



Fracture Alliance

Making the first break the last

Newsletter #9 – June 2022

The Australian and New Zealand Fragility Fracture Registry- full steam ahead!

Since the last SOSFA newsletter, the Australian and New Zealand Fragility Fracture Registry has continued to progress, hitting several key milestones.

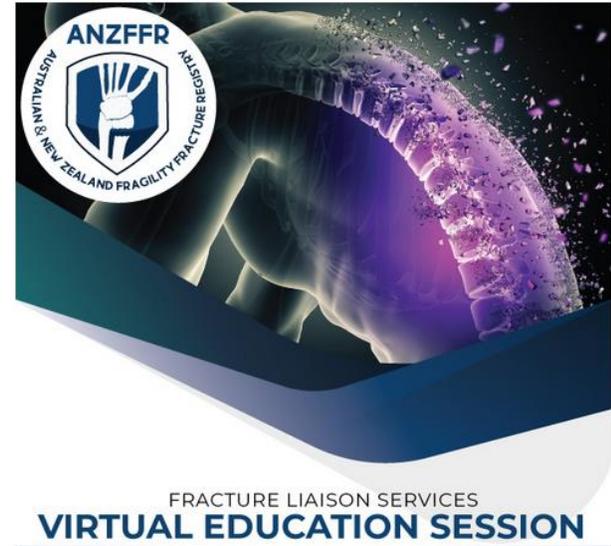
In late 2021 the results of the inaugural Facility Level Survey were published, looking at the quality and consistency of fragility fracture treatment in facilities across Australia and New Zealand. While unable to comprehensively capture all facilities in both countries, it did find a large variance in treatment which supported the need for a national Registry in both countries. [The full reports can be found here.](#) A second Facility Level Survey is planned to be conducted in Q1 2023 to cover the calendar year of 2022.

Currently the project is waiting on HREC approval to begin collecting patient data in Australia for the Patient Level Audit, with the intention to begin in Q3/Q4 2022. While for NZ patient data has started to be collected as of Q2 2022, with 18 NZ facilities already involved.

The Australian arm of the ANZFFR organised an Education session in March 2022, showcasing the Registry and the benefits it has to both patients and facilities. [The recording can be found here.](#)

Following the success in New Zealand of establishing Clinical Standards for Fracture Liaison Services (see page 6), the Australian arm of the project has begun preliminary discussions with the Australian Commission of Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) about adopting equivalent clinical standards for fragility fracture treatment and secondary fracture prevention in Australia.

Finally, to ensure robust and transparent governance structures are in place for the Registry in Australia, a new non-profit organisation has been established to maintain ownership and responsibility over the Registry and its data: the Australian Frailty Fracture Foundation. They have been registered as a company-limited-by-guarantee with the ATO, endorsed as a Deductible Gift recipient and registered with the ACNC as a Health Promotion Charity.



For more information visit our website www.sosfracturealliance.org.au.
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SOS Fracture Alliance Activities

Secondary Fracture Prevention - Project Update

The NHMRC-funded Feasibility Study has progressed well despite encountering COVID-19 induced barriers.

The model currently tested includes an initial letter to the GP informing them that their patient has been diagnosed with a fracture on radiological imaging. This letter also provides information on the study and the NHMRC guidelines for the management of osteoporosis. Four weeks later the GP receives a questionnaire which asks about how the fracture had been managed. Depending on the GP's response, a follow up questionnaire is sent out at 6 months assessing whether the patient has remained on treatment and whether there have been any side effects.

The first round of initial letters of the Feasibility Study were sent to GPs in November 2021 with nearly 60 cases identified in participating radiology facilities. The first follow up questionnaires were sent out mid-December 2021 and had a 35% response rate of GPs returning the questionnaire. The six month follow ups began to be sent in May/June 2022. Multiple communication methods including fax, AusPost, Express Mail and 'Medical Objects' have been tested as part of the Feasibility Study to determine the effectiveness of getting into touch with the GP.

