

# The Man Who Wont Roll: A Case Study



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## Person

- 49 year old man >130kg
- Great sense of humour
- Enjoys spending time with friends, writing poetry, drawing and painting in powered wheelchair
- PMHx C4-5-6 complete spinal cord injury, ABI, Depression
- Chronic pressure sores often led to depressive episodes

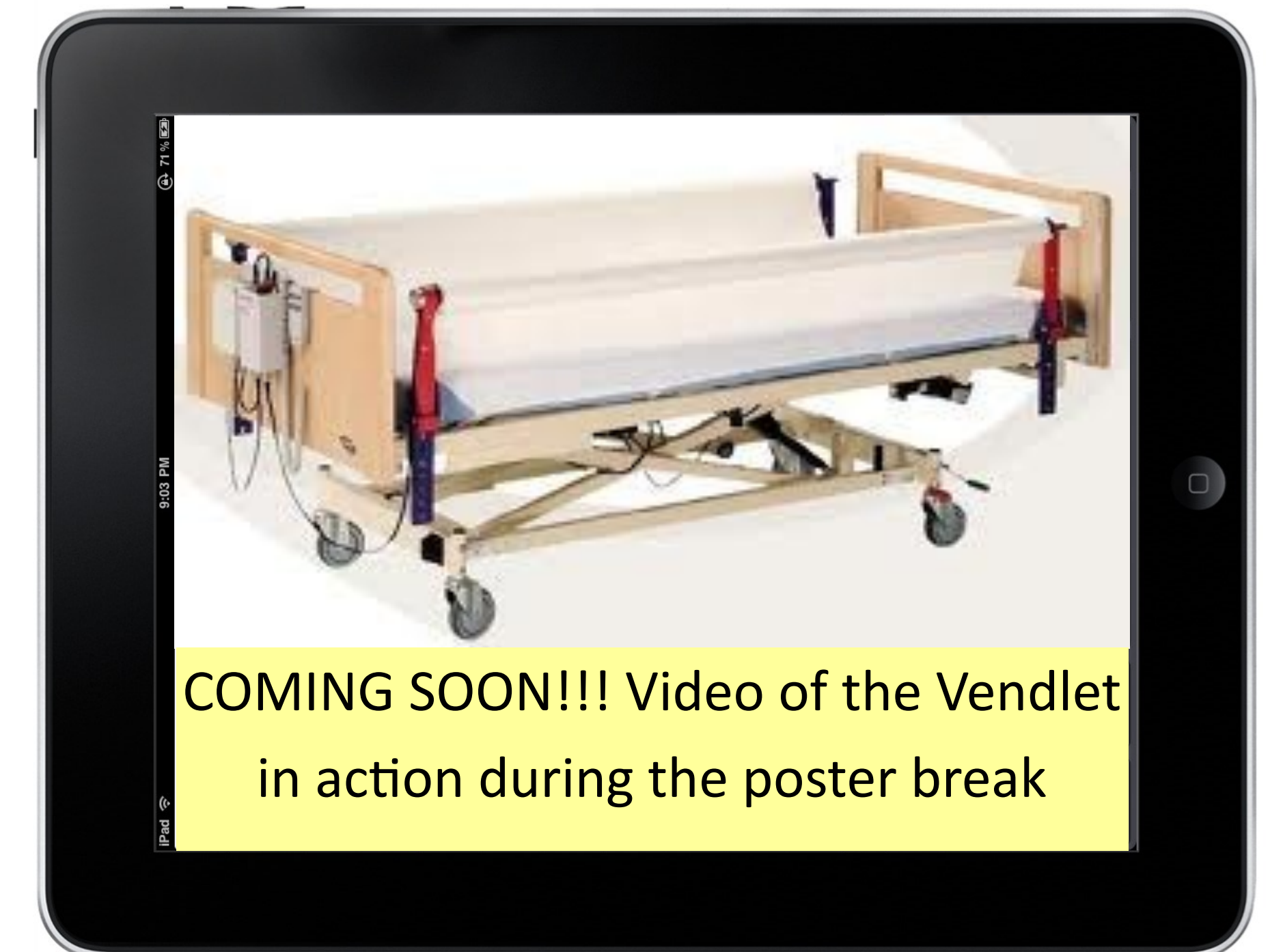
## Environment

- Lives in shared supported accommodation
- Staff reporting low confidence in assisting Gavin to move in bed
- Multiple Work Cover claims
- All of original payout spent
- Department of Human Services (DHS) concerned about spiralling cost of care

\* The environment was not supporting Gavin to be happy and feel safe in his routine

- Wound care and bowel care completed every second day
- Fearful of returning to hospital
- Found morning routine stressful
- Depression often brought about by pressure injuries
- When depressed spent all day in bed

## Occupation



Gavin has given permission for his name and images to be used. He will be co-presenting during the allocated poster time

### Equipment trialled



**All-ways slide:** Not appropriate as it required too much strength from staff when lifting Gavin into rolled position.

**Rolling Sling:** Too small to rotate Gavin as his area of weight distribution was larger than the sling.



**SmartTech Turning bed:** Purchased at a cost of \$13,000 as it was the best option at that time. Did not effectively redistribute pressure and still required three staff to keep Gavin on his side for care in bed. Gavin found it uncomfortable.

