

ABN 15 211 513 464

Professor David Hunter
MBBS, MSc (Clin Epi), M SpMed, PhD, FRACP
Florance and Cope Chair of Rheumatology, Professor of Medicine
Chair, Institute of Bone and Joint Research
Rheumatologist, Royal North Shore Hospital

Royal North Shore Hospital
NSW 2065 AUSTRALIA
Email: david.hunter@sydney.edu.au
Web: <http://www.sydney.edu.au/>

11/04/2019

Dear Consumers

Re: National Osteoarthritis Strategy

I am writing to you as someone who suffers from osteoarthritis. As you are undoubtedly aware this disease has a huge personal and societal impact. For two in every three people who suffer from this disease, the last time they were pain-free was over a year ago. Did you know that this is one of the leading causes of premature retirement in Australia workforce? Osteoarthritis affects over 3 million Australians, is the most common chronic joint disease in Australia and one of the leading causes of pain and disability. Despite the tremendous burden this disease places on individuals, families, healthcare systems and society, the care that consumers receive is often fragmented and inappropriate.

We are at a critical juncture with regards to the future of healthcare for people with osteoarthritis. At present, the vast majority of people with osteoarthritis receive inappropriate, low value care. We would like to change that and in an effort to do so, have developed the National Osteoarthritis Strategy. This has been developed to align with current Guidelines, Standards and jurisdictional Models of Care. It takes into account new evidence and feedback received from broad consultation both in Australia and internationally. It aims to outline a national response to osteoarthritis and inform how existing limited healthcare resources can be better coordinated to achieve optimal patient outcomes. More details on the strategy can be found at: <http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/ibjr/events/index.php>

Why are we writing to you today? We need bipartisan political support in order to ensure that the strategies proposed gain traction and ultimately reduce the number of people with osteoarthritis and improve care for those with this burdensome disease.

You can help us to ensure that it is the case by sending the following message by email/ letter/social media to one or more of those listed below. Please feel free to personalise this message with the impact osteoarthritis has had on your life.

Message:

Dear Hon. X Y

I suffer from the leading cause of pain and disability in older adults in Australia-a disease called osteoarthritis. For many years, this disease has been ignored and as a consequence my pain and suffering has had little attention. The National Osteoarthritis Strategy has outlined a national response to better inform how healthcare is delivered and coordinated for people like me. As a voting member of the public I care about your attitude towards this important disease. Please ensure that you pay adequate attention to the National Osteoarthritis Strategy as you develop your policy for the upcoming election.

The people the message can be addressed to:

Hon Scott Morrison MP

Email: scott.morrison.mp@aph.gov.au

Prime Minister

PO Box 6022

House of Representatives

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Voice your view online: <https://www.pm.gov.au/contact-your-pm>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ScottMorrisonMP>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/scottmorrison4cook/>

Hon Bill Shorten MP

Email: Bill.Shorten.MP@aph.gov.au

Leader of the Opposition

PO Box 6022

House of Representatives

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/billshortenmp>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/BillShorten>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/billshortenmp/>

Yours sincerely,



Professor David Hunter
Florance and Cope Chair
of Rheumatology,
Professor of Medicine,
The University of Sydney



Prof David Lloyd,
Director, Gold Coast
Orthopaedics
Research, Engineering
& Education,
Griffith University



Prof Kim Bennell,
Director, Centre for
Health, Exercise and
Sports Medicine,
University of Melbourne



Prof Peter Choong,
Sir Hugh Devine Chair of
Surgery,
University of Melbourne