We would like to thank the Sax Institute and Spectrum Radiology for their partnership in this project. We also would like to thank Brett Williams for providing the ICT support.

At this stage we are aiming to evaluate the Feasibility Study and then commence the main component of the project in Q3/2022.

Electronic Case Finding Tool - Project Update

The results of our project looking at NLP tools were [published earlier this year in Osteoporosis International](#) .

Since then SOSFA has been working to develop a process for facilities, in particular those outside of NSW, to gain access to the Australian developed electronic case finding tool in order to more widely trial it within different health care systems and processes. If your facility might be interested, please contact us at contact@sosfracturealliance.org.au

CESPHN Fracture Prevention Project Update

The Central and Eastern Sydney Primary Health Network (CESPHN) funded SFP project has progressed well despite the Sydney lockdowns in 2021 which caused a significant drop in GP responses from 60% to 15%. Given this impact, we received further funding from the Sydney PHN to extend the study to the end of 2022.

Initial results seem to suggest that 45% of patients receive treatment from their GP for their osteoporotic fracture, which is a higher percentage than expected from prior population-based studies. This may be due to the socioeconomic demographics of eastern areas of Sydney where the project is being conducted. Comparison with the results of the NHMRC Feasibility Study could be valuable although methodologies differ between those two studies.

While the results of the PHN-funded study are encouraging, the model might not be cost-effective as it involves a dedicated person to contact the GP and patient, and organise follow-up with both. Therefore, this model may not be easily scalable, which given the prevalence of osteoporosis in Australia would be a pre-requisite for effective secondary fracture prevention.

SOSFA Submissions to Government programs

As part of SOSFA's ongoing advocacy efforts around Secondary Fracture prevention, we have made the following submissions to Government projects:

- Australian Department of Health Primary Health Care Reform Taskforce's consultation on the draft *Australia's Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan 2022-2032*; [endorsing the draft as abroad but ambitious plan](#).
- The 2022/23 Federal Budget as part of the Health Portfolio; [calling for development of clinical standards for osteoporotic fractures, support of the ANZFFR and implementation of electronic case finding tools in radiology facilities](#).



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SOSFA thanks Prof Bruce Armstrong for his contributions as Deputy Chair!

Professor Bruce Armstrong retired and has stepped down as the Deputy Chair of the SOSFA Governing Committee and PHAA representative.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank Bruce for his immense contribution to the Alliance since its very inception in 2016. Without him, the Alliance would not be what it is today. We certainly will miss him and his wise and balanced advice.

SOSFA Governing Committee Updates

With Professor Armstrong retiring, a casual vacancy was created on the SOSFA Governing Committee. This vacancy has since been filled by Professor Ruurd 'Rudi' Jaarsma, an orthopaedic surgeon at Flinders University and the clinical and academic head of the Department of Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgery at Flinders Medical Centre, Adelaide. Welcome aboard Rudi!



Long term supporter of SOSFA and member of the Governing Committee, Professor Tania Winzenberg, has agreed to step into the role of SOSFA Deputy Chairperson.



**World Osteoporosis Day
20 OCTOBER 2022**

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FFN
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#FFNCongress2022 Melbourn Convention and Exhibition Centre, Melbourne, Australia



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From the Members

Falls awareness resources from the ANZ Falls Prevention Society

The ANZ Fall Prevention Society are trying to get the word out more about falls. Falls are everybody's business. A fall can happen to anyone. And the consequences can be devastating. As health professionals and health policy experts, we believe more needs to be done to reduce the risk of falls.

As part of their current activities they [have created an infographic](#) to guide people on how to respond to falls and published an article in The Conversation titled ["I'm getting older, how can I prevent falls?"](#)

ANZ Hip Fracture Registry - Bone Protection Medication Sprint Audit results overview

The ANZ Hip Fracture Registry regularly conducts "Sprint Audits" which involves additional questions or variables that are temporarily added to the routine registry data collection. Sprint Audits allow them to get a 'close up' view of one aspect of care in a short period of time.

