



THE
AUSTRALIAN
PAIN SOCIETY

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MEDIA RELEASE

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EFFECTIVE PAIN MANAGEMENT BYPASSED BY CURRENT MEDICARE BENEFITS SCHEDULE LEADING TO UNNECESSARY SURGERY

The Australian Pain Society (APS) says that the current Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) restricts Australians' necessary and reasonable access to pain management.

The APS aims to improve the wellbeing and quality of life of people living with painful conditions. Currently 1 in 5 Australians suffer chronic, or long term, pain. The recent '4 Corners' program showed how many such people end up having often unnecessary and sometimes ineffective surgery.

"There is now overwhelming evidence that many people with many types of pain will benefit from an intensive combined and coordinated non-surgical pain management approach" says Dr Geoffrey Speldewinde, President of the APS.

"We are certain that if many more people were able to access various pain control strategies now available then many will be able to delay and often avoid major medical interventions and surgery especially where there is poor scientific support for such procedures as revealed recently in a 4 Corners program" he went on to say.

The APS provides and supports resources available all over Australia to encourage and facilitate fellow Australians gaining greater control over how they manage their own pain problems.

For further comment, information or photos, please ring:

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