological

Our research addresses the mental health and social impact of burn injuries, exploring the links between burns, wellbeing and community reintegration. This work aims to develop evidence-based interventions that strengthen emotional resilience and support psychological recovery for survivors and their families.

2025 published research areas

- Bouncing Back: The Psychosocial Benefits of a Community-Based Exercise Program for Children with Non-Severe Burns
- Feasibility of Collecting Long-Term Patient-Reported Outcome Data in Burns Patients
- Move to Improve: Protocol for an Individualised Physical Activity Programme for Children with Chronic Conditions
- Partnering with Consumers and Multidisciplinary Team to Understand Challenges in Burns Clinical Trials
- Return to Work in Adults After Burn Injury in Australia: WA Outcomes 2006-2024

2025 key projects

- Western Australian self-reported quality of life after burn injury (ULFAB Part 1)
- 'Ember to Empower' co-designed burn recovery toolkit
- Investigating brain function following burn injury using non-invasive brain stimulation
- Virtual reality intervention for burns dressing changes
- Impact of burn trauma on the central nervous system in children

Clinical and Population Health Research

This research stream evaluates clinical risk scores, first aid protocols and diagnostic tools across diverse burns populations, while supporting the clinical registries that underpin national benchmarking, service evaluation and health system planning. By linking clinical evidence with population-level data, the research informs guidelines, advances prevention and care, and contributes to improved outcomes across Australia, New Zealand and internationally.

2025 Published research areas

- Accurate Measurement of Simulated Slow and Altered Walking Activity: Apple Watch Best in Class Wearable Devices
- Cool Running Water as a First Aid Treatment for Burn Injuries
- Cutaneous Chemical Burns: Water Irrigation First Aid Improves Short-term Outcomes
- Country Economic Status Is Strongly Associated with Burn Survival — Validation of the (Modified) ABSI
- Evaluating Inter- and Intra-Rater Reliability in the Bronchoscopic Grading of Burn Inhalation Injury (iBRONCH-BII)
- Implementing Guidelines for Hypothermia Prevention (GLOW)

2025 key projects

- Submission of data to the ANZBA Bi-National Burn Registry
- ANZBA Bi-National Burn Registry — WA Burn Service (site expansion, routine reporting)
- Measuring wound temperature using mobile infrared camera to detect infection

Moving Scar Research Towards Clinical Application

Scarring remains one of the most complex challenges following burn injury, affecting physical function, appearance and quality of life. Through the Fiona Wood Foundation's research pipeline, discoveries in the biology of scar formation are being translated towards new approaches for future scar management.

Researchers identified lysyl oxidases, a family of enzymes involved in collagen cross-linking, as a potential target for modifying the processes that contribute to dense and stiff scar tissue. Building on this discovery, the team alongside our collaborators **Syntara Ltd. (formerly Pharmaxis)** developed PXS-6302, a topical pan-lysyl oxidase inhibitor designed to influence these pathways.

Preclinical studies demonstrated that targeting lysyl oxidases could reduce collagen deposition and cross-linking, providing the foundation for clinical investigation.

In 2025, this research reached an important translational milestone with the publication of results from the SOLARIA2 first-in-human clinical trial. The randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled Phase 1 study evaluated the safety, tolerability and biological effects of PXS-6302 in mature human scars.

A total of 50 participants were enrolled, in which 29 received treatment and 21 received placebo. Treatment was generally well tolerated and reduced lysyl oxidase activity in scar tissue by 66 per cent. Additional analyses identified biological changes consistent with extracellular matrix remodelling, supporting progression towards Phase 2 trials.

This milestone demonstrates the strength of a research pipeline that connects scientific discovery with clinical translation. By uncovering the mechanisms that drive scarring, researchers are building the knowledge required to develop future therapies and improve recovery for people affected by burn injury.

Dr Natalie Morellini, Research Fellow | Research Co-Investigator

INPREP Trial - Negative Pressure Wound Therapy

Providing access to evidence-based care requires more than demonstrating that a treatment works. It also requires understanding how proven treatments can be successfully adopted across different hospitals, clinical teams and models of care.

The **Implementation of Negative Pressure for Acute Paediatric Burns (INPREP)** study is a National Health and Medical Research Council-funded, multicentre randomised controlled trial bringing together **Perth Children's Hospital, Queensland Children's Hospital, The Children's Hospital at Westmead and The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne**. The collaboration is evaluating a co-designed clinical pathway to support the timely implementation of negative pressure wound therapy for children with acute burn injuries.

