



**Fracture
Alliance**

Making the first break the last

NEWSLETTER #3

May 2018

Welcome to the third newsletter of the SOS Fracture Alliance

You will see by the list of member organisations below that the Alliance has further grown to be **34** today. Our members include professional and scientific colleges and societies, associations representing patients, carers and older Australians, regional and rural organisations, and medical research institutes. Together, our members represent well in excess of 3 million Australians, meaning that the SOS Fracture Alliance is supported by a comprehensive segment of relevant professions and the Australian public. As the national peak body for secondary fracture prevention, uniting all key stakeholders, the SOS Fracture Alliance will speak with one voice and act to close the unacceptable gap in the care of people who suffer fragility fractures.

In the words of Nelson Mandela: "We know it well that none of us acting alone can achieve success. We must therefore act together."

Current member organisations

- 1. Australia New Zealand Bone & Mineral Society**
 - 2. Australia and New Zealand Orthopaedic Nurses Association**
 - 3. Australia and New Zealand Orthopaedic Research Society**
 - 4. Australian and New Zealand Society for Geriatric Medicine**
 - 5. Australia and New Zealand Society for Sarcopenia & Frailty Research**
 - 6. Australian College of Nurse Practitioners**
 - 7. Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine**
 - 8. Australian Institute for Musculoskeletal Medicine**
 - 9. Australian Orthopaedic Association**
-

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

Activities and Progress

During the past 6 months the members of the Alliance Steering Committee have been corresponding and meeting with numerous key organisations and people to discuss the best way forward. The Alliance Strategic Plan was finalised in November and has been circulated. This Plan has given the Alliance very clear direction and we are making progress as planned. Below is a summary of specific activity:

December 2017 – Joint Osteoporosis Australia and SOS Fracture Alliance submission to the Hon. Ken Wyatt, Minister for Aged Care and Minister for Indigenous Health, entitled “A National Approach to Expanding Secondary Fracture Prevention in Australia”. This submission sought to source funds from the Australian government in the 2018-2019 financial year to invest in a National Secondary Fracture Prevention Programme including:

- i. 10 pilot sites across the country
- ii. National enablers that will provide leadership and support for a consistent, efficient and effective approach to secondary fracture prevention in Australia
- iii. A national policy for secondary fracture prevention that would be based on the lessons learned through the pilot sites and developed in conjunction with the National Leadership Committee and endorsed through the Australian Health Minister’s Advisory Council.

14 Feb 2018 – The SOS Fracture Alliance Governing Committee meets to discuss and decide on future activities. These include progressing our key projects (see below) as well as engaging with Federal and State Government representatives to progress our efforts to improve secondary fracture prevention.

Late Feb 2018 – Summary one-pager, cover letter and copy of Budget submission sent to all State Government Health Ministers to alert them to the submission.

27 March – Members of the Alliance Governing Committee, Greg Lyubomirsky and Andreas Loeffler meet with Wendy Black, Chief of Staff for the Hon. Greg Hunt, Minister for Health, to raise awareness of the Budget submission and the objectives of the SOS Fracture Alliance.

28 March: Letter by Prof Markus Seibel to Prof Paul Worley, National Rural Health Commissioner, introducing the SOS Fracture Alliance and its aims.

11 April - Members of the Alliance Governing Committee, Colleen Langron and Markus Seibel meet with the Hon. Julian Leeser, MP, to discuss the aims of the SOS Fracture Alliance and seek support for the budget submission.



23 May 2018 – The SOS Fracture Alliance Governing Committee meets to discuss the progress on key ongoing projects and the next steps post the Budget announcements. Agreement was reached that the Alliance will now step up its engagement with Federal and State Government representatives, as per advice received post the Budget announcements, to pursue State Government support.

Early May 2018 – Alliance Governing Committee member, Greg Lyubomirsky from Osteoporosis Australia attends Budget announcements in Canberra and engaged with a number of key stakeholders to discuss next steps post the joint Osteoporosis Australia and SOS Fracture Alliance submission.

Underway and Coming Up

Next steps post Budget submission outcome

The Budget submission which Osteoporosis Australia and the Alliance jointly made to the Hon Ken Wyatt, Minister for Aged Care and Minister for Indigenous Health in December 2017 was considered as part of the Budget process early this year. Whilst our submission for funds to develop 10 pilot sites with Secondary Fracture Prevention Programs was not successful at this time, we have received advice on what our next steps should be; particularly to approach the State and Territory health authorities to promote secondary fracture prevention programs and gain support from them.

Sax Institute Project

Last year, the SOS Fracture Alliance commissioned Sydney's Sax Institute (www.saxinstitute.org.au) to determine the feasibility of designing, evaluating and translating into practice an Australian secondary osteoporotic fracture prevention program (SFPP) that has the:

- capacity to systematically identify, investigate and initiate management to prevent future fractures in people with osteoporosis who experience a sentinel fracture, and
- potential to engage quickly with more than 80% of all such people.

The project is well on track with nearly all Australian fracture liaison services assessed in detail. In addition, interviews have been conducted with the NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation, the driving force behind the NSW Osteoporosis Refracture Program (ORP). The work by the Sax Institute has generated an in-depth picture of the characteristics of Australian secondary fracture prevention. The project is ongoing and the next steps as follows:

- Interview several Primary Health Networks (PHNs) to explore the opportunities and interest in engaging with secondary fracture prevention in primary care.
- Conduct analysis and refine the criteria for selection of the secondary fracture prevention programs to become demonstrator sites.
- Perform and analyse interviews with key stakeholders in information technology

The project by the Sax Institute is critical to the Alliance's overall strategy as it will provide the evidence base for designing secondary fracture prevention programs that can be tested in pilot sites.

NLP Project

This project, which is funded through the Sydney Local Health District, will improve the identification of patients with fractures through Natural Language Processing (NLP) of imaging reports and the electronic medical record (eMR). The project has commenced in April 2018 with completion expected early next year. The project will involve 3 hospitals and aims to produce an electronic tool with high accuracy of identifying patients with an osteoporotic fracture.

From our member organisations

Osteoporosis Australia News

Osteoporosis Australia hosted an education booth at the NSW Seniors Expo in Sydney on 5 – 6 April. It is estimated around 20,000 seniors attended the event and we had around 1600 face-to-face interactions at our booth over the two days. Of those, many had been diagnosed with osteoporosis and with and without fracture, and many needed some guidance from us on what needs to be done for them.

We are pleased to report several special guests took the time to visit our booth and support the prevention message. Thanks to Ray Martin and the Hon Tanya Davies Minister for Aged Care and Premier Gladys Berejiklian, pictured with Osteoporosis Australia CEO Greg Lyubomirsky.

