



THE  
AUSTRALIAN  
PAIN SOCIETY

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **AUSTRALIANS BEING HARMED BY PAIN MEDICATION**

The Australian Pain Society says that it is alarmed about the overuse and harmful side effects of morphine-like prescribed pain medication.

The Australian Pain Society aims to improve the wellbeing and quality of life of people living with pain. Currently, one in five Australians suffer chronic, or long-term, pain.

“Opiate medications, such as morphine, can be useful in the treatment of pain. However, long-term-use, or over-use has many potential side-effects, and in some cases can lead to death” says Dr Geoffrey Speldewinde, President of the Australian Pain Society.

The Society fears that the misuse of opiates will reach epidemic proportions as it has in America where more than 16,000 people die each year from the misuse of these prescribed medications. This is more than the number of people that die from heroin-related overdoses each year.

The Society wants to ensure that people do not stop taking their pain medication without talking with their doctor, but they want to be an advocate for the responsible prescription and use of medication.

For further comment, information or photos, please ring:

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