

**Stop Osteoporotic Secondary Fractures -
A National Alliance making the first fracture the last
(‘SOS Fracture Alliance’)**

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

1. THE PARTIES

1. Arthritis & Osteoporosis Tasmania
2. Australian and New Zealand Bone & Mineral Society
3. Australian and New Zealand Fall Prevention Society
4. Australian and New Zealand Hip Fracture Registry
5. Australian and New Zealand Society for Sarcopenia & Fragility Research
6. Australian and New Zealand Orthopaedic Nurses' Alliance
7. Australian and New Zealand Orthopaedic Research Society
8. Australian and New Zealand Society for Geriatric Medicine
9. Australian College of Nurse Practitioners
10. Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
11. Australian Fragility Fracture Foundation
12. Australian Healthcare & Hospitals Association
13. Australian Institute for Musculoskeletal Science
14. Australian Orthopaedic Association
15. Australian Physiotherapy Association
16. Australian Rheumatology Association
17. Carers Australia
18. Carers New South Wales
19. Council on the Ageing (COTA)
20. Country Women's Association of NSW
21. Country Women's Association of WA
22. Dietitians Association of Australia
23. Endocrine Nurses Society of Australia
24. Endocrine Society of Australia
25. Exercise and Sports Science Australia
26. Health Bones Australia
27. Musculoskeletal Australia
28. NSW Nurses & Midwives Association
29. Pharmaceutical Society of Australia
30. Public Health Association of Australia
31. Queensland Country Women's Association
32. Rehabilitation Medicine Society of Australia and New Zealand
33. Royal Australasian College of Physicians
34. Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
35. Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists
36. Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists
37. Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
38. South Australia Country Women's Association
39. The ANZAC Research Institute, Sydney
40. The Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Sydney
41. The Health Care Consumers' Association

2. PURPOSE OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding confirms the mutually supportive nature of the 'SOS Fracture Alliance' the parties wish to form.

In particular, this Memorandum of Understanding is intended to:

- Identify the area of cooperation
- Describe the working relationship between the parties
- Describe the structure of the Alliance
- Facilitate communication and joint planning between the parties.

3. BACKGROUND

Most Australians who suffer an osteoporotic fragility fracture are neither investigated nor do they receive appropriate treatment following this sentinel event. Because of this lack in proper care, many of these men and women experience further fragility fractures, which lead to significantly reduced quality of life and premature death.

This care gap exists in the face of widely accessible and highly efficacious management strategies to maintain bone strength and prevent falls. It exists despite repeated calls for action. Although osteoporosis became part of the 7th National Health Priority Area in 2002, little progress has been made in the prevention of fragility fracture.

4. AREA OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES AND OBJECTIVES

In a meeting held in Sydney on 20 November 2015, key stake holders in prevention and management of secondary fracture, came together to consider forming a National Alliance to promote the prevention of osteoporotic secondary fractures (named '*Stop Osteoporotic Secondary Fractures - An Alliance making the first fracture the last*' or short: '**SOS Fracture Alliance**'). This alliance will translate the evidence for the effectiveness of existing strategies for secondary fracture prevention into tangible health benefits, i.e. the development of a systems approach applicable to the Australian health system.

The parties to this agreement are convinced that working together as an Alliance will deliver consistent and targeted messages, and that focussing multiple organisations in one united voice is most likely to lead to change.

The parties therefore agree to work together to ensure that all Australians with a fragility fracture are appropriately managed to reduce the risk of further fractures. Specifically, the *SOS Fracture Alliance* aims to develop and implement a national policy for the uptake of best practice for the

management of patients with fragility fractures. This policy should involve a shift from the current common practice focused only on acute fracture repair to a clear pathway that involves both primary care and dedicated 'Secondary Fracture Prevention Programs' (also known as Fracture Liaison Services' or 'Osteoporosis Refracture Prevention Services). A multidisciplinary approach is required to prevent falls that underpin many fragility fractures, to address any underlying cause for osteoporosis and to select the most appropriate interventions to prevent subsequent fractures.

The Alliance's strategy would have at its heart the development and operation of a health service program aimed at timely identification of all patients who sustain a fragility fracture, ensuring their prompt referral for assessment of bone health. In those with confirmed osteoporosis, expert management to prevent future fractures and falls would be consistently offered to patients.

Thus, the **objectives** of the *SOS Fracture Alliance* are:

- Achievement of a nationwide program for the identification of people with fragility fractures, and their referral, as clinically indicated, for investigation and treatment with the aim to reduce the risk of subsequent fractures and/or falls.
- Advocacy, with all necessary parties, for the implementation of nationally uniform health service delivery with auditable KPIs that would give effect to this nationally agreed program.

The *SOS Fracture Alliance* will work with Commonwealth and State/Territory governments to embed secondary fracture prevention within the routine operations of the health system including acute and chronic settings within the hospital and the community.

5. Our Vision

The *SOS Fracture Alliance*'s vision is an Australia where all patients with fragility fractures receive effective preventive care in order to reduce needless death and disability from subsequent fracture.

With this Memorandum of Understanding, the Parties agree in principle to the vision, objectives and principles of the Alliance. They confirm their commitment to acting in accordance with the Alliance's principles to achieve its objectives and thereby to realise their vision.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

Principles

The activities of the *SOS Fracture Alliance* will focus on the singular aim of minimising future fracture in people who have already suffered a fragility fracture. The Alliance will exist only for the purpose of ensuring Secondary Fracture Prevention Programs become the standard of care in Australia.

The Alliance will serve alongside its member organisations and will not compete with their activities. The Alliance will be independent of any specific member organisation in order to provide opportunity for all its members to contribute.

Alliance governance and management

A Steering Group named the “Governing Committee” will be responsible to progress all matters. This Steering Group is democratically elected by all Alliance member organisations via a secret ballot to be held every three to four years. The Governing Committee will represent all parties to the Alliance and will:

- ◆ Develop and maintain a strategic plan;
- ◆ Ensure all members’ views are considered
- ◆ Ensure all members are kept informed
- ◆ Oversee and manage all Alliance activities

The Governing Committee will be supported by a paid Executive Officer whose salary will be funded by the Alliance, along with other costs associated with the Alliance’s activities. The *SOS Fracture Alliance* will not be a legal entity in its own right. and will be housed together with the Australian Fragility Fracture Foundation (or its successor), who will provide logistic and administrative support.

7. STATEMENT OF INTENT

Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding shall be construed as creating any legal relationship between the parties. This MOU shall be construed as a statement of intent to foster genuine and mutually beneficial collaboration and shall not prejudice the right of the parties to form other agreements with other parties.

Version	Date	Author	Detail
V1.0	18 June 2017	M Seibel	Final version of initial M.O.U
V1.2	16 Nov 2018	J Ansell	Addition of new Members to Section 1
V1.3	18 Oct 2019	J Ansell	Revision of Section 1 to remove departed Members and add new Members
V1.4	29 Apr 2020	J Ansell	Addition of new Members to Section 1
V1.5	14 August 2023	M Seibel, J Ansell	General revision, updating funding

			arrangements, addition of new members
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