Unlike traditional clinical trials, INPREP is also examining how evidence can be embedded into routine practice. Alongside patient outcomes, the study is evaluating pathway adherence, feasibility, acceptability and sustainability across participating hospitals, while working with clinicians, patients and parents to develop implementation strategies tailored to each health service.

In 2025, the study reached an important milestone with recruitment completed across all participating sites. As the trial progresses, the findings will inform clinical guidelines and implementation recommendations, supporting the broader adoption of evidence-based paediatric burn care across Australia.

Bouncing Back: The Psychosocial Benefits of a Community-Based Exercise

For children, recovery from burn injury can extend well beyond wound closure. Returning to school, sport and everyday activities may involve anxiety, reduced confidence and ongoing stress for families, even after non-severe burns. FWF researchers evaluated an eight-week community-based trampolining program to examine whether structured physical activity could support psychosocial recovery in children and their caregivers.

World Leading Research

Conducting Research

Published in the European Burn Journal in 2025, the study found that parents reported improvements in their child's emotional wellbeing and parents experienced significant reductions in post-traumatic stress symptoms, including avoidance, hypervigilance and intrusive thoughts. While measures of strength and fitness remained unchanged, the findings suggest that community-based exercise may offer psychosocial benefits that are not reflected in physical outcomes alone.

The study adds to evidence that paediatric burn recovery should be assessed across physical, emotional and family domains, while identifying community-based activity as an important area for further research.

Life After Burn: ULFAB Part 1

Our research team identified a significant gap in understanding what life is like years, and sometimes decades, after burn injury. While some people recover well, others continue to experience physical, psychological or social challenges. Understanding these different experiences is essential to improving future burn care.

In 2025, FWF, the **State Adult Burn Unit at Fiona Stanley Hospital and The University of Notre Dame Australia** launched **ULFAB Connect**, led by Research Fellow and Physiotherapist **Associate Professor Dale Edgar**. The study invites adults who received burn care in Western Australia from 1993 onwards to answer a simple but important question: **what is life like now?**

Associate Professor Dale Edgar, ULFAB Research Lead

"By connecting with patients who have been treated for burn injury, we aim to find out how long any impacts on quality of life endure after a burn injury," Associate Professor Edgar said.

Through a short, confidential survey, participants share information about mobility, pain, emotional wellbeing, daily activities and overall health. Every response is valuable, whether it reflects a positive recovery, ongoing challenges or an experience somewhere in between.

The study aims to build a clearer picture of long-term recovery, helping researchers better understand where care is working well, where needs remain unmet, and where future research may have the greatest impact.

Partnering with consumers

Meaningful research is built in partnership with the people it is intended to benefit. By involving consumers as partners throughout the research process, FWF ensures that lived experience informs the questions we ask, the studies we undertake and the way research is translated into better care. This collaborative approach strengthens the relevance, quality and impact of our research.

In 2025, FWF partnered with the **Western Australian Health Translation Network's Consumer and Community Involvement Program** to host the **Burn Patient & Carers Advisory Breakfast**. Bringing together burn survivors, parents, carers and researchers, the forum provided an opportunity for people with lived experience to help identify future research priorities and contribute directly to discussions about recovery, care and long-term outcomes.

Participants identified mental health, quality of life, scar management, pain management and access to ongoing support as areas where further research could have the greatest impact. These priorities will help inform future research directions, ensuring that scientific discovery continues to address the issues that matter most to patients and families.

The breakfast also strengthened connections between consumers and researchers through presentations from FWF investigators and the introduction of the Research Buddy Program, creating new opportunities for people with lived experience to contribute throughout the research journey, from priority setting and study design to the interpretation and translation of findings.

WAHTN
Western Australian Health Translation Network

Consumer and Community Involvement Program

Representatives from WAHTN (L) and FWF (R)

Research Partnerships

Our research partnership brings together expertise across basic science, clinical research and translational practice, united by a shared commitment to advancing burn care. Through strong local, national and international collaborations, researchers and clinicians combine scientific discovery with clinical insight to accelerate the development, evaluation and implementation of new treatments.

This integrated approach strengthens research capability, expands the reach of our work and supports the translation of evidence into better outcomes across the full continuum of burn care.

We sincerely thank our research partners for their expertise, collaboration and shared commitment to advancing burns research. Together, we are expanding the body of knowledge and accelerating the translation of discovery into better prevention, treatment and long-term recovery.

