**Community diabetes knowledge test assessment – A cross-sectional survey in rural New South Wales**

**Aims**: The Western New South Wales Local Health District (WNSWLHD) is a rural region with a higher prevalence of diabetes than the national average. This study aimed to assess diabetes knowledge and evaluate the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) among residents of rural WNSWLHD.

**Methods**: A cross-sectional study was conducted over five months, using the Diabetes Knowledge Questionnaire (DKQ) and the Australian Type 2 Diabetes Risk Assessment (AUSDRISK) tool. The DKQ assessed six domains: general diabetes knowledge, complications, diet, lifestyle, symptoms, and risk factors, with a maximum score of 31. Sociodemographic and medical data were also collected, and AUSDRISK categorized participants into low, intermediate, or high risk for developing T2DM.

**Results**: The study involved 139 participants (mean age 47 ± 15 years), with a majority being female (86.3%) and Australian-born (87.8%). The median DKQ score was 27 (IQR: 3). Participants without a history of high blood glucose had significantly higher knowledge scores (W = -4.46, p = 0.002). The domain with the lowest score was knowledge of diabetes symptoms. Notably, 89.9% of participants were classified as at intermediate or high risk for developing T2DM.

**Conclusions**: While diabetes knowledge was adequate overall, gaps were identified, especially in diabetes symptoms. Proactive screening and targeted educational interventions focusing on modifiable risk factors and knowledge reinforcement are essential to improve prevention and management in this rural population.