

To the Senate Committee:

Both my parents suffered from non-diabetic wounds and leg ulcers. They are now both deceased but both would have benefitted from hyperbaric treatment had it been available to them. The improvement in the quality of life without having to endure the tedious on-going treatment procedure is remarkable and I'm quite sure my father may still be living if hyperbaric treatment were available to him. He died in September 2009.

I speak from first hand experience having developed leg ulcers during my early 50's. The ritual of regularly changing costly dressings, the extra care that has to be given when undertaking normal activities and the time spent being inactive while the legs are elevated to improve circulation can be quite degrading.

In 2011 I became aware of hyperbaric treatment for leg ulcers and spoke with the specialists at Hyperbaric Health in Sydney. During the six weeks I spent having treatment I saw many people undergo quite remarkable changes as it was the usual practice to discuss our problems with other patients in the waiting area.

Apart from one minor problem I have been able to resume an active lifestyle and the saving of more than \$50 per week in wound dressings and associated medication has also been welcome.

I have passed on the literature available at Hyperbaric Health in Sydney to some general practitioners in the hope that others who have been afflicted to this dreadful condition may enjoy the benefits such a facility offers.

Without the subsidy provided to institutions such as Hyperbaric Health I would not have been able to access this essential treatment. The privately operated hyperbaric units are financially out of reach and I would have resigned myself to the fact that I would spend the next forty or more years wearing cotton wool wrapped around my legs. As mentioned earlier in this submission I saw how non diabetic wounds affected my parents and I cannot foresee myself facing a similar lifestyle.