Health Services

Perth Children's Hospital, WA
Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS), WA
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, WA
Burns Service WA, Fiona Stanley Hospital, WA
South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS), WA
North Metropolitan Health Service (NMHS), WA
WA Country Health Service, WA
Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service, QLD
Royal Brisbane and Women's Health Service, QLD
Women's and Children's Health Network, SA
Safer Care Victoria Paediatric Clinical Network, VIC

Universities

Alliance of Dutch Burn Care, Netherlands
Australian National University, ACT
Birmingham University, UK
Charles Sturt University, NSW
Griffith University, QLD
Monash University, VIC
Murdoch University, WA
Queensland University of Technology, QLD
University of Edinburgh, UK
University of Melbourne
University of New South Wales, NSW
University of Notre Dame Australia, WA
University of Pretoria, South Africa
University of Queensland, QLD
University of Wollongong, NSW
University of Southern Mississippi, USA
University of South Australia, SA
University of Sydney, NSW
University of Western Australia (UWA), WA

Academic & Research Institutes and National Bodies

Australian National Phenome Centre, Murdoch University, WA
Bioplatforms Australia
Clemons Lab, WA
CSIRO, WA
Doherty Institute
Dutch Burn Foundation, Netherlands
National Imaging Facility, Australia
Raine Medical Foundation, WA
Snow Medical, NSW
The Kids Research Institute Australia, WA
The ORIGINS Project, WA

Industry Partners

Avita Medical, Australia / Global
Mölnlycke, Australia
Revolution Surgical, Australia
Syntara Limited, Australia
Waters Corporation, Global
Smith+Nephew, Australia

Associations & Prevention Partners

Australian and New Zealand Burn Association (ANZBA)
Burn Registry of Australia and New Zealand
Injury Matters
International Society for Burn Injuries (ISBI)
Kidsafe WA and Kidsafe Australia
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS)
Royal Flying Doctor Service, WA
St John Ambulance
Western Australian Health Translation Network (WAHTN)

Clinical Services

WA Comprehensive Centre for Childhood Burns

The announcement of a landmark **$27 million philanthropic commitment over 10 years** from the **Stan Perron Charitable Foundation** marked a defining milestone in FWF's mission to transform paediatric burn care. The investment will support the establishment of the **WA Comprehensive Centre for Childhood Burns** at **Perth Children's Hospita**l, creating an integrated model for research, clinical care, education and community engagement.

This significant support builds on a longstanding relationship between FWF and the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation. An earlier grant enabled the establishment of the Stan Perron Centre of Excellence in Childhood Burns from 2019 to mid-2023, advancing research, clinical innovation, education and community engagement. The progress achieved during that period strengthened paediatric burn care in Western Australia and laid the foundation for the Centre's next phase of development.

While advances in burn care have improved survival and recovery, many children continue to experience lasting physical, psychological and social consequences following injury. Addressing these complex needs requires an integrated approach that brings together scientific discovery, clinical expertise and lived experience across the entire continuum of care.

Guided by a vision of a future where no child is defined by a burn injury, the Centre will unite clinicians, researchers, biostatisticians, data scientists, educators and community partners in a shared commitment to improving outcomes for children and families. Through its three interconnected pillars of **Advancing Care, Transformative Research,** and **Impactful Education and Community Engagement**, the Centre will accelerate the translation of discovery into practice while strengthening prevention, treatment and recovery.

Professor Wood said investment from the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation would strengthen the organisation's commitment to delivering the best care for children and their families.

"It enables us to build a truly comprehensive paediatric burns research pipeline, from discovery through to treatment, where clinical trials are embedded into routine practice to ensure every innovation is tested, translated and delivered where it is needed most."

At the announcement, Elizabeth Perron, Chair of the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation, reflected on the shared purpose underpinning the initiative.

"Supporting the wellbeing of WA's children and families is at the heart of the Foundation's mission. We are proud to help enable this transformative Centre, which will drive world-leading research and care right here in Western Australia. We believe this work will profoundly improve the lives of young people who have experienced burn trauma, both now and into the future."

The Stan Perron Charitable Foundation's philanthropic investment provides the scale and continuity needed for FWF to build on its established strengths in burns research, clinical practice and translation. It will enable FWF to extend its impact through an integrated program of care, research and education, advancing a future in which every child affected by burn injury is supported towards holistic healing, lifelong health and the best possible quality of life.

