

2025

DFA CONFERENCE

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

Submissions should focus on high-quality original research in diabetes-related foot disease with relevance for clinical practice, now or in the future.

06JUL25 ABSTRACTS CLOSE**23JUL25 OUTCOMES ADVISED****submit your form to****nationaloffice@diabetesfeetaustralia.org****TITLE** Deadly Feet: Multidisciplinary Outreach Service**AUTHORS** Courtney Finch, Laetitia Douglas, Ry Abel, Teal Derbogossian, Murray Ogg, Annie Redhead**EMAIL** laetitia.douglas@health.qld.gov.au**INSTITUTION** Royal Brisbane and Womens Hospital**ABSTRACT (maximum 450 words. Please use the following or similar headings: Background/Methods/Results/Conclusions)**

Foot conditions related to diabetes are of great concern to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. Deadly Feet delivers prevention strategies such as opportunistic education and screening, in line with priority reforms outlined in the Making Tracks Policy and Accountability Framework, the Southeast Queensland (SEQ) First Nations Health Equity Strategy, the First Nations First Strategy 2032 and the Metro North Health Equity Strategy.

Background: Deadly Feet is a co-designed, multi-disciplinary outreach service delivered across multiple sites. Deadly Feet aims to improve clinical pathways and outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at risk of or with foot disease through early detection, risk modification and intervention by addressing the known barriers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people face accessing healthcare. This is achieved by delivering podiatry, vascular sonography, and vascular specialist services to patients in a culturally appropriate manner, closer to home and with the additional support of an Identified workforce. It operates in collaboration with Hospital and Health Services (HHS), Institute of Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH), Moreton Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Services (MATSICHS) and Galangoor Duwamali Primary Healthcare Service, Cherbourg Regional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Service (CRAICCHS) and local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and health teams. Deadly Feet monitors the Royal Brisbane Woman's Hospital (RBWH) vascular clinic waitlist for any Identified patients that have been referred into the service rather than Deadly Feet.

Method: Deadly Feet's success stems from its collaboration with an extensive co-design network that extends beyond QLD Health and guides the service's design, implementation, and evaluation. Through yarning and shared knowledge, By establishing a codesign network that extended beyond Queensland Health, prioritising community engagement and actively listening to feedback and implementing suggestions within scope and resources, Deadly Feet transitioned from a conventional service to a culturally responsive model.

Culturally responsive changes to the model of care included;

Community engagement events as well as providing education and opportunistic screening Using Better Together Health Van (BTHV)

Service provided closer to home

Ability to receive self-referrals & minimal referral criteria

Patients reviewed by 3 specialists within one appointment

Assistance with transport to and from appointment.

Results: To date, Deadly Feet has been invited to attended over 40 community engagements, meeting community at local events, yarning circles and community centres. Invitations from community organisations for Deadly Feet to meet with their clients is confirmation of established trusting and sustainable relationships. At these engagements, 353 community members opted to participate in opportunistic screening. Of these, 116 self referred into Deadly Feet for formal review. Organic connections, trusting relationships and familiarity are enhanced by the robust word of mouth network between family and friends also known as the Murri grapevine. Proof of the impact of word of mouth was evident in the number of self referrals received compared to other referral sources. Of the 800 referrals received since April 2023, 34% were from patients self-referring into the service, only slightly behind primary care referrals at 47% and well ahead of tertiary care referrals at 19%. Deadly Feet has four established service delivery sites; Redcliffe Hospital, Caboolture MATSICHS, Galangoor Duwalami Hervey Bay and Cherbourg (alternating between CRAICCHS & the local hospital). The team has held 67 clinics and 562 people have been formally reviewed by the full clinical team. Of these, 4 patients have received limb salvaging surgery and 6 patients have received surgical intervention for significant life impacting rest pain.

Conclusion: The success of Deadly Feet would not be as noteworthy without the support of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peers, people and community organisations and services that have formed our co-design network. Actively engaging with consumer ideas and community feedback is the cornerstone of Deadly Feet's success as a culturally responsive model. Over the next 12 months, Deadly Feet aims to strengthen its partnerships as well as explore opportunities for further expansion, all while remaining guided by the voices of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities it serves.