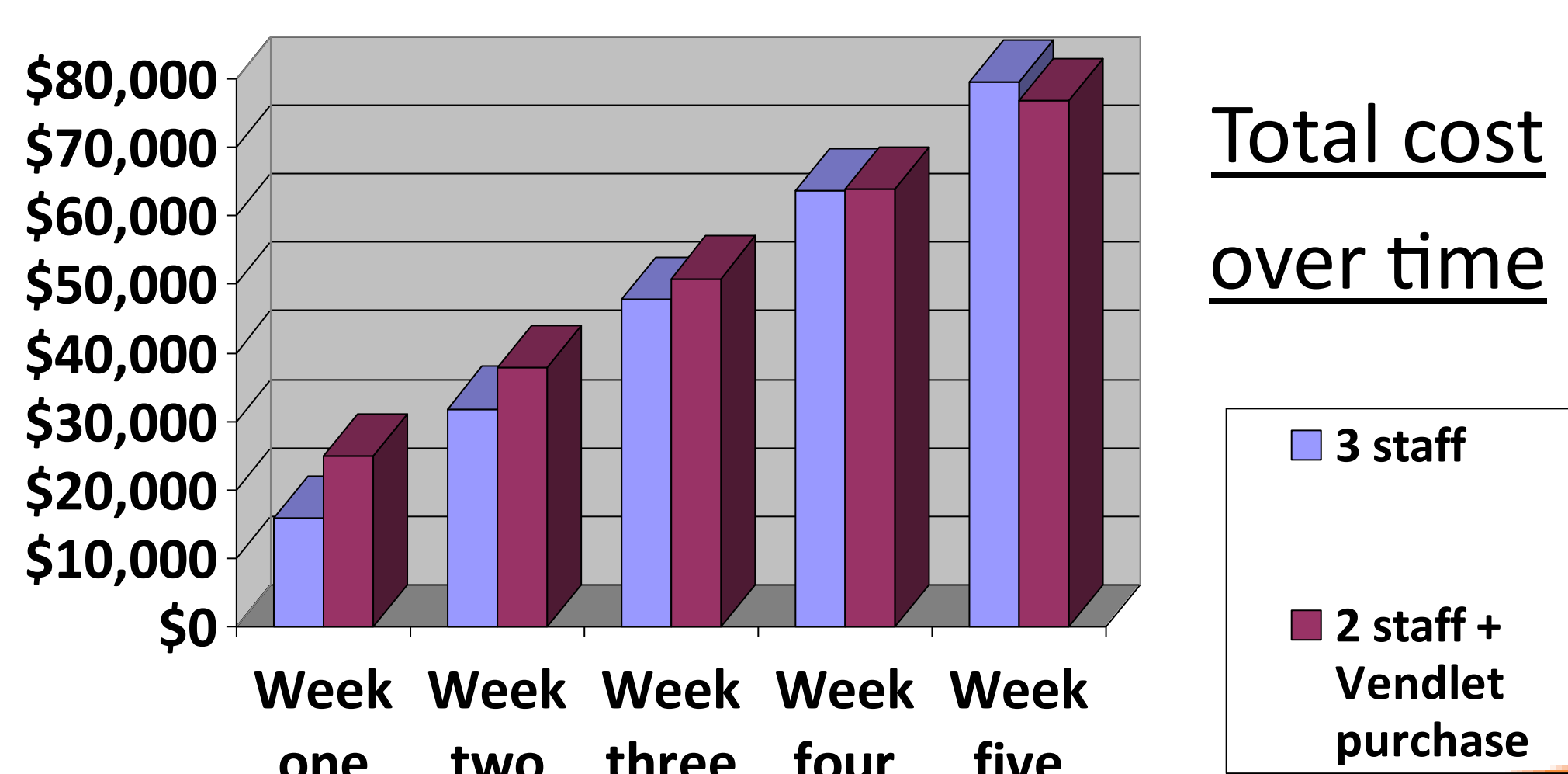
### Before Vendlet

- Staffing: Morning routine required 3x Disability Support Workers and one nurse
- Time taken was up to 2 hours
- Gavin's perspective: he did not like 8 hands supporting his side, lack of privacy, frustrated waiting for staff, fixated on routine
- Staff perspective: fearful of injury, reported it was the hardest part of the shift, time consuming, strained relationship with Gavin

### After Vendlet

- Staffing: Morning routine requires one or two Disability Support Workers and one nurse
- Time taken: Less than one hour
- Gavin's perspective: smooth rolling and positioning, increased privacy and dignity, increased choice and control over routine, increased quality of life, decreased negative self-talk
- Staff perspective: simple morning routine, enhanced interactions with Gavin

Initial cost of Vendlet system — \$11,000



### Summary

**Cost benefit:** broke even at five weeks

**Collaboration:** outcome not possible without the person, support staff, therapists, service manager and DHS focused on same goal

**Perseverance:** Four years of therapy review to reach this outcome

**The future:** With NDIS on the horizon, people will have control over their money and more holistic purchases of assistive technology will be possible

**COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS: Clinical decision making around high cost assistive technology must consider the impact on other expenses, and not just the initial purchase**