



THE
AUSTRALIAN
PAIN SOCIETY

www.apsoc.org.au

APS Secretariat
PO Box 637
North Sydney NSW 2059

T: 02 9016 4343
E: aps@apsoc.org.au
W: www.apsoc.org.au
Twitter: @AusPainSoc

MEDIA RELEASE

30 October 2015

AUSTRALIAN PAIN SOCIETY ENDORSES PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ACTION ON OPIOIDS

The Australian Pain Society (APS) comprises a wide range of university-educated health professionals trained in the recognition, research, management and advocacy around all aspects of pain in Australia.

The APS President Dr Geoffrey Speldewinde congratulates President Obama in announcing a wide-ranging, comprehensive and co-ordinated program in the US to both educate Americans and provide the resources to manage the escalating problem of opioid-related health issues. More Americans are dying from prescribed opioids than die in motor vehicle accidents. This is more than 5 times the death rate from heroin and other non-prescribed drugs.

Dr Speldewinde went on to say "the rising adverse effects of these opiates, whether prescribed or otherwise, has occurred over the same decade that has seen the number of multidisciplinary pain programs operating in the US plummet from over 1,000 in the early 2000s to now less than 150. In Australia we are desperately working to expand the availability of accessible, distributed, combined and co-ordinated pain management programs to help avert a looming similar health catastrophe here."

He went on to say that it is well established that such pain management programmes whether in the community or hospitals are effective in assisting many of the 5 million Australians living daily with chronic or persistent pain.

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

NAME: Tracy Hallen at the APS Secretariat
CONTACT DETAILS: T: 02 9016 4343
E: aps@apsoc.org.au