Perth Children's Hospital

STAN PERRON CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

WA COMPREHENSIVE CENTRE FOR CHILDHOOD BURNS
Advancing Care
Transformative Research
Education and Community Engagement

Advancing Care

Data Innovation

Data That Drives Discovery

Understanding long-term recovery after burn injury is one of the next frontiers in burns research. FWF is building the data infrastructure needed to answer that question by combining biological samples with long-term clinical and patient-reported outcomes. This integrated approach is helping researchers move beyond measuring injury to understanding recovery.

Even when burn injuries appear similar, healing, scarring and longer-term outcomes can vary considerably. Some patients recover with few ongoing effects, while others experience persistent impacts on physical health, immune function, psychological wellbeing, education, relationships and quality of life.

Adult and paediatric biobanking across the **WA Burns Service** provides the longitudinal evidence needed to investigate these differences. By linking biological samples with clinical outcomes and follow-up data, researchers can identify factors that influence individual recovery trajectories and better understand which patients may benefit from earlier intervention or more targeted support.

Perth Children's Hospital Foundation supporting the research activity at Perth Children's Hospital

Telethon 7 funding enabling the Paediatric Burn Biobank to incorporate structured psychological and psychosocial measures

The next phase is to develop these resources into an integrated research platform. By connecting **biological, clinical and patient-reported data** over time, researchers will be able to identify patterns that individual datasets cannot reveal. Ultimately, this has the potential to advance personalised care, with treatment, follow-up and support informed by each patient's likely recovery trajectory.

Biobanking across the WA Burns Service

As of 31 December 2025:

350 participants enrolled at Fiona Stanley Hospital

492 children, parents and carers enrolled at Perth Children's Hospital

4,349 biological samples collected across both sites

This includes blood, urine, hair, stool, skin and other sample types collected over time to support longitudinal research into burn recovery.

Impact Story: Kate & Eva

In 2019, **Kate** and her five-year-old daughter **Eva** sustained serious burn injuries following an ethanol burner explosion at a family gathering. Kate was treated at **Fiona Stanley Hospital** with burns to 15 per cent of her body, while Eva was admitted to **Perth Children's Hospital** after sustaining burns to 20 per cent of her body.

For ten days, mother and daughter received specialist care in separate hospitals while each underwent treatment for their injuries. Eva required multiple surgeries during her admission, while Kate also received treatment for her own burns. After returning home, their recovery continued through rehabilitation, scar management and regular follow-up appointments.

Throughout their recovery, Kate and Eva chose to participate in the **Paediatric Burn Biobank**. Since 2019, they have contributed more than **30 biological samples**, together with clinical information and questionnaire responses.

Their contribution, together with those of other children, families and adult burn survivors participating in the biobank, is improving understanding of the longer-term impacts of burn injury and enabling world-leading research into more personalised interventions. This evidence will support better outcomes for burn survivors through care tailored to individual needs at every stage of recovery.

Products/technologies

RECELL®: An Enduring Legacy of Innovation

More than three decades after Professor Fiona Wood AO and Marie Stoner pioneered Spray-On Skin™, their innovation continues to shape burn care globally. Recognising the potential for the technology to deliver public benefit beyond the laboratory, Fiona assigned her intellectual property to the Foundation, enabling its commercial development while establishing a royalty stream to support further research and innovation.

That original innovation became the foundation for **RECELL®**, subsequently developed and commercialised by **AVITA Medical**. Today, the technology has evolved to **RECELL GO®**, AVITA Medical's next-generation system for preparing a patient's own skin cells for application to burn wounds. By automating key preparation steps, RECELL GO® supports greater consistency, reduces manual handling and operator variability, and continues the evolution of a technology pioneered in Western Australia.

In Australia, a significant step towards broader clinical access has been the **Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC)** recommendation for RECELL® to be included on the **Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS)** for eligible severe acute burns. The MBS is Australia's national schedule of subsidised medical services; inclusion means an eligible service can attract a Medicare benefit, helping reduce the financial barrier to treatment and supporting broader access through Australian burn services.

MSAC found RECELL® to be as safe and effective as conventional skin grafting, while recognising potential benefits including reduced donor-site requirements, fewer additional grafting procedures, shorter hospital stays, and reduced pain and scarring. The recommendation covers adults with burns affecting at least 20% of total body surface area, children with burns affecting at least 10%, and whole-of-face burn wound closure.

The original royalty arrangement for RECELL® has transitioned to a donation arrangement in 2025 for the Foundation. This continues the intent of Fiona's original IP assignment: to ensure that the commercial success arising from the innovation can contribute to public benefit and provide an ongoing stream to support research, innovation and the next generation of advances in burn care.

