

Western Australia to improve patient care via Silhouette implementation

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Aims to reduce amputation rates and improve care for diabetes patients



New Zealand headquartered ARANZ Medical's Silhouette system is being deployed in Western Australia to improve the care provided for diabetes patients across the entire state.

Type 2 diabetes is the fastest growing chronic disease in Australia, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians with diabetes are 38 times more likely to undergo a major leg amputation compared to non-Indigenous Australians with diabetes. They are also 27 times more likely to undergo a minor amputation. Nearly all (98%) of amputations in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are related to diabetes.

A shared vision of collaborative, high quality foot ulcer and wound care has paved the way for state-wide Silhouette use by enabling healthcare organisations throughout WA to use the SilhouetteCentral database hosted at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in Perth. The first 5 providers to connect to the Silhouette system are Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Osborne Park Hospital, Royal Perth Hospital, Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services, and Boab Health Services in Broome. Other sites are expected to join this exciting initiative in the coming months. Other healthcare organisations involved in the project include Diabetes WA, the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Ltd member services - Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service (BRAMS), Derby Aboriginal Health Service (DAHS), Ord Valley Aboriginal Health Service (OVAHS), and Yura Yungi Medical Service (YYMS) and the communities of Balgo, Bidiyadanga and Beagle Bay.

Diabetes WA are major drivers of the Silhouette project and have funded a number of Silhouette point of care devices for the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services. Their Telehealth Service provides adults living with diabetes in remote communities with critical information, advice and support, via video conferencing technology, and plays a vital role in keeping people in their communities and minimising family disruption.