

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

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

1. THE PARTIES

1. Australia New Zealand Bone & Mineral Society
2. Australia and New Zealand Orthopaedic Research Society
3. Australian and New Zealand Society for Geriatric Medicine
4. Australian College of Nurse Practitioners
5. Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
6. Australian Orthopaedic Association
7. Australian Physiotherapy Association
8. Australian Rheumatology Association
9. Carers Australia
10. Carers New South Wales
11. COTA
12. Country Women's Association of Australia
13. Country Women's Association, NSW Branch
14. Dietitian Association of Australia
15. Endocrine Nurses Society of Australia
16. Endocrine Society of Australia
17. Exercise and Sports Science Australia
18. Internal Medicine Society of Australia and New Zealand
19. MOVE muscle, bone & joint health
20. National Hip Fracture Registry
21. Osteoporosis Australia
22. Public Health Association of Australia
23. Rehabilitation Medicine Society of Australia and New Zealand
24. Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists
25. Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
26. Royal Australasian College of Physicians
27. Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
28. Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists
29. The Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Sydney
30. The Institute for Health and Ageing, Melbourne
31. The ANZAC Research Institute, Sydney

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

The majority of Australians who suffer fragility (osteoporotic) fractures are neither investigated nor do they receive appropriate treatment following this sentinel event. As a consequence, many of these men and women experience further fragility fractures, which lead to significant illness 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, the parties, key stakeholders 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 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 a multi-disciplinary team within the setting of a dedicated 'Secondary Fracture Prevention Program' (often called a 'Fracture Liaison Service'). 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:

- o Achievement of an agreement on 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.

- o 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 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, who will be the founding members of the *SOS Fracture Alliance*, 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 not be a fund-raising organisation in its own right but may seek funds together with OA and/or other member organisations.

The Alliance will be independent of any specific member organisation in order to provide opportunity for all its members to contribute.

The Alliance will have 'financial' and 'regular' member organisations. 'Financial' organisations are those that support the *SOS Fracture Alliance* either with cash contributions or provide substantive in-kind support. All other organisations will be 'regular' members who will contribute non-financially to defined activities of the Alliance as the occasion arises.

Alliance governance and management

Until such time that the *SOS Fracture Alliance* has been formally constituted, a Steering Group will be responsible to progress all matters. This Steering Group

has been selected by the representatives of all Alliance member organisations on 20 November 2015 and currently comprises the following individuals:

Markus Seibel (Chair); Bruce Armstrong; Jacqui Close; Mark Kotowicz; Colleen Langron; Greg Lyubomirsky; Gabor Major; Davor Saravanja; Katherine Stone.

Once the *SOS Fracture Alliance* has been fully established and financially secured, a Governing Committee will be democratically elected by the member organisations. This Committee will have representatives from all 'financial' member organisations and a limited number of additional members from regular member organisations.

The Governing Committee will represent all parties to the Alliance and will:

- ◆ Develop a strategic plan;
- ◆ Ensure all members' views are considered
- ◆ Ensure all members are kept informed

The Governing Committee will be supported by a paid Executive Officer whose salary will be funded by the financial member organisations, 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 Osteoporosis Australia, 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.

18 June 2017