## Occupational Therapy Led Paediatric Burn Telehealth Review Clinic **Keeping kids closer to home**

Phillips D, Kingston G, Carroll D, Stalewski H, Mariyappa Rathnamma B, Males T, Pain T, Watson-Brown R.

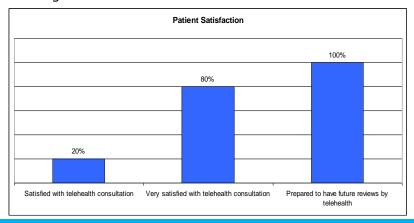
## Introduction

The North Queensland Paediatric Burns Service (NQPBS) at The Townsville Hospital (TTH) is the tertiary service for the northern Queensland. 50% of the patients seen at NQPBS are from communities outside of Townsville (Refer to Diagram 1). Studies have shown rural children are more likely to have increased complications (Hyland et al. 2015). Patients brought back to TTH or closest visiting surgeons for reviews were often required to travel long distances. In response to clinical need an Occupational Therapy (OT) Led Paediatric Burn Telehealth Review Clinic has been developed by NOPBS to review rural and remote children post burn injury.

In the OT Led Paediatric Burn Telehealth Review Clinic, the Occupational Therapist takes on the responsibility of monitoring children that are undergoing active burn rehabilitation. Allied Health Assistants are delegated clinical and non clinical tasks to improve efficiencies within the clinic.

Service design included:

- Stakeholder consultation
- Needs analysis
- Clinical guidelines
- •Delegation framework to allied health assistants





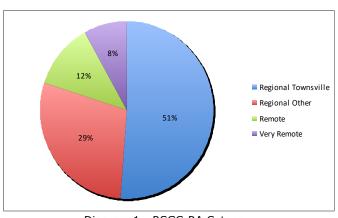


Diagram 1 - RSGC-RA Category

## Results

To date forty- three families have been reviewed. Families have received between one and six telehealth consultations saving travel time up to 12 hours per appointment. Surveys demonstrate family and clinician satisfaction. There has been an increased frequency of clinical reviews post implementation of the model. Less than one percent of consultations have required re-engagement with paediatric surgeons.

## **Conclusions**

The OT- Led Paediatric Burn Telehealth Review clinic has increased the frequency of clinical reviews, saved patient travel time and reduced demand on paediatric surgeon appointments in the Burns clinic. Success of this local study will provide a template, including resources developed, for other Health Services to implement the model.

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Debra Phillips debra.phillips@health.gld.gov.au