The Next Phase of RECELL Research

The **evolution of RECELL** continues as advances in skin cell biology create new opportunities to potentially improve wound healing and reduce scarring.

Supported by the **Burn Injury Research Unit at The University of Western Australia** and **FWF**, **Dr Andrew Stevenson** (pictured above), alongside **Professor Fiona Wood**, is exploring three approaches in the laboratory that combine new understanding of skin cell populations involved in wound repair with matrix technologies and enhancers of wound repair:

- **Magnetic cell separation** to selectively remove fibroblast populations associated with adverse scarring.
- **A sprayable cell matrix** to retain cells within the wound and provide an optimal environment for growth.
- **Naturally occurring proteins** to enhance cell growth and tissue regeneration.

Part of our basic science research stream represents an exciting area of potential discovery. Translating advances in skin cell biology from bench to bedside could open new possibilities for burn care.

Impact Story: Sally

For Sally, caring for her husband Tim meant learning to navigate an unfamiliar and constantly changing world.

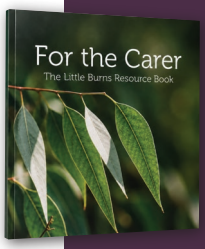
“I had no reference point,” she says. “None of it was recognisable.”

She spent hours at his bedside, attended multi-disciplinary ward rounds and worked closely with the clinical team to understand his treatment and the long road ahead. As Tim’s recovery progressed, Sally learned to manage wound dressings and pressure garments, helped with meals when burns to his hands limited his independence, and prepared for the transition home.

Some moments could never have been anticipated. During one stage of treatment, medication caused Tim to experience vivid hallucinations.

“He thought a bobtail lizard was biting his feet. I would rub his feet for hours to let him know there were no bobtails there. That type of care just evolves. You respond to what the person you love needs in that moment.”

When Tim returned home, Sally managed his daily care until he gradually regained his independence. Through this experience, she recognised both the essential role of carers and the limited information available to help them understand what to expect.



Sally documented the questions she asked, the challenges she faced and the lessons she learned in For the Carer’s - The Little Burns Resource Handbook. The resource addresses the realities of supporting someone through hospital treatment, rehabilitation and the transition home. It also reflects on communication, managing visitors and family responsibilities, accepting help, recognising caregiver fatigue and knowing when to step away.

“I just hope it helps someone sitting in ICU or Ward 4B wondering what on earth has happened. Carers are essential to the recovery process. I saw a gap in the information and thought I could help fill it.”

Impact Story: Tim

In December 2023, grain grower Tim Haslam was critically injured in a farm fire while harvesting near Popanyinning in Western Australia’s Wheatbelt.

The fire left him with burns to 38 per cent of his body, including full-thickness and circumferential burns. He was airlifted to the State Burns Service at Fiona Stanley Hospital, where he spent 10 days in intensive care followed by 74 days in the Burns Ward. He has since undergone more than 11 surgeries, with further procedures planned for his hands.

In the early stages of recovery, the greatest challenge was uncertainty.

“I didn’t know how long I was going to be there or whether I would be able to return to the farm. It was the fear of the unknown.”

Physiotherapy, specialist scar management, pressure garments and RECELL® Spray-On Skin™ technology all contributed to Tim’s recovery. Although he continues to manage restricted movement and difficulty regulating body temperature, he has returned to farming and to a life that once seemed out of reach.

“Without the enormous amount of research and development that has gone into burns recovery, I certainly wouldn’t be living the life I’m living now and there’s a very good chance I wouldn’t have survived.”

Community Prevention

Building Burn Care Capability Across Regional WA

Western Australia's population has grown by approximately **25% since 2015**, increasing the number of people living further from specialist burn services and placing greater emphasis on care delivered across regional and remote settings. Over the same period, the **WA Burns Service** has increasingly managed patients beyond the hospital, including substantially greater use of telehealth and early discharge pathways.

This shift makes regional clinical capability increasingly important. In 2025, FWF funded the delivery of the **Burns Management Program** in **Bunbury, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton and Albany**, where a four-member multidisciplinary team from the WA Burns Service provided evidence-based education to

161 **healthcare professionals, at no cost to participants.**

The program equips clinicians with practical knowledge in burn first aid, assessment, wound management and transfer, while strengthening links with the specialist service. In a state defined by distance, this helps ensure that the quality of initial burn care is not determined by postcode, and that patients can be managed safely, referred appropriately and supported closer to home where possible.

Prevention Through Education

Burn prevention remains an important part of FWF's education program, recognising that clear, evidence-based information can influence both the risk of injury and the response when a burn occurs.