In November 2021 a Sprint Audit of bone protection medication was conducted, with 26 facilities participating. An overview of the results [was published on the ANZHFR website in March 2022](#) and a more detailed paper is expected to be published soon.

16th National Rural Health Conference (2-4 Aug 2022) Program now online!

The [full program](#) for the 16th National Rural Health Conference is now available online. The program includes details of keynote, invited and concurrent speakers. Keynote speakers now include well-known journalist and author Stan Grant.

The 16th National Rural Health Conference will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on 2-4 August 2022.

Not yet registered? [Register now](#). Full registration includes access to all sessions, from the opening session on Tuesday 2 August to the closing session on Thursday 4 August 2022, as well as lunch and morning and afternoon teas. All registrations, except Day Registrations, include a ticket to the Welcome Reception and Conference Dinner. Additional dinner tickets can be purchased at the time of registration. Day registration entitles delegates to access all sessions, as well as lunch and morning and afternoon teas, on the day of registration only.

IMH Webinar on staying active in lockdown

In late 2021 the Institute for Musculoskeletal Health held a webinar promoting how people can stay active during (and after) lockdowns. As we hopefully move further into the 'after lockdown' phase of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, there are still some useful resources for those who find themselves in quarantine or isolation. [You can find them on the IMH website here](#).

AIMSS 2022-2026 Strategic Plan released

The Australian Institute for Musculoskeletal Science (AIMSS) has released their new five year strategic plan after an extensive consultation process. The strategic plan [can now be found on their website](#)



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Projects and Publications of Interest

New guidance for managing vertebral fractures from the Royal Osteoporosis Society

In May 2022 the Royal Osteoporosis Society (ROS) published new clinical guidance for health professionals on managing the symptoms of vertebral fractures. The new guidance, which has been developed and written by expert clinicians working in the field, outlines how healthcare professionals can best support patients who present in the community or in hospital with symptoms of a vertebral fracture.

This includes:

- assessment and management of symptoms of patients with a vertebral fracture,
- support for self-management,
- appropriate signposting of patients to other published guidance and resources

The guidance is intended for use by any healthcare professionals who provide care, or engage directly or indirectly, with people with osteoporosis and vertebral fragility fractures. This may include general practitioners, secondary care physicians, orthopaedic and spinal surgeons, emergency care healthcare professionals, radiologists, occupational therapists and physiotherapists, clinical pharmacists, nurses, and other allied health professionals.

Vertebral fractures are the most common osteoporotic fracture and lead to both acute and chronic back pain, substantial spinal deformity, functional disability, decreased quality of life and increased mortality. Vertebral fractures are also linked to a range of psychological symptoms including low mood, anxiety, loss of self-confidence and depression.

You can read this guidance, as well as other clinical publications and resources [on the ROS website](#).

Clinical Standards launched to prevent older Kiwis from sustaining recurrent fragility fractures

In late 2021 Osteoporosis New Zealand published new Clinical Standards for Fracture Liaison Services that underpin a nationwide strategy to prevent older Kiwis who sustain a fragility fracture from breaking other bones in the future.

Currently, FLS across New Zealand are working towards delivering a world-class service in accordance with the International Osteoporosis Foundation Capture the Fracture® Best Practice Framework. The second edition of the Clinical Standards for FLS in New Zealand will play a vital role in supporting this nationwide clinical quality improvement effort.

Participation in the New Zealand arm of a new Australian and New Zealand Fragility Fracture Registry will enable FLS teams to benchmark the care that they provide against the Clinical Standards in real time.

The published Standards can be found on the SOSFA website under our [Education Resources section](#) or directly on [the ONZ website](#).

Does your organization have any news around Secondary Fracture Prevention?
Have you seen a recent publication in the area that might be of interest?

If so, let us know about it!

Email the Alliance at contact@sosfracturealliance.com.au and we'll let all our Members know!



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SOS FRACTURE ALLIANCE: MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

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