"This is not just a little accident": A qualitative understanding of paediatric burns from the perspective of parents

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**Purpose**: This study uses phenomenology, a qualitative methodology to explore the lived experience of parents following a burn injury of their child.

**Methods**: In depth, face to face interviews were conducted with 21 parents (14 mothers and 7 fathers). Interviews were conducted in participants homes in the metro, rural and remote areas of WA. Transcripts were analysed according to the seven-step Coliazi methods. Relationships between themes were explored to identify core concepts.

**Findings**: Analysis of interview transcripts revealed 3 phases that describe the parents’ journey: the event, the inpatient phase and the return to community. Within these phases themes of stressors, behavioural and emotional responses and coping factors were present.

**Implications for Clinical Practice**: 
1. Health professionals should optimise a holistic clinical service from a consumer’s perspective taking into consideration all stages of the burn journey.
2. Therapeutic supports are required to target each phase of the burn journey and address changes in coping strategies and behavioural responses.
3. There is a need for the development of protocols to underpin a comprehensive information and social support management plan for families that will complement and support the surgical treatment plan.

"Being discharged is just the beginning of a longer journey"
Father of a 14 year old burn survivor