During **National Burns Awareness Month** in June, FWF worked alongside prevention partners **Kidsafe Australia** and the **Australian and New Zealand Burn Association (ANZBA)** to raise awareness of common causes of burn injury, prevention measures and gold-standard burn first aid. These messages were reinforced through FWF's social media channels, Impact newsletters and education activities at **Fiona Stanley Hospital and Perth Children's Hospital**.

This work continues throughout the year, using trusted partnerships and communication channels to keep burn prevention and first aid at the forefront of community awareness.

2025 NBAM PCH Education Stand

2025 NBAM FSH Education Stand

Advocacy: Keeping Burn Recovery and Wound Care on the Agenda

Advocacy is an important part of FWF's commitment to impactful education, bringing research evidence, clinical expertise and lived experience into public and policy settings.

During **Wound Awareness Week 2025**, **Professor Fiona Wood AO** co-led a **Parliament House Round Table** with **Federal Health Minister Mark Butler MP**, bringing wound care education, prevention and access into national policy discussions.

The discussions helped inform priorities subsequently advanced in **Wounds Australia's 2026–27 Pre-Budget Submission**, including national wound care training for the aged-care workforce, specialist education for frontline telehealth services and sustained public education to support earlier recognition and treatment of wounds.

Wound Awareness Week 2025 at Parliament House

Financial Sustainability

Fundraising & Philanthropy

Launching the Horizon Campaign

In 2025, FWF launched the **Horizon Campaign**, building on a legacy of impact and setting a new direction for the future of burns research.

The campaign reflects a long-term commitment to strengthening research capability beyond individual projects and short-term funding cycles. Through the **Horizon Research Innovation Fund**, FWF is building a sustainable platform to support scientific excellence, attract and retain outstanding researchers, foster multidisciplinary collaboration and accelerate the translation of discovery into improved patient outcomes.

The Fund will invest in the people, technology, resources and partnerships required to progress research from scientific discovery through to clinical application.

Strong leadership, clear governance and accountable stewardship underpin the Horizon Campaign and its long-term delivery.

Horizon Campaign regional launch event, Western Australia.

The **Campaign Cabinet** contributes senior external insight, advocacy and philanthropic leadership.

FWF gratefully acknowledges the work and contributions of the founding cabinet members **Tim Haslam, Todd Mairs, Christina Matthews AM, Guy Chalkley** and **Diane Lim**.

The Cabinet is supported by ex-officio members **Professor Fiona Wood AO and FWF Chair David Fyfe**, together with Patient Ambassador **Cynthia Banham**.

Governance of the Horizon Research Innovation Fund is provided through the Investment Sub-committee, which reports directly to the FWF Board. **Shaw and Partners** was appointed as investment manager of the Research Innovation Fund, providing stewardship and capital management.

The Horizon Campaign was launched through a series of stakeholder events across Western Australia, Brisbane and Sydney, bringing together philanthropists, researchers, clinicians, business leaders and long-standing supporters to share FWF's vision for the future of burns research.

A memorable occasion was the official launch at Admiralty House in Sydney, hosted by the Foundation's Patron, **Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, Governor General of Australia and Ambassador of FWF**. The event provided a national platform to share the campaign's purpose and the role of the Horizon Research Innovation Fund in strengthening research capability, innovation and translation.

FWF recognises and thanks the inaugural donors whose founding gifts represent the first philanthropic support for this long-term investment in burns research, innovation and translation:

- **Heytesbury Pty Ltd**
- **McCusker Charitable Foundation**
- **Todd and Kerry Mairs**
- **Sweetman Family Foundation**

Together, these early partnerships mark the beginning of a shared journey to realise the Horizon Campaign's vision for a new era of burns research.

"It will empower our brightest minds to direct their own paths, set the pace of progress, and transform lives without interruption,"
Professor Fiona Wood AO.

The Farming Collective

Alongside the Horizon Campaign, FWF established the **Agribusiness Taskforce** to strengthen engagement with Western Australia's agricultural sector and broaden support for the long-term future of burns research.

The Taskforce brings together farming and agribusiness leaders, regional advocates, burn survivors and family carers. This combination of professional expertise and lived experience informs sector engagement, partnership development and philanthropic participation across regional Western Australia.

Chaired by grain grower and burn survivor **Tim Haslam**, the Taskforce includes **Kevin and Jane Fuchsbichler, Sally Haslam** and **Stephanie Smith**, Associate Director at Birchstone Legal. Collectively, members contribute insight

Fundraising & Philanthropy

into the impact of burn injury on patients, families and regional communities, together with strong agricultural and professional networks.

