



THE  
AUSTRALIAN  
PAIN SOCIETY

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **AUSTRALIAN PAIN SOCIETY SEES MEDICARE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE LIVING WITH CHRONIC PAIN**

The Commonwealth Health Minister Susan Ley has announced a proof of concept trial of “Healthier Medicare” for 65,000 Australians living with chronic conditions.

President of the Australian Pain Society (APS), Dr Geoffrey Speldewinde, is strongly supportive of the initiative of the Turnbull Government in acknowledging the difficulties of living with widespread and disabling chronic diseases. There are more than 5 million Australians living daily with chronic pain, suffering varying degrees of disability. For many, their best option of securing a better and more productive quality of life is through combined and coordinated multidisciplinary health care.

Dr Speldewinde went on to say “This initiative recognises that there is an increasing need for people across all age groups living with a range of disabilities to be able to access affordable and coordinated multidisciplinary services. The physical and psychological impacts that can arise from living with chronic pain result in difficulty with activities of daily living and recreation. Significantly, the ability to work can be dramatically reduced and working careers shortened.”

“Our ageing population is impacting on the Australian economy and any measures that will facilitate those with chronic pain being able to access evidence-guided pain management treatments will lead to more effective and timely pain management with less long-term costs to affected individuals and to Australian society as a whole” Dr Speldewinde went on to say.

The APS already supports the established national data collection system of pain

presentations in our communities (the electronic Persistent Pain Outcomes Collaboration – ePPOC), and provides education and research on the recognition and management of painful conditions, all key components of “Healthier Medicare”. The diverse range of professions represented by the APS look forward to the roll-out of the trial, assisting our key partners in General Practice in the provision of combined and coordinated multidisciplinary pain management in primary health care, the logical place for such activities.

The Australian Pain Society (APS) is Australia’s leading national forum of a wide range of university-trained health professionals (including doctors, nurses, occupational therapists, pharmacists, physiotherapists, psychologists and researchers) trained in the recognition, research, management and advocacy around all aspects of pain in Australia. The Australian Pain Society is well positioned and well resourced to provide support, education, and advocacy for patients and clinicians.

For more detailed information please refer to our webpage: <https://www.apsoc.org.au>

For further comment, information or photos, please ring or email:

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