

# **RENEWING THE EDUCATIONAL IMPETUS ON PRESSURE ULCER PREVENTION: A HEALTH PROFESSIONALS' PERSPECTIVE**

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Despite high quality national and international guidelines steering pressure ulcer care (EPUAP/NPUAP, 2009), pressure ulceration still poses a significant financial impact on health care services in treatment and staff costs (Moore & Cowman, 2011; Vanderwee et al, 2007; Bennett et al, 2004) as well as having a profound effect on the health and quality of life of individuals suffering from them (Bates-Jensen et al, 2009; Anderson & Karlsmark, 2008; Ryan 2006). It is postulated that a greater focus on preventative healthcare interventions would not only yield a more efficient use of resources, but also minimize the negative health and social consequences experienced by 'at risk' individuals (Stinson et al, 2013a; Stroupe et al, 2011). The author will draw upon the findings of two recent research studies conducted with 'at risk' cohorts, to evidence the need for behavioural change on the part of service users, their caregivers and healthcare staff in active pressure ulcer prevention (Stinson et al, 2013b; Schofield et al, 2013). Whilst behavioural change may be levered through the provision of educational activities focusing upon pressure ulcer prevention, the effectiveness of such programmes in reducing the incidence and prevalence of pressure ulceration, and what 'optimal' programmes comprise, has yet to be fully established. The author will close with an overview of the plans for an international review of the research evidence base entitled "Education of healthcare professionals for preventing pressure ulcers" in order to support this renewed impetus on prevention to the international health professional community.