The Taskforce's inaugural initiative, the Farming Collective, enables grain growers to donate in **10-tonne parcels** to FWF's grower account, with proceeds from grain sales directed to burns research. More information about how to contribute is available on the FWF website.

Operating as an annual harvest campaign, the Collective creates a recurring giving model that enables Western Australia's farming community to invest in the future of burns research, recognising the unique connection many regional communities have with the lasting impact of burn injury.

Community Fundraising Highlights

Central Park Plunge 2025

The 2025 Central Park Plunge brought together **66 participants** from across the FWF community, including burn survivors and families, FWF staff, community supporters and corporate teams, who took on a **130-metre abseil** from Central Park to raise funds for the Foundation.

The event continues to provide an opportunity for people from across the community to come together in support of FWF's work, with participants, volunteers and donors contributing to a shared effort to strengthen the Foundation's impact.

The contribution of corporate teams remains an important part of the event, with organisations bringing their people together to support FWF. **Bendigo Bank's Rate Drop** team combined employee participation with organisational support, with eight team members taking part. Their fundraising efforts were complemented by a **$10,000 contribution from MCCA Islamic Home Finance and the Bendigo Charitable Trust**.

Together, their support raised **$21,146**, making Bendigo Bank Rate Drop this year's **highest fundraising team**.

Among individual fundraisers, **Nigel Williamson** returned for his second year, raising **$15,131.84** and becoming this year's **highest individual fundraiser**. Having experienced a major burn injury himself, Nigel's continued involvement reflects his connection to FWF and his commitment to supporting the Foundation's work.

Together, participants and donors generated 1,156 gifts and raised $137,030 to support FWF's research and education initiatives. We thank everyone who took part, volunteered, fundraised and contributed to making the 2025 Central Park Plunge a success.

1,156 gifts | **$137,030** raised

Nigel Williamson

Team Bendigo Bank

Earl Street Physio Community Challenge

The **Earl Street Physio** team in **Narrogin** brought their community together for a six-week activity challenge, encouraging participants to move in ways that suited their everyday lives while raising funds for FWF.

The community-led initiative **raised $11,363.49**, with a special contribution from the **Kulin District High School** community. Through the participation of students, teachers and families in a primary school lap-a-thon, the school raised **$4,046.50** towards the campaign.

The challenge demonstrated the impact of local communities coming together to support FWF and contribute to the future of burns research and education.

Kevin FWF ambassador speaking at assembly

20 years of Jack the Wagtail at Marmion Primary

In 2025, **Marmion Primary School** celebrated the **20th anniversary of the Jack the Wagtail fundraiser**, honouring the memory of student **Jack Dunn**, who sadly passed away following a devastating burn injury. Inspired by Jack's courage and the words

"you are as tenacious as a willy-wagtail"

the annual fundraiser brings students, families and staff together to take on a physical challenge and raise funds for burns research and recovery.

The anniversary was marked with a special assembly and gathering, where **burn survivor Kevin** shared his experience with students, families and staff, creating a personal connection to the cause they have championed for two decades. **Since its inception, the fundraiser has raised more than $200,000**. We thank everyone who has played a part in Jack the Wagtail over the years and helped sustain this meaningful tradition within the Marmion community.

Charity Partner Spotlight

Fire Industry Alliance 2025 Fireball

The **Fire Industry Alliance** brings together organisations across Australia's fire protection industry, with a shared commitment to protecting people, property and communities through high standards of fire safety.

In 2025, FWF was proud to be selected as the charity partner for the **FIA 2025 Fireball**. The evening featured a performance by The Voice winner Reuben De Melo, with comedian Grant Mushet as Master of Ceremonies.

As guest speakers, FWF Executive Director **Di Lim** and Chair **David Fyfe** spoke about the future of burns research and care. David also shared his burn journey and the impact of FWF's work.

A highlight of the evening was the live auction and charity raffle, which raised **$13,600** for FWF. Prizes donated by participating organisations included AC/DC and Ed Sheeran concert experiences, a V8 race car experience and exclusive sporting memorabilia.

FWF sincerely thanks the FIA for welcoming us to such an incredibly fun night, and extends our thanks to the prize donors and everyone who took part in the live auction, charity raffle or made a direct donation.

