



# **THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ADULT BURN SERVICE AT THE ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL**

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**Lows to Highs; 2001–2012**

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The objective of this thesis is the collation, integration and revelation of just over a decade of work; supported by publication with media stories appended.

At the beginning of this decade, at the end of 2001, I immigrated to Australia to take on the Directorship of the Adult Burns Service based at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. At the time, the Service lacked medical leadership and direction; its standard of care being maintained only by excellent nursing and nurse leadership. This did not protect it from investigation by the State Government and the revelation that the Service lacked several key criteria to continue calling itself a tertiary service.

At the end of the 'decade', in 2012, the Service is widely regarded as one of the best in the world, with enviable outcomes, excellent research and education programmes, a prolific publication output, a national burns charity and a highly disciplined, professional and experienced multidisciplinary team approach to burn care. In December 2012 following successful re-verification with the American Burn Association and the American College of Surgeons, the Service has been completely transformed from the inauspicious position it occupied when I assumed control.

The journey has been planned from the outset, and those plans executed fastidiously, with every opportunity for service development and betterment grasped.

This work honours all those who have taken part and helped in the creation of something very special.