

MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 07 April 2025 (updated 17 April 2025)

Independence Australia Group announced as distributor of wound consumable products under the Chronic Wound Consumables Scheme.

Independence Australia Group has been appointed by the Department of Health and Aged Care for the provision and distribution of wound consumable products to people across Australia, including rural and remote localities, under the Australian Government's \$47.8 million Chronic Wound Consumables Scheme (CWCS).

Chief Operating Officer, Alex Burstin, shares, "We are delighted to partner with the Department of Health and Aged Care to deliver this incredibly important scheme. This appointment highlights our continued evolution as a major healthcare products distributor, trusted by both government and community to deliver critical products across Australia."

From June 2025, the Chronic Wound Consumables Scheme will cover the cost of wound consumable products for older people aged 65 and over, or First Nations people aged 50 and over, who have diabetes and a chronic wound.

It is estimated that approximately 450,000 Australians currently live with a chronic wound.

The CWCS will help eligible patients manage their chronic wounds, covering the full cost of products they need to heal, such as bandages, dressings and adhesives.

"This is about more than just the delivery of wound consumable products—it's about enabling Australians to live with dignity, comfort and independence," shares Alex Burstin.

Patients with a chronic wound will be able to access the scheme by going to an eligible health professional who will assess the wound and order the required wound care products through an online portal. The products will then be delivered direct to the patient or health professional, at no cost for the patient.

As part of the CWCS, the Government has also announced \$3 million to fund national education and awareness projects delivered by Wounds Australia and the Australian College of Nurses (ACN).

Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler MP shares, "These new initiatives are part of the Government's scheme to dramatically improve wound management to ensure that Australians can heal as quickly and well as possible."

For more information on the Chronic Wound Consumables Scheme, visit: health.gov.au/our-work/cwcs

For media enquiries, please contact Independence Australia Group's Media Team at Media@independenceaustralia.org.au.

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About Independence Australia Group

Independence Australia Group is a social enterprise that provides choice for people with a disability or other personal need, enabling them to regain and retain their independence within an inclusive community.

As a social enterprise, we redistribute the surplus funds generated through the sale of over 12,000 healthcare products, mobility aids, and equipment into programs that support people living with a disability. We are one of the largest NDIS registered providers of specialist disability in home and community supports, offering a unique combination of core supports and consumables to NDIS participants. To read more about us, visit independenceaustralia.com.au.

Quotes attributable to Independence Australia Group Chief Operating Officer, Alex Burstin

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