FWF Chair David Fyfe, guest speaker at Fireball 2025

Fire Protection Association Australia

FPA Australia's long-standing partnership with FWF continued in 2025. Their direct support of the **FPA Australia Scholarship** is helping build the next generation of burns research talent, while the Fire **Australia Conference and Trade Show** and **Awards Gala Dinner** provided valuable opportunities to connect with the fire sector. Fiona was thrilled to attend the 2025 Gala Dinner as a guest speaker and share the difference their support continues to make.

FPA Australia and its members also continued their fundraising efforts, including taking part in the **Central Park Plunge in both 2024 and 2025**, along with other activities throughout the year.

We sincerely thank FPA Australia, its members and supporters for their continued belief in our mission and everything they contribute to FWF.

Fire Australia Awards Gala Dinner 2025

Financial Summary

Income

2024/25 Financial Year

Individuals and community	17%
Philanthropic Trusts and Foundations	24%
Corporate Sponsorships	34%
Government Grants	5%
Other	19%

Based on the 2025 audited financial statements

Expenditure

2024/25 Financial Year

Administration	21%
Research costs	79%

Based on the 2025 audited financial statements

2025 - A year of progress and possibility

A burn injury is so much more than the initial trauma. Its effects can touch every part of a person's life, their physical health, emotional wellbeing, sense of identity and journey towards recovery.

While advances in burns care have changed what is possible for survival and wound healing, there is still so much we are learning about what happens beyond the visible injury. Understanding these longer-term impacts is essential to helping people not only survive a burn but recover and thrive in the years that follow.

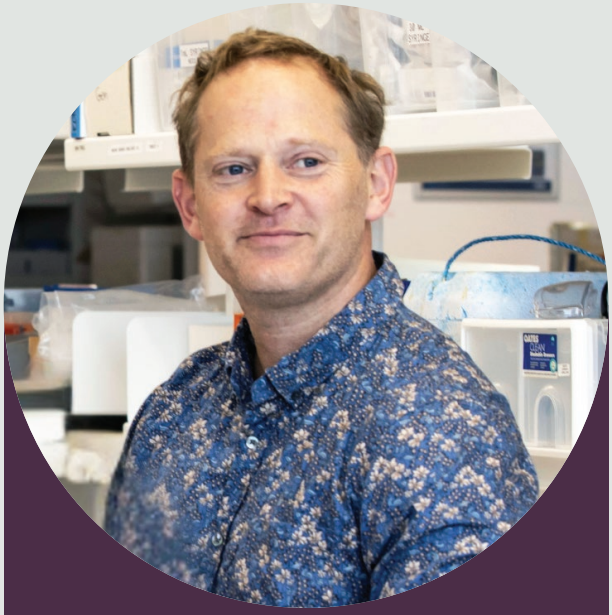
Guided by our strategic pillars, we are building the capability, partnerships and knowledge needed to take burns research forward. Through research, innovation and collaboration, we are exploring how the body, brain and mind respond to injury and turning new discoveries into better approaches to care and recovery.

Our heartfelt thanks

To everyone who has supported the Fiona Wood Foundation throughout 2025, thank you. Your generosity, trust and belief in the importance of this work make it possible for researchers, clinicians and collaborators to ask new questions, pursue bold ideas and work towards discoveries that can change lives.

Whether you have shared your experience, taken part in research, given your time and expertise, provided resources, or partnered with us to advance our work, **every contribution matters**. Together, these contributions help us grow knowledge, strengthen capability and open new possibilities for people living with the impacts of burn injury.

This year has also been a time of reflection and regrouping. Following the loss of Mark Fear, we have come together as a Foundation to strengthen our focus, consolidate our efforts and ensure that our work delivers meaningful impact across each of our strategic pillars. We remain committed to building a future where recovery reaches beyond survival, where discovery leads to meaningful change, and where our collective efforts today create better possibilities for generations to come.



Vale

A/Prof Mark W Fear PhD (MA, Oxon)

1974 – 2025

We honour the life and legacy of Associate Professor Mark Fear, a distinguished scientist, mentor and colleague whose contribution to burns research will continue to influence generations to come.

As Senior Scientist at the Fiona Wood Foundation and Associate Professor within the University of Western Australia's Burn Injury Research Unit, Mark played a central role in advancing our understanding of burn injury, wound healing and scarring.

Through his research, leadership and mentorship, Mark strengthened burns research capability and inspired future scientists and clinicians to pursue discovery with purpose. His curiosity, humility and commitment to collaboration remain part of the foundation he helped build.

His influence will continue through the researchers he mentored, the discoveries he advanced and the many people whose lives were touched by his work.

Mark was, and always will be, part of our burn family.

Contact Us

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