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**Minister for Health and Ageing**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **GOVERNMENT TO FUND WOUND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH**

Improved wound management in aged care has been made a high priority by the Rudd Government, with plans announced for wound management research projects worth up to \$500,000.

With over 270,000 older Australians suffering from chronic wounds, this research will develop best practice in wound management that will be able to be translated across the sector – allowing for shorter stays in high care facilities and hospitals and much greater comfort to residents and patients.

A wound management research program will be a priority for future funding through the second round of Encouraging Best Practice in Residential Aged Care Program (EBPRAC). Individual projects will focus on federally-funded aged care homes.

Through EBPRAC, clinical guidelines are being translated into good practice in several aged care homes and this will lead to sustainable change in care delivery.

By focusing on wound management, aged care homes will be able to use up-to-date evidence-based clinical practice to improve care for all residents. Many older people will benefit from having improved access to appropriate wound care management.

The research will identify the most effective strategies for aged care homes to implement and maintain current good practice in wound management.

While some homes may have wound care management education for their staff, this new research program will encourage and support ongoing education to ensure consistent development of best practice helps improve care for older Australians.

This is another example of Labor investing upfront in health services to ensure we have world class standards for the treatment and care